

CLASS OF 1957

WAS THE BEST OF THE 50's

'Cause we say so.....'

Anyone of our classmates will tell you we had the BEST class of the 1950's or at least that's what we all think.

We began **First grade** classes in 1945 at the old Edison with more than one first grade teacher. Miss Nina Davis became ill and had to take a leave of absence. Miss Pearl Durham also had health problems; Mrs. Cox and Miss Kathleen Moore came in and some of us were transferred to Mrs. Mable Doolen's class for the duration of the school year. We had subs throughout that first grade. Mr. Weldon Spivey was the principal and Mr. B. F. Johnson was the Superintendent of schools.

Second grade found us with Mrs. Basil Wilson, a MHS Grad of 1922.

Third grade was into the basement with Mrs. Ralph Helper and Miss Roberta Graham. Miss Effie Lassiter, a MHS Grad of 1926, and Miss Ethel Brunson definitely were **fourth grade** teachers. **Fifth and sixth grades** found us upstairs with Miss Ura Foster, Miss Bernice Gaylord, Mrs. Lillie Cross, and Miss Roberta Graham who had also moved to top floor by then. Miss Kathryn Johnson taught us music, both how to read music and how to sing music. We worked on music scores in the class setting. Everyone loved Mr. J. T. Copp, the custodian, who rang that big bell to start school, for recesses (our favorite time) and again to let us go home. He was wonderful to all the kids. Mrs. Dorothy Lessor was the school chief cook and all the kids loved meal time. In fact, that was the first time some of us drank cows' milk; we were used to goat milk from the fathers who farmed.

Seventh, eighth and ninth grades took us to a whole new building called "Junior High", where we had Mrs. Ruth Mosby, Miss Louella Moore, Miss Pearl Rude (a twin sister to Mrs. Lillie Cross), Mr. Alva Hawkins and Mr. Baccareni, a new teacher/coach, and Mr. McMahan, the principal, for Oklahoma History and girls' sports. Through all this time, Mr. Larry Cooper was the band director; he lives today in Sayre, OK. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Baccareni have both passed away in the last two years.

Highschool (the one that burned 8 Feb 1962 was a block east of the Junior High, so it was a loooooong walk to the Edison cafeteria or the Tiger Den which sat on the corner where today's Art Department stands. At noon, those who did not go home for lunch, could practice their dance skills at the Tiger Inn while looking through wallets at school pictures. High school brought us in contact with Shakespeare and Miss Tommie Johnson. Miss Bernice Gaylord had us memorizing poetry (she had moved into high school by then). Miss Sue Bright became an English teacher at the HS about 1954 and decided to marry Jim Shirley, the brother of our classmate, Tom Shirley. They moved to Elk City where she still lives today. Mr. Walter Dill was magical in the science class; Mrs. Odie Jones saved a lot of marriages by teaching girls to cook and sew; Mr. Ben Sorrells did the same for the boys teaching them HOW to work and manage a home. Mr. Ray Hogan, was the principal and girls' sports coach. His tenure lasted from 1949 - 1972 when he retired. He and his family dedicated themselves to Mangum and today his widow, Maxine Hogan, and two daughters claim Mangum as home. When the new Junior High was built, the School Board named the building in his honor. Mr. Allan Aaron was Superintendent of schools during our HS years.

And yes, the Class of 1957 had dreams as life did become complicated after age 18.....just like the song says.

Gayle Austin married classmate Mernie Ray and raised 3 kids.
Stacy Bell came from Willow, married, raised 3 kids.

Frances Miller joined the class in 1956; married and moved to California.
lives in Mangum today; has two daughters
Sharon Conrad married and earned her Ed. D. still working today in Texas;
has two children

Melba Cooksey married and raised 8 sons in Duke.
Garland Copelin married and is still practicing law in Texas.

Ronnie Davenport was a genius at science and married a music teacher
Tom Shirley wound up in VietNam earning a Purple Heart

Ruth Thompson married LeRoy and moved to Kentucky
Mary Tinsley married Carl and took on the Gambill clan.

Derrell Wells Jr. married and had a military career.
Verna Sue Smith married, moved to Kansas and raised 4 boys!!!

Jerry Goodman married; raised 4 kids, and is a Judge today in Tulsa.
LaZana Nelson married, helped her hubby raised 8 kids in Missouri.

James Long married Dr. Madalyn and they live in Bethany.
Eugene Maxwell married and had a two tremendous careers.

Donald Morgan married and had a career with United Grocers in Altus.
Bob Moss married and helped raise 8 kids.

Melba Radney married, taught school and settled in Lawton.
Glenda Goode married Bill and she taught many years in Altus

Joy Hall married and proceeded to live in four states; raised 4 kids
Nell Hendrick married and raised 3 children

Doris Hogue married Junior from Vinson and raised 3 sons.
Helen Johnston married and they spent their life on Eufaula

Mernie married classmate Gayle and they retired to Yukon.
Charlotte Pruitt married and spent many years at Edison teaching

David Raby stayed busy in Mangum with two or three careers.
Sue Wheeler married, raised 3 sons and lives in Texas today
Darla Wyatt left for California where she still lives today.

Our deceased classmates are forever in our memory and we try to maintain contact with their families: Harold Anderson, Eddie Blalock, Joan Brewer-Harris, Gary Cooksey, Lanny Day, Jim Freeman, Geary Gibson, Betty Green-Bonham, Warren Herndon, Barbara Hodge-Lankford, James Hogue, Sharon Johnston-Bryant, Lillie Rose-Wright, Jack Racy, G. W. Sheward, LaNora Roper-Beck, Karol Sheppard-Clayton, Martha Wilcox-Wileman, Robert Wright