

A Step Back in Time By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

April 24th, 1929 was a very memorable and important date for seventeen seniors graduating from Community High School in Unionville. Same as today's graduates, this was a turning point in their lives. They were looking forward to fulfilling their dreams, whatever they may have been. But only about six months after graduation, many dreams and plans for the future changed for them, their families, friends and neighbors because in October, 1929 was the beginning of "The Great Depression". The market crash on "Black Tuesday" marked the beginning of a decade of high employment, poverty, low profits, deflation, plunging farm income and lost opportunity for economic growth and personal advancement.

This devastating time made the lives of this graduating class even more remarkable. At this time there were no scholarships available to help with education expense, but out of this class of seventeen, twelve of them were able to obtain some form of higher education. During their school days, it was often a struggle to even attend school.

Among this class, there were eight teachers, a nurse, grocery store owner, farmers, a power company superintendent, public workers, a creamery manager, a Bedford County Trustee, and homemakers. With determination and hard work, all seventeen individuals were very successful during their lifetime.

In 1979, this class celebrated their 50th year, with a class reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Sudberry. Fifteen of the class of seventeen attended. Classmate, Franklin Faris, constructed a booklet, containing information on each graduate, and presented a copy to each one. Below are excerpts, of each class member, taken from the booklet. At the time of the 1979 reunion all classmates were living. Today, all are deceased.

BEATRICE SMITH - Beatrice was born in the Vanatta Community of Bedford County. Her parents were John William and Mary Belle Trott Smith. To this union, six children were born. Beatrice was the second child, her brother Frank, being the first-born. Her sisters are Effie, Willie Belle, Lucille and Mildred.

Beatrice started to school at Cooper's Academy when she was five years old. Several years later, the family moved to the Longview Community where she attended school for a few months. The next year, the new Community School was opened. She

rode to school in a car driven by C. J. Lamb, who was a senior. She graduated from high school on April 24, 1929. In the spring 1930, she enrolled at Middle Tennessee State Teachers College at Murfreesboro. After attending one quarter, she started teaching at Walnut Grove School and taught later at Green Hill.

In 1932 she married Robert Herschel Adcock, a farmer and carpenter in the Hickory Hill Community. For several years, Beatrice left her teaching career and in 1941 their son Ronald Herschel was born. Beatrice went back to teaching in 1942 at Longview School. There was a great need for teachers at that time, because of World War II. She began going to college again on Saturdays and during the summers. She transferred to Community school in the fall of 1946. She was assigned to the 3rd and 4th grade. She received her B.S. Degree at M.T.S.C. in 1952. She enjoyed the 4th grade, so she stayed with it until she retired on June 13, 1977. Thirty-one years, good years, were spent at her alma mater.

Her main interest have centered on her family, her home, her church and school. Her hobbies are reading, growing flowers and vegetables, doing needlework and refinishing antiques.

LEON BATTS - Leon is the son of Eugene and Elizabeth Moon Batts. He first attended school at the old Red School House in Unionville. After finishing the 4th grade, he went to Cedar Grove where he stayed to complete the 7th grade. The next school year he transferred to Rover School to complete the 8th grade. For the 9th grade, he attended Miss Cora Jarrell's private school. He entered Community High School in 1926 to finish high school with the class of '29.

After C.H.S., Leon attended Draughn's Business Training School for a year. He met Tommie Gertrude Holton and, after a courtship, was married on October 1, 1932 and was parents to six children. Raymond, Daniel, John, Charles Richard (Dick), Jeannie and Jannie. In 1930, Leon started work for his brothers in a garage in Nashville but soon left the area and work at the Chevrolet Motor Company in Cincinnati, Ohio for about four years. He returned to Tennessee before moving to Norfolk, Virginia in 1941, to work at the Navy Yard, staying until 1946. He and Tommie then purchased a farm at Eagleville where they farmed and milked

cows for about ten years. During this time he worked for AVCO and then returning to Virginia to the Navy Yard in Virginia for a while. His last employment was at ARO in Tullahoma, which lasted 19 ½ years, retiring on April 30, 1972.

SAM BEASLEY - Sam was born in the Cedar Grove Community to Jim and Charlotte Arnold Beasley. His siblings are; Kate, Grace, Leonard, Virgil and James. Sam attended elementary school at Cedar Grove and high school at Community. He enjoyed playing ball so much that he played on an independent team for several years after high school.

Sam purchased a farm near Cedar Grove before he finished high school; then after getting married to Pauline Ghee, they bought more land, adjoining their farm. They have been in farming and dairying all of their lives. Their dairying is a family affair. They have four daughters, Juanita, Mary, Shirley and Sandy.

Sam and his family attend church at Cedar Grove. He and his wife, both taught Sunday school classes in the past. He is treasurer of the parsonage fund. His hobbies are feeding calves, reading and watching television. Pauline likes to sew, grow houseplants and watch T.V. They built a new home in 1974 across the road from the house where they first started housekeeping. They have now been married for 41 years. They are real proud of their accomplishments, as they rightfully should be.

ROBERT LEE COOPER - Robert Lee Cooper, son of G. B. and Nannie Moore Landis Cooper was born at Unionville. He has one full brother, James, who finished C.H.S. in 1930, one year after our class of '29. His half brothers were W. A., John, Bright and Charlie and his half sisters were Alta and Gussie. His wife is the former Ella Hamby from Morgan County. Robert attended elementary school at the Red School House at Unionville. He came to C.H.S. in 1925 as the others of our class did.

He entered U.T. at Knoxville immediately after high school, receiving his B.S. Degree in agriculture in June 1933. He has spent most of his life teaching and serving as supervisor of Veteran Farm Training. He retired from teaching in 1974 in Blount County, where they now live and have beef cattle and other farm animals. His children are Nancy, Robert Hazen, Jo Anne, Joyce

Community High School Unionville Class of 1929

and Robbie.

Robert attends Madison Avenue Baptist Church where he has held various offices during the past years. As we would expect, Robert loves sports, especially baseball and football. He can probably remember more players' names and the plays and scores that they have made than anyone else I have ever known.

MINNIE BELL SANDERS - Minnie Bell Sanders was born in the Longview Community of Bedford County. Her parents were George Washington and Rosie Mai Potts Sanders. She has four brothers; G. W. Jr., Comer, Charles, Ivie and two sisters, Dorothy and Lillian June.

After finishing high school, Minnie Bell married Clifford Sanders Crowell on June 6, 1929. They have three children; Alice Mai, Clifford Sanders Crowell Jr. and Eugene Delona. Minnie Bell attended elementary school at Maxwell Chapel, Fall Creek, Poplins Cross Roads and Moulder. Minnie Bell has been a very busy person. As well as raising a fine family, she was bookkeeper at a Service Station for nine years and managed a carpet store. She presently works at Big K Department Store. She and her family attend Lutheran Church at Halls Mill. This is the way she sums up her life, "It has been rich and she has enjoyed every moment of it".

FLORA PRESSGROVE - Martha Flora Pressgrove, the daughter of John and Laura Elenor Janette Jones Pressgrove was born at home near Hall's Mill. When she was six years of age, Flora walked with her brothers to Fall Creek School. After one week, her mother kept her home because she would not talk. She taught her at home and a year later, she walked to Poplin's Cross Roads and entered the 3rd grade. Sara Smith, Brainard Grissom and Flora took the Tennessee's state examination and passed the 8th grade under Hanie Smith. Flora started to Community High in 1925, the year it opened. She says it was a wonderful experience to grow up during the "roaring twenties".

When she registered at Middle Tennessee State Teacher College in the summer of 1929, she just couldn't wait to finish college, buy a car, and teach like Elsie (Elsie Burrell, a former teacher at Community High School). She was some inspiration, and, with her mother's help and determination, she made it. In 1933 she had received her B.S. Degree with majors in Home Economics and Science.

She had taught one year at Moulder's one room school.

She received permanent elementary and high school certificates to teach in Tennessee. After teaching three years at Moulder's, all 8 grades, with around 30 students, she started a term at Poplin's Cross Road. When Miss Pearl Lamb died, Flora was given the Home Economics position at good old Community High and several years later, returning to Shelbyville, taught all subjects to an 8th grade class at Madison Street School in Shelbyville. Leaving Shelbyville again, they lived in Florida where she retired from teaching in June 1976 with a total of 40 years in the teaching profession. Flora married Alec Frye and had a son, John. After Flora's retirement, she lived in Eagleville for a while.

EDNA KATHERINE HAYES - Edna Katherine, daughter of Calvin Cooper and Annie Caroline Sanders Haynes was born near Unionville Bedford County. Edna had four brothers; Howard, Leonard, Thomas and Paul and two sisters: Vena and Eva Mae. She married Grady Holden soon after high school. They lived on a farm and produced milk from a nice herd of dairy cows. Edna has been very busy helping her husband with the duties of the farm and milk factory, while raising their children; Jewell, June, Melvin, Thomas and Danny.

Edna attended elementary school at Maxwell Chapel. She and her family are members of Maxwell Chapel United Methodist Church, where she serves as organist and Sunday school secretary. She reports that her hobbies are gardening, reading and watching television.

SAMMIE SPENCE - Sammie was born near Bell Buckle in Bedford County. Her parents were Walter and Nancy Charlotte Sutton Spence. She had two brothers Walter Sutton and George Marion. Her sisters were Mary Elizabeth and Ann.

Sammie married Isaac Lunsford Lackey and had children, Isaac Lunsford Lackey Jr. and Nancy Anne. After leaving C. H. S., Sammie attended Martin College at Pulaski for one year. She went to M.T.S. U. where she received both her B.S. and M.A. degrees. For ten years she taught in Bedford County and the city of Shelbyville. From 1954 to 1957 she was assistant director of the Colquitt-Thomas Regional Library in Moultrie, Georgia. From 1958 to 1976 found her serving as chief of Children's Services at Augusta Public Library in Augusta, Georgia. She feels her highest honor was that of being appointed to the Governor's Committee on Children and Youth.

Her main interests are children and books. Her professional hobby has been conducting

story-telling workshops. Her ending statement, and I quote, "For the last 20 years, I had a job that was my cup of tea; a beautiful new library building with a bright sunny area for the children, a very good book budget, and the opportunity everyday to help children know the joy of reading and how to appreciate good books.

DORIS LANDERS - Doris Landers, daughter of Lot C. and Eunice Moore Landers was born in Bedford County. Her siblings were; Clifton, Guy, Myrtle and Mildred. Doris was married to Marvin Hasty on September 20, 1930. They have one son, Ronald.

Doris attended elementary school at the Old Red School house near Unionville. In 1929, immediately following high school, she went to Nashville and attended Draughn's Business College, taking a secretarial course and finishing in 1930. She married in September of that year and when Marvin started his own business, she helped with the bookkeeping. After Ronald was born in 1944, she has been a mother and housewife is now grandmother of three.

EDITH CLARDY - Edith was born in Unionville in Bedford County. Her parents were Pink and Louella Clardy. She attended elementary school at Longview and started high school at C.H.S. in 1925.

Her parents had seven children: Charlie, Ava Myrtle, Alla, Bryan, Alvis, Elvis and Edith. She married Gordon Moore and moved to Franklin where they lived five years. Returning to Shelbyville where she was employed for 16 years with Coherns 5 & 10 store as saleslady and cashier. She is now retired, and spends lots of time in her garden. She is especially fond of her flowers. She and Gordon have two children; Lanny and Kathy. Yes, Edith is a very proud of her grandchildren and says there is never a dull moment when they are around.

KATHLEEN LENTZ - Kathleen, daughter of Richard Joseph and Annie Eliza Wheelhouse Lentz, and was born near Shelbyville Tennessee. She attended elementary school at Longview and Unionville. She attended elementary school at Longview and Unionville and started to C.H.S. in 1925. She received her B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee State University and taught school for 33 years, retiring in 1975.

Kathleen married John Jacob Morgan of the Hickory Hill Community and had two sons; John Jacob IV and Knox Morton. Kathleen attends Fairland Church of Christ at Shelbyville, where she lives.

VASSA SCALES - Vassa was born in Houghton, Louisiana. Her parents were Willis C. and Wenona Thompson Scales.



Class of 1929 - Front Row (L-R): Franklin Faris, Calvin Sudberry, Leon Batts, Robert Cooper, Sam Beasley, 2nd Row: Beatrice (Dickens) Williams, Kathleen (Lentz) Morton, Sammie (Spence) Lackey, Vassa Scales, _____, Beatrice (Smith) Adcock. 3rd Row: Sarah (Smith) Sanders, Edna (Haynes) Holden, _____, Flora (Pressgrove) Fry, Edith (Clardy) Moore.

She has one brother, Walter C. Scales who lives near Unionville.

Vassa first attended (from 1919 to 1922) Middleton Private School near Unionville where there were only six students, Vassa Scales, Beatrice Dickens, Edward Middleton, Charles Middleton, Elbert Crowell and Franklin Farris. She then attended the Red School House at Unionville and went to Shelbyville to finish elementary school. She came to C.H.S. in 1925 when Community High opened.

She received her B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. She spent 43 years teaching, 14 in Bedford County and 29 in Frostproof, Florida. She states that her main interest in life has been guiding young people to develop their God-given abilities so that they can be happy, productive citizens of our ever widening community.

She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, the Frostproof Women's Club, the Eastern Star, the Polk County Retired Teachers Association and the United Methodist Church.

SARA SMITH - Sarah wrote that she was born on the scenic Duck River in Hall's Mill Community.

After leaving C. H. S., she taught school for

three years, but due to the fact there were two Smiths of the same family teaching, she lost her position as a teacher. She then entered the field of gospel music in rural middle Tennessee. Here she had many rich experiences and made many friends while teaching singing schools.

In 1937 she married Lester Sanders, a construction operator. She stayed home and says she became a farmer on their farm in the Wheel Community. She reported that her life's greatest rewards came from activities with youth and from her community and its activities. She served as County Trustee and County Co-ordinator for anti-poverty programs and has had several ventures into private business.

She and Lester have three children; William Lester, Sylvia Ann and Mary Grace.

G. C. SADBERRY - Calvin was born on his father's farm just off Shelbyville-Unionville turnpike. Calvin's parents were Richard Lee and Betty Clara Blackburn Sudberry. Calvin was the oldest child and had two sisters, Ruby E. and Annie Lee Sudberry. He married Edith Crowell, who finished C.H.S. in 1931 and have two sons: Charles Ellis and George Farrar.

Calvin received his elementary schooling at Unionville, Poplin's Crossroads and Chapel

Hill. After finishing high school, he went to Draughn's Business College, later taking a refresher course at Business School in Shelbyville. In 1937 he purchased Brown's Grocery in Unionville (formerly J. P. Fishers). After five years, he built a new store on U.S. 41 and ran it until 1975, making 38 years in this business. In 1956 he purchased the Ben Batts' farm where he built his home, where he and Edith now lives.

BERTHA REED - Bertha, a native of Bedford County finished elementary school at Poplin's Crossroads. After graduation she attended Draughn's Business College. She and George Wilson were married in 1931 and had a son, Kenneth.

After College, Bertha worked as a supervisor and in the office at Washington's Hosiery Mill. In 1954, she decided to become a nurse and took her training at Vanderbilt Hospital. From 1960 to 1972 she worked for Dr. H. R. Anderson until he discontinued his practice. She worked as a medical transcriber at Baptist Hospital in Nashville until her retirement in 1975.

Bertha is a member of Jackson Park Church of Christ and helps with the volunteer program for the aged. Her statement is: "She enjoys her volunteer work the most, as it is the most enjoyable and rewarding of anything she has ever done."

BEATRICE DICKENS - Beatrice was born in Unionville to Jason Landis and Emma Lee Reid Dickens. She has two sisters, Edith Inez and Kayrene Louise. She married Harrison Young Williams, who was in the banking business.

Beatrice attended grammar school in Unionville, grades 1-3 at the Middleton Private School and grades 4-8 at the Unionville Public School (Red School House). After finishing high school at Community, she went to Middle Tennessee State Teachers College for one year then began her teaching career at Key's Chapel in Bedford County where her salary was either \$45 or \$50 per month. She continued her education at M.T.S.U. and received her B.S. degree, majoring in primary education. From George Peabody College she received

her Master's degree in primary education.

After teaching at Key's Chapel, she taught at Flat Creek, Union Consolidated and Rover in Bedford County and the 1st grade in Tullahoma City School for one year. She then went to Nashville City Schools in 1942 and taught in East Nashville for 30 years, making a total of 40 years of teaching.

Her main interests have been first, teaching primary children the three Rs and, second teaching them how to grow and live to be good citizens of our country and world.

FRANKLIN L. FARIS - Franklin was born near Unionville, Bedford County. His parents were William Ed and Sue Brady Landis Faris. He and his two sisters, Mayree and Essie started to school at Community when the school was established in 1925. The three of them rode a pony or a large horse to school in the days before school buses.

After graduating in 1929, Franklin went to Knoxville and was able to get employment in the University of Tennessee Creamery. After four months of work, he registered for

a one-year course in dairying, which lasted for five quarters.

In the summer of 1931, he started as a cream tester for Pet Milk Company at Morristown which lasted about 4 months, and after a few months back in Unionville, he returned to work at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In 1934 he started to work for T.V.A. in Norris. In 1939 when the Norris Creamery Inc. started a plant at Harriman, Franklin was hired to manage this operation, where he stayed for 37 years before retiring. Franklin and Sally Heacker were married in 1940 and have two daughters; Linda Sue and Penny.

Franklin and Sally lived in Harriman and their lives have been centered around raising their daughters and helping other family members, their church and it's activities, the school and civic and trade organizations.

Even though all the above 1929 graduates are deceased, the memory of this exceptional class is often recognized in the history of Community High School.