



MONTGOMERY MEMORIES

1923 AHS Graduates

Back Row (left to right): Vernet Carlile, Loren Smith;

Front Row (left to right): Ida Fruits, Nellie Kellar, Katherine Truax, Bessie Peacock.

May 2024

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Contributing Writers



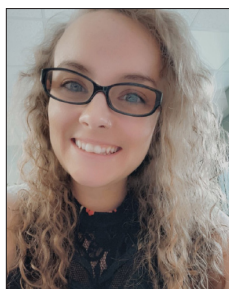
KAREN BAZZANI ZACH has been a contributor of local historical articles for almost 50 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and recieved her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children’s Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, Crawfordsville: Athens of Indiana. After teaching English at Turkey Run HS for 21 years, she retired and is now enjoying visiting with her two children (Jay and Suzie), writing, reading, doing genealogy, and grandkidding!



CHUCK CLORE After a lifelong career in visual communications, Eureka! Chuck discovered that noodling the nuances of the written word can be just as much fun as tweaking a font into an iconic logo. Montgomery Memories is the perfect venue to explore his treasured C-ville’s east-end recollections. An Athenian boomer from the class of 65, he delights in graphic design, cartooning, and story telling. Chuck’s articles reveal how a CHS senior cordurcy artist eventually evolved into an award winning designer and aspiring writer.



JOY WILLETT was born in Crawfordsville and spent most of her childhood in southern Montgomery County. She graduated from South Montgomery High School. Her undergrad was from Indiana State University and she earned her MBA at the University of Phoenix. Joy and her husband David have lived in Indiana, Arizona, California, and Illinois. As an amateur genealogist, she enjoys research and has written three family history books. She also writes poetry and fiction.



KELSEY CURRAN is one of the paginators for the Paper of Montgomery County. She edits and helps complete the daily news as well as the Montgomery Memories and Sports Report every month for viewers to enjoy. She was born in a small town in Illinois and moved to Crawfordsville in 2016. She has three children. She enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, reading and baking.

MONTEGOMERY MEMORIES

Early Settlers - (who they were; where from; why came ...)

- Brown - Washington Rice
- Clark - William Hodges
- Coal Creek - Isaac H. Montgomery
- Franklin - Uriel Burroughs
- Madison - William H. Nicholson
- Ripley - Wilson Claypool, Mr. Shrewd
- Sugar Creek - McStrain = Strain
- Scott - Presley Day Johnson
- Union - William Bromley - Meharry family
- Walnut - William Coddington
- Wayne - Andrew Crouch

May Feature: 1855 women graduates

Karen Bazzani Zach



Miss Susan Jennison gave an instructive Audubon Ornithology essay called "Waters of America." Mary Newton talked on Labor which was "a good common sense view of the best subject of the day!" Anna Willson's "Gift of Tongues" may have been good but the weakness of her voice and her natural timidity didn't bring enough tongues out loud to know if it was a good or bad speech. Caroline Wolfe's "Blessed is he that soweth beside all Waters," was presented as fruit of a noble heart, chastened and regulated by the virtues of the Christian Religion. "Long may she live to exemplify what on her graduation day she has so beautifully taught." The reading of the essays concluded, Rev. James H. Johnston, Principal of the Academy, gave out the Diplomas and sent them off with a "touching and kind farewell to the class."

Sadly, nothing was mentioned as to the number of graduates, but about a dozen with the next class beginning in a few weeks. The Willson girls were daughters of Col. Samuel and Laura (Maddox) Willson, he a mentor of Lew Wallace. Julia married Volney Quintillian Irwin and passed in October 1890. Julia put her education to work aiding the children of our community who were orphaned, helping to establish the Orphans Home. She was well loved by the community but especially her little ones. A devout Christian, her tender heart was "faithfully ministered to the needy!" (CWJ 11-8-1890). Volney died 13 years later, leaving his estate that had been at one point quite large but dwindled much to his sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews as he and Julia had no children of their own, except Samuel Willson who died of consumption at age 26 without having been married. Anna married Dr. Henry Bird Marsh, and parented three, Laura, Lucy and Harmon. They are buried in Crown Hill, Indianapolis. The large brick home of the Willson family would later become Willson school (six grades) about the turn into the 1900s.

Mary Newton grew-up in a large family and married John L. Knight, a judge and editor of Wabash, Indiana's Plain Dealer. Their son, Edgar Newton Knight (died age 17) was born 8 Feb 1862 his mother passing just four days thereafter. She is buried at Oak Hill and John and Edgar in Wabash County. Mary was the daughter of William Newton, a baker from Delaware who lived in Farmington,

Iowa where Mary, her sister, Jane and brothers Horace (Hod) and Thomas were born but grew-up here.

Susan Jennison daughter of Ozro and Margaret, Ozro an Engineer. Susan married John Maynard Butler, a Civil War Sgt. and a well-known Indianapolis lawyer. He died on a vacation with their son and daughter at the 5th Avenue Hotel in New York in 1895 and was described as "a noble intellect, a noble conscience, a noble faith in conjunction these were his rich endowment." (obit Evansville Courier). Their only son, said to have had one of the most amazing powerful deep bass voices ever heard in Indianapolis passed away just a few months after his father. They were very active in the Presbyterian Church here and in Indianapolis and her obit was one of the few mentioning her graduation, plus he was the president at the girls' seminary right afterward. She died in Nice while on vacation with their daughter and her husband after just five days of having the flu in 1899.

Martha Binford was the daughter of local merchant Samuel Binford. Martha married Charles Lambert Thomas a major and surgeon in the Civil War. She was just 31 at her death in 1871. Her father died in 1890, leaving his \$200,000 estate to her two children, Sam and Mattie Thomas.

Fairly sure Sarah Mills was the daughter of Caleb Mills, a name that should ring a bell with any local historian. Three years later, she graduated from Mt. Holyoke Seminary and held a professorship of Latin in the Western Female Seminary in Oxford, Ohio from 1859-1861 (FindAGrave - photo from Wabash Valley Genealogy buried Terre Haute with husband, Blackford Condit). She was mother of nine children and active in local religious and charitable movements in TH.

The only Ketcham family in Crawfordsville at the time was Andrew, a Black laborer and his daughter Catharine may have been the one graduating as the "Miss." Possibly the same with "Miss Barbee." Someone may have paid their way, perhaps because of high intelligence or possibly allowed to take classes while working there?

For sure, it was amazing we had an advanced woman's academy with quite a curriculum and some interesting, smart ladies graduating from there in 1855 plus!

One of the very first articles in regards to a graduation I found featured the Crawfordsville Female Seminary. Although the article in the CWJ (26 July 1855 p 2) gave a lot of excuses for not seeing all the exercises, it did an impressive hoorah for some: "We noticed particularly an advanced class in Algebra which acquitted itself with a very high degree of credit."

"Miss Julia Willson's essay on Isms was racy and sarcastic." Miss Ketchum's, "A Young Lady's Education" possessed a good deal of wit and we have to say of her that "with care and ambition, she will soon rank high as a young writer." In Sarah Mills' "The Use of Temptations," the thought "was sparkling and the style easy and graceful, a good theme well treated and elicited." This one I would love to have heard and again in 40 more years plus 40 more, "Miss Martha Binford's ideas of Indiana Women 40 years ago and now pleased us very much. It was a right lusty slap in the face to Old Fogyism!"

The writer didn't know the names of the young ladies who performed from the Musical Department but it was "well represented." It was noted that Miss Barbee's rendition of The Carnival of Venice was highly satisfactory. At the actual Commencement on Tuesday morning, the CWJ noted that

Odds & Ends – Collected & Commented on by Karen Bazzani Zach

My grandfather had an 8th grade education but he was one of the best read and smartest men I ever have known. When I read about the 8th grade graduates in 1892 having to write THREE essays and deliver them to the County Superintendent as part of their graduation exercises I about flipped. Maybe the topics did me in they being Girls Who Become Famous; Ethics for Young People and the third Starland.” These were based upon books they had all used in reading circles. They were to be between 500 and 800 words and certified by their teacher that it was original work. Know my Pap had an amazing concept of advanced math from his 8th grade, aiding a surveyor when he was in his early 20s who told everyone that Carl was much smarter and better at the job than he was!

In 1891, there were 18 pupils in Union Township examined for their graduation from the public schools but didn’t find out how many passed or whether they were 8th grade or 12th grade graduates.

My gpa’ told me about a very tough exam he had when he graduated and in March 1892, the Daily Journal on the 11th listed the places students would have to go to take their exams (Union Twp in Crawfordsville City School building; Linden for all Madison Township; Wingate for Coal Creek; Darlington for Franklin and Sugar Creek; Waveland for Brown; Alamo for Ripley and Ladoga for Scott and Clark). The applicant isn’t confined to a particular township but can take it in the town most convenient. At least that was good!

Many announcements in the papers could be found announcing where and when graduations would occur such as the CDJ 31 May 1893 p 4 with their “Graduation Exercises,” notation that “those who passed a successful examination for graduation from the Union Township schools will speak their finals and receive their diplomas at YMCA hall on Thursday evening, June 8. Exercises begin at 8 p.m. The best speaker will represent the township at the fair!”

The 1894 Union Township graduation had 30 graduates (16 females, 14 males) which was so many, it was at the YMCA building. Eight of the graduates spoke (Ella Eschelmann; Bessie Alexander; Pearl Long; Ursula Banks; Mary Casey; Lulu Stout; Willard Shanklin; Marguerite Pennfeather and WT Whittington which later said to give the class address but he wasn’t in the list of graduates). Under this was a short piece of the Wayne graduates (didn’t give a number or a list but eight were mentioned: John Utterback; Jackson Bunnell; Alice Baldwin; Ota Decker; Hattie Follick; Laura Smith; Pearl Biddle; Lida Larkin, again female oriented. That surprised me! Also, St. Charles Academy had a short piece on their graduation but it was mainly just a program of their drama that was given. That year for C’ville (CDJ 8 June 1894) quite a few citizens were miffed as there were only a couple of hundred reserved seats at the Music Hall with 400 lined up to grab what general seats they could. The class gave a presentation but didn’t catch a name. It was in regards to a university and its pupils, however, with the program giving characters and who played them. A few were specifically mentioned in attaboys (girls): Bess Nicholson, Verda Bell, Joan Elston, Maud Bonnell, Gertrude Munhall, Harriet Hauser, Etta Crabbs, Edith McLane, Fred Dennis, and Robert Goben. A quick overview of the graduation followed and at the very end Fred Dennis announced that the class would repeat “The Princess” again for those who could not get tickets, so there we finally had the play name, but probably more graduated than were

named in the attakids!

It is hard in this time frame to know whether the “graduation” was for 8th graders or senior graduates, this one I would guess 8th but with no names to check, don’t know but under the New Ross news 23 Feb 1894 CDJ it notes kind of humorously but my gpa’ would likely agree, “Seven applicants for graduation are preparing for the affray in the near future!”

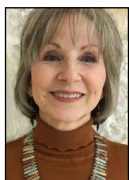
Wabash graduations were often mentioned in other newspapers as with the Lafayette Call in 1891 announcing that “Rev. and Mrs. SA Mowers and Wm. L. Ward went to Crawfordsville today to attend the Wabash College Commencement and witness the graduation of Mr. Saxe Mowers, the former gentleman’s eldest son.”

Speaking of Wabash graduates of the 48 staff members at Crawfordsville in the 1924 yearbook, there were many Wabash grads teaching there, as well as an impressive number from DePauw, Butler, and the norm, ISU, IU. There were 124 graduates that year with 22 having made a 90% + GPA throughout. The most popular girl was Dorothy Hack and Harry Bowe the most popular fellow. The most athletic was Robert Dinwiddie. My hubs, Jim Zach, graduated from CHS and I from Waveland and we were always comparing, especially the size. Didn’t have a 1924 WHS yearbook but the smallest school, Alamo, I did have and did a comparison with it. There were only six on the faculty, including the principal and seven graduating (Lucille Reath who was president of the Athenian Literary Society – by the way, they had two literary groups and a huge Glee Club; Edna Thompson, Class President Moreland Hudson; Dorothy Davis; Eldora Weir, Russell Alward and Darrell Hamm. If I didn’t have a huge research list already, it’d be fun to do more of these type comparisons of graduations and the like!

Enjoy the 1924 Alamo senior pictures – thanks to Charlie Arvin – Moreland Hudson; Dorothy Davis; Eldora Weir; Darrell Hamm, (right side) Lucille Reath; Russell Alward and Edna Thompson.



Thank you for reading Montgomery Memories!



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

For the May edition of Nifty, we meet Nellie Ward Graybill. Nellie was born on October 5, 1888. She was the middle of three children born to Samuel Cline Graybill (born 1850) and Clara Belle Ward (born 1859). Clara and Samuel C. married on December 7, 1881. They lived in Scott Township, Montgomery County, Indiana, where Samuel farmed.

The “Krayebiel” family immigrated from Germany in 1727 (The Graybill Family in America). As many Quakers did, they settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. After 60 years, Nellie’s branch moved to Botetourt County, Virginia. This is where Nellie’s grandfather, Samuel senior was born. He and his wife Lydia (Arnold) came to Montgomery County, Indiana in ca. 1837. This is where their five children were born. Nellie’s father, Samuel C., was their youngest.

The Ward family immigrated from England as early as 1620. The Ward’s lived for a time in Connecticut and then migrated to New Jersey (North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000 for John Ward). They came west, first to Ohio in ca. 1796, and then to Indiana by 1850. Nellie’s maternal great-grandfather, Stephen, who died in 1858, was buried in the Richland Cemetery in Union County, Indiana. Her grandfather, David (who lived to be 90), moved to Boone County, while her father Amazon and his wife Phoebe (Montgomery) came to Montgomery County by 1860.

We find Clara and Samuel C., along with their three children Grace, Nellie, and Harold in the 1900 Census. Nellie was attending Ladoga High School. In 1906, she graduated from Ladoga.

Nellie continued her education at Indiana University. She studied English, was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa sorority, and was a committee and cabinet member of the Y.M.C.A. (U.S. Yearbooks, 1900-2016).

Nellie married Wallace William Ashby on September 3, 1913. Wallace, born in 1884, was the son of Robert and Alice (Fordice) Ashby, natives of the Hoosier state. Wallace graduated from Wabash College in 1906 (The Indianapolis Star, June 3, 1906). Nellie and Wallace made their home in Ladoga. Wallace worked with his father as a grain dealer at the local elevator, which the Ashby family owned (1920 U.S. Census). Nellie and Wallace had three children, Robert (b. 1916), Grace (b. 1918), and Marianna (b. 1922). In addition to her work as a public-school teacher, Nellie was involved

in civic and social activities. She was a member of the Ladoga Presbyterian Church and the Woman’s Literacy Circle (The Indianapolis Star, December 7, 1913). She served as president of the Literacy Circle (Indianapolis News, September 15, 1917). She became a grand matron of the Eastern Star, and was a charter member of the Ladoga chapter of Tri Kappa, a woman’s philanthropic organization.

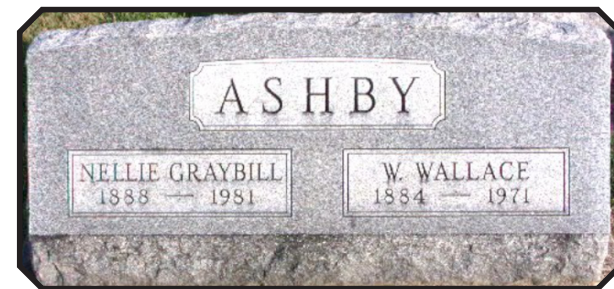
In 1930, Nellie and Wallace lived as neighbors of Nellie’s parents. Wallace’s worth that year, in modern day value, was \$175,000 (<https://www.aier.org/cost-of-living-calculator/>). Wallace was an officer of the Ladoga Building and Loan Association and served as a chairman of the Montgomery County Council (U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995). As early as 1935, the family was living on West Main Street in Ladoga. This is where Nellie and Wallace continued to live in 1950, after their children had left home.

Nellie and Wallace enjoyed their retirement. They traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1946 where they spent the winter (Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1900-1959). I am certain they were very proud of their children. Robert graduated from IU and the Harvard Law School where he was the editor of the law review. He was an attorney and served as chairman of the board of governors of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Grace, a graduate from Indiana University and Case Western Reserve University, married Glenn Burgett. Grace worked as a school librarian and served as a consultant of the Michigan state library. She was active in several community groups including the YWCA Board of Directors, Zona Club, Mayflower Circle, and member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. Marianna, also an IU grad, married Glenn Irwin. Glenn, a graduate of the IU School of Medicine, became the Dean of the IU School of Medicine and was second chancellor of IUPUI’s School of Medicine (The Indianapolis Star, April 19, 2010). Marianna was involved in many Indianapolis-based organizations and supported her husband in his career.

Wallace died, at 87 years old, in March of 1971 (The Indianapolis News, April 1, 1971).

In her final years, Nellie lived with her daughter Grace in Lansing, Michigan. She died on October 15, 1981 at the Westminster Village Health Care in Greenwood, Indiana. As were so many of her family members, Grace was buried in the Ladoga Cemetery.

This Graybill-Ashby family celebrated so many graduations! May they each rest in peace.



Ladoga Cemetery courtesy via findagrave.com



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the pre-arrangement specialists,
have been making special remembrances
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Graduation Day highlights both expectation and achievement. It doesn't matter if you are celebrating your trajectory beyond grade school or high school. Great memories are made. The focus is on you. The entire family is geared up to boost your self-image. Best guard your ego.

"Lord, it is hard to be humble!"

Upon graduating from Crawfordsville High School, my Mom, Georgia Clore, projected I would become a great leader, maybe even President of the USA. Although, that aspiration seems a bit tarnished recently. Dad, being a realist, was just relieved I made it through high school. Pappy remembered a time or two that I had to reach up to touch average at East Union Elementary. When you don't excel on an aptitude test you get thrown into the General category.

"Potential? We are not certain."

Thank God and Crawfordsville First Assemblies of God Church for their vision beyond that uncertainty. The Blast-Off Banquet at the AG Church followed a space theme. Well, everything in 1965 had a space theme. The brothers and sisters at the Assembly rallied an all-out effort to thrust us graduates into a new orbit with out-of-this-world

high hopes. The menu read Space Bird (Fried Chicken), Moon Glows (Baked Potatoes), Super Boosters (Buttered Rolls), etc.

The encouraging banquet was the culmination of weeks of preparation. Way beyond that fleeting moment, the people of the church had invested years of effort to bolster us grads with the tools and values for life. I may be a slow learner. However, I eventually discovered that uncertainty is where faith and character are built. Thank you to my Crawfordsville church family for nurturing this snot-nosed East-End kid.

Every month in May, the C-Ville and Montgomery County communities brace for a fresh batch of eager young grads. Recently, I found this Class of 1965 necklace while thumbing through an old scrapbook. In a genius stroke of marketing, Winchell Jewelers had each senior trek into their store on N Washington Street to pick up their class key token of achievement.

As a reminder that we seniors ruled in 1965, everyone wanted a class ring and an Athenian yearbook. Jostens cornered the market on those moments. They still do. Just this week, I got an internet ad encouraging me to

Story & Graphics by Chuck Clore



purchase a 1965 Athenian yearbook. The price? \$100! Wow! Memories get more expensive with age. Fortunately, I kept mine. The book is filled with good wishes for the future and the signatures of my classmates.

Six decades later, the future is now! Next year our class reunion will share how we have weathered sixty years of challenges and come out victorious. But more importantly, we will share the teenage crushes we had but were too bashful to ask them out. Reminisce the antics of the classroom mischievous and embellish close calls. We'll lament selling our first vehicle that was the best that Detroit ever produced. We will celebrate the teachers and coaches who invested their lives in building our character. All of us will wear a lanyard with our 1965 senior

photo attached. Because let's face it, Father Time and Mother Nature are cruel caricature artists. No one will recognize us.

Do you still have your class ring? Are the ring's beautiful angular design and sharp edges rounded and smooth from years of wear? Remember the Angora wool that wrapped it when you first went steady? Did the ring get melted down during lean times when the price of gold was high and income was low?

The rings may melt but the memories linger. Do you remember where you went to celebrate after the CHS graduation ceremony? Was it the Red Wood Inn? Ask me about the Apple Grove restaurant double date at next spring's Class of 1965 reunion.

Thank you for reading Montgomery Memories!

Education

By Joy Willett

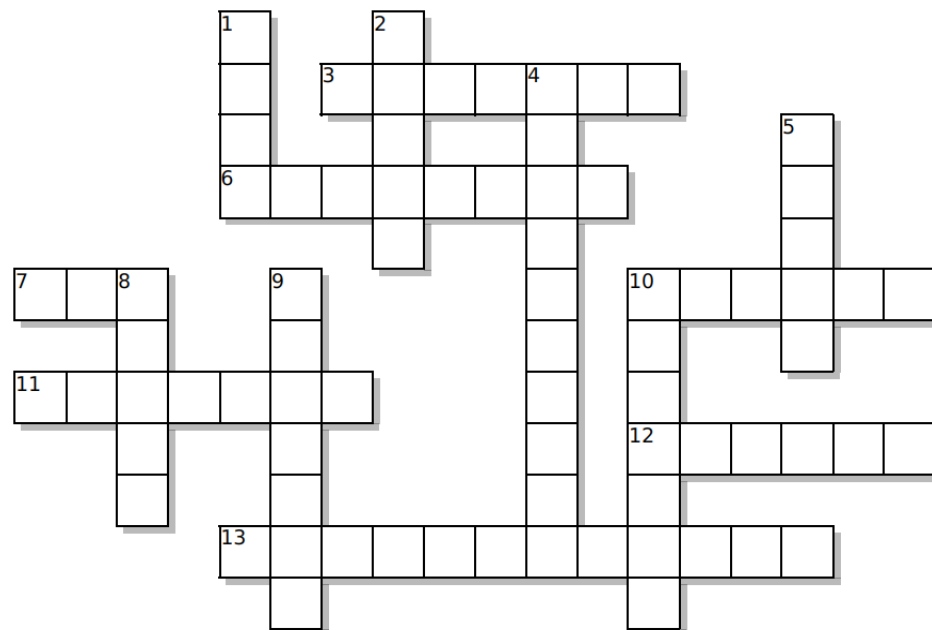
Reading, writing,
math, science,
learning to be
self-reliant.

Up early,
late to bed,
hours of study
fill your head.

Whether
twelve years
or it takes more,
education opens
many doors.

It will take time,
it will be hard,
a diploma will be
your just reward.

What's most important
when you're done
is that you had
a little fun.



ACROSS

- 3 Powder in KBZ recipe
6 Darlington's township
7 --- and gown
10 University in Greencastle
11 1926 mayor Dumont ---
12 Nellie Graybill's hometown
13 AKA Graduation

DOWN

- 1 The 'House' w yummy rolls
2 The Y in YMCA
4 Reading, Writing, ---
5 End of term test
8 KBZ recipe Best --- Ever
9 Linden's township
10 Given at graduation

Check out page 9 for the solution

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Graduation

By Cynthia Long

*May, It's quite an eventful thrilling time
For many it's planning for the prom,
Choosing fashionable attire,
and getting that new hair style
Receiving your graduation gown, class rings,
and signing year books
Exchanging pictures and addresses of your college.
Clearing out your locker, some for the very last time
As you look back with pride and forward with ambition
It's the end of an era, and start of a new journey
Congratulations to all the 2024 graduates!*



Dark and Stormy

By Cynthia Long

*Sitting on my grandparent's porch in a swing,
I see the pretty blue sky and the puffy clouds are mixing with gray,
making it slate blue, and I begin to see the trees slowly sway
I hear the pounding of thunder,
sounds like it's echoing through a steel tube
and then ... I see a streak of blue lightening flash across the sky.
The rain starts coming down in buckets
and hits the Tin roof making it sound like marbles are being tossed all
about, and overflowing the gutter making deep puddles in the mud.*

By Quentin Zach

*I needed reminded when my mind was distraught.
So God sent me you.
But it didn't take long before the lesson was taught.
God giveth. But God taketh too.
Steady as she goes. Just keep staying the course
As sure as I arose. For you there is more in store.*

We would LOVE to have some poems by our readers - it doesn't have to be on the theme but even better so!

Help us expand the poetry section of the Montgomery Memories

Send your original poetry to: karen.zach@sbcglobal.net



Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

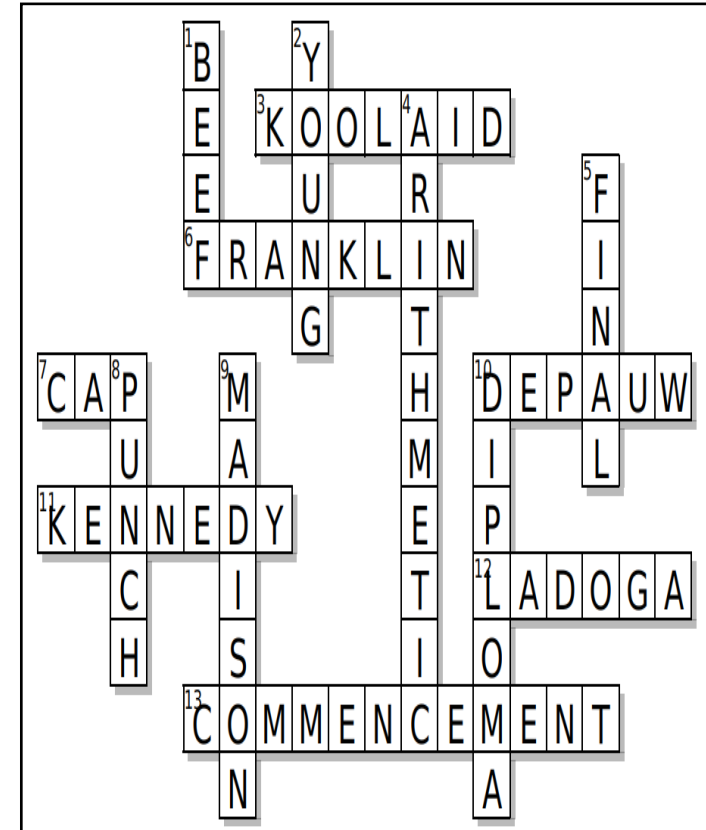
Back in the old days when I graduated in 1967 we didn't have the huge receptions as they do today where people go and stay for a long time (which I love by the way – not complaining, just comparing) and you can eat until your heart's content all types of things. So, we just had a delicious cake, white with white icing my favorite until I went to 11 graduations one year at Turkey Run and ate cake or something at each one AND slept for the next three days, checked and diabetes had set in – still fighting it today but would still have a piece of white cake with white icing if anyone offered – lol). So, I won't give you a cake recipe but do want to share the best-ever punch recipe with you (given to me by Janet Mitchell Fruits)!

“Best Ever Punch”

Haven't made this for so long, assuming they still have Raspberry KoolAid which I always use although sure you could use whatever kind – strawberry would be good! One thing about this recipe, you can't get enough of it.

- 1 pkg. unsweetened KoolAid
- 2 C. Sugar
- 1 Gallon Water
- 1, 6-oz frozen Lemonade
- 1 can unsweetened Pineapple Juice

Mix and freeze. Stir in 1-qt Ginger Ale just before serving. Oh my this is truly amazing and pretty easy to make !! Make lots as they'll go back for more and more! As a side piece, made this for Frank and Nancy Powers' 25th anniversary – hot that day and people kept coming back and coming back – sent daughter to the store and she bought out about everything they had – think I made it six times and each time it was a different color but always tasted delicious (didn't get it frozen obviously but put ice in it and that was good as well – it is still a laugh of ours)!



We want to hear from YOU!

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poetry section of the
Montgomery Memories!**

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karen.zach@sbcglobal.net**





County Connections: those Corner Extras

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories



Well, certainly in our county anyway we had a county connection with several children and several counties. Using my own class of 1967 when we were in grade school, we began first grade with 28 students in 1956. Nine of those lived across the border into Parke County but closer to Waveland versus where they'd have gone to school in their own community. Actually, Waveland was their community as their parents shopped here, came to church here, had relatives in town as well as many friends. The next year, we had seven, in third grade, we were down to five and the next year, they were all gone, fairly sure because of a state law indicating anyone from a township touching then had to pay a tuition. We were all devastated when our friends' left and so were they, but it was always fun to see them when Turkey Run (where they all went) played Waveland and when I taught at TR many years later. I was blessed to have some of their children, even! As an example of the love we all had for our extra buddies was in the 1956 year-book which was dedicated to John Richard McCampbell who was killed in a car accident a few weeks (July 1955) before their senior year began. The article said he had a fun-loving personality and was such a leader, especially in class activities and 4-H. He is buried in Marshall, but would have graduated with his friends at WHS. An occasional Putnam County (Russellville area) student would be found in Waveland, as well.

Now, the other lower portion of MoCo (as per Bill B, one of the best

known local school historians) said that he was sure that Ladoga had only Scott and Clark graduates. Now, this practice wasn't just in the 50s of my school days, as in the 1928-29 basketball team pictures on the GenWeb page there are two players from just over into Boone County, Wilbur Timmons and Walter Wells. Know Wilbur graduated from there and assume Walter did as well. My Wayne township buddy (JF) wasn't sure of any details but thinking there were some from the Hillsboro area who came to school there. Pretty sure that was true from my typing old obituaries!

Earlier Ladoga, Waveland, Wesley, Alamo and possibly other towns had their Academies (pre county school system). These schools often brought young ones from other places (Newton Spencer from Parke County who was long-time editor of the Greenfield Weekly Globe was proud of his education at Waveland) but just as often local ones as well (James B. Elmore, the Bard of Alamo graduating from that place). Most often these schools were religious related, as was Waveland's Academy under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in Crawfordsville thus several from C'ville in that religion came to study there (Lydia Herron). Also, Waveland's minister's children almost always attended there even the Methodist and Baptist. These were especially important as the curriculum was always challenging, many opportunities for competitions and presentations were available to the students, and most allowed the gals.

All over the county, in our days of graduation (50s+), there were but two usual speakers (although in my brothers' class, there were six extremely bright boys and they all gave one plus the class president would often give an introduction, another officer possibly a prayer, just depending on the customs) the top two (Valedictorian and Salutatorian) but as you've read in this MM, back in the late 1800s and early 1900s you gave one if you graduated. Can you imagine listening (and trying to hear) to a dozen lengthy, detailed speeches and not even any microphone? Wild! Reading the old newspapers, the topics were indeed interesting. Glad I wasn't one of the top two as I'd have been way too nervous. Decided speaking (or singing ...) in front of people just takes practice. After having sang and played my accordion in front of people for ten years or so as a teen, being the president of many groups, coach, and on and on, it was probably not until my second year of teaching at age 40 something that I finally felt comfortable in front of a group.

Also, at Waveland, anyway and think at New Market, too in the 40s-60s, at least, there was a baccalaureate which was a pre-graduation exercise. I remember my brothers' fairly well. It was at the church beside our house and mom had refreshments for them afterwards, so kind of a graduation party, I guess, although don't think graduation parties were real big at that time. Mainly just family-get togethers. I did have one with I think mainly adults and a few friends who stopped by (Jess, Elaine, Carol) and remember my sweet sister-in-law, Linda helping Mom get ready for it. Oh, those were the days, weren't they when your next worry was reading chapter five for Health class!! Then, graduation and off into the world!

Thank you for reading Montgomery Memories!

In Mo Co, it was a very good year in 1926 . . .

Charles Lacey was School Board President – there were nine city schools
Merle F. Coons was County School Superintendent

Louis Otto was Post Master – 7 walking carriers and 10 rural carriers

2 main newspapers (Journal and Review) with four others, including Ben Hur Insurance's The Chariot

Mayor Dumont Kennedy
Clerk: Laurel Kirtley
Fire Chief: Charles W. Williams
Police Chief: Vernona Shields
Circuit Court Judge: Jere West
County Sheriff: Thomas W. Rice

Kind of surprising, there were six jewelers

There were 5 banks in Crawfordsville alone plus more savings and loans places with one in most of the small towns

19 churches were listed in the city directory with 9 different denominations

37 "secret societies" were listed so perhaps not too secret plus several other societies and clubs – ex: Rotary Club; Tuberculosis Society

Oh, yeah, two ice cream manufacturers were here – Ward's and Fosdick's. Yum!

Many, many insurance agents existed so many hard to count but definitely more than a couple dozen and almost that many lawyers

Two hotels were still going strong (Crawford and Ramsey)

Three movies (Arc and Joy just a block away from each other on E. Main and Strand close at 112 S. Green)

The restaurants in 1926 (15 in C'ville proper) are outnumbered by a great deal today

Crawfordsville won the basketball sectional that year having been played at Wabash College.

Theodora Larsh Chase, miniature painter who lived here for awhile, received the Giffith Prize this year and for some time was the New York director of the League of Business and Professional Women.

Sources used: CWJ 1 Jan 1874. Medlineplus.gov. ingenweb.org/inmontgomery. Death Records; FindAGrave; Marriage records. 1874 People's Guide

Thank you for reading Montgomery Memories!



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories



One of the most fun and rewarding parts of being a school teacher was involvement in the graduations. The last few years at Turkey Run, I was blessed to be co-senior sponsor. Loved it! We got to be out of school (they played outside and went for ice cream at Up the Creek) while the underclassmen were taking their ISTEP tests. The Friday we practiced for Saturday's graduation, we took them to lunch at The Beef House. Oh, yeah! I remember very few kids who weren't well behaved and excited about their upcoming lives. Seeing them walk down both sides of the weight room stairways and around to their seats to await a short time until graduation began just made my heart jump! Some of the kids I had had in four or five classes, worked with in year-book or watched being inducted into National Honor Society.

Their happiness as they tossed their hats upon graduation exercise being over was wonderful to see. Just made me laugh (okay, and cry)!

Probably the neatest part of it all is that I am still buddies with so many of the ones I taught, especially those who took several classes under me (I was basically the extra English teacher and I was lucky or unlucky, depending on how ya' look at it; I consider it the first but oh my the extra work, with the no-money no-curriculum figure it out plan, I was blessed to be able to create and teach so many extra courses such as Indiana Literature; Children's Literature; Creative Writing; Film Lit. Sometimes the kids helped me plan them. Very excited when I see one of them with their name on a book (at least nine professional writers, half of those having made pretty good names for themselves) but it's not just the writers, my fav of course. Oh, my I taught students who became teachers (many of those actually), some policemen (several), factory workers, but also doctors, lawyers, excellent farmers, fabulous mothers, restaurant managers, just on and on, with very few duds in the group. I loved teaching and loved my kids.

So, let me tell you about my own couple of graduations, one expected, one barely dreamed of. My first would of course be high school. Graduated with 10 boys and 9 girls in our class, the majority of us together

since starting school, some of us like brothers and sisters. Not that my education was perfect, but I did love going to school as much as teaching it! I got excellent grades in elementary, good grades in junior high and by the time I graduated exceptional ones, being number five out of our very smart class, and I was happy with that! Involved in everything, I'll say sports but in my day (1967 graduate) we had NO girls' sports, but I was cheerleader, in marching band and played baseball and basketball at the park and behind the school almost every day plus walked back and forth to school and to my grandparents tallying probably two miles a day. I was usually a class officer, but never hurt my feelings if I wasn't – less to do – heehee. My junior year, I was co-sponsor of the school store where we sold paper and the like, plus the ever-popular candy bar. Also had the largest magazine sale, \$300 (okay, my brother probably bought half of 'em from me, but I also walked the streets, hit up the grands and mom and dad – I remember it was the first time I read Reader's Digest and still love that magazine) – these were money makers so our class could go on our senior trip and we had one of the best ever at WHS, going not only to NY but to Washington, as well and were gone 5 days I think. So much fun but I missed my Jimmy boy!

Graduation itself was memorable. I walked down the aisle with Don Kincaid but don't remember who I sat by on the stage in the gym. Before we went up, we met in the Home Ec room and one of the boys who had been in our class for three or four years in high school but had moved to the Chicago area came down for it. He came into that room and got me cornered, begging me (yep I had dated him) to go away with him. I was afraid of him, and very much in love with the soon to be hubs. Two of our guys "escorted" him out of the room and away from me. Appreciated that! Remember playing in the band that day for the very last time, and that was one of the saddest things. Certainly, graduation was a day full of laughter, sadness, frustration, and glee for me!

Briefly, my college graduation didn't happen until I was 35. Got my degree (with honors) in three years and was blessed to be asked as a returning older student to work for the Women's Education Department and they paid for my degree. All I had to do was talk to a couple of womens' groups each semester that they set up. I also received the Library Science scholarship (head of the department was gone a bunch for my second/third semesters and I taught his classes so I think it was kind of a thank you) that helped pay for a new car as I had worn ours out driving back and forth to ISU. Loved my undergrad degree and had fun at graduation (huge compared to little WHS) wearing a big red strawberry on my hat so Jim, my folks and my aunt could tell who I was in the sea of blue gowns. Didn't go through graduation at IU with my grad degree, though, but sure appreciated having that paid for as well (CDPL).

Graduations are fun, meaningful and something to remember but oddly, I don't remember but bits and pieces of mine. How about you?



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