

The McCune Alumni Association, Inc. •Box 122 •McCune KS

July 2023

www.mccunealumni.org

The Black & Gold



McCune Eagles

Jeff Han, President
Morgan Blanchard-Zimmer, Vice President
Kathy McColm Stewart, Treasurer
Jolene Mosler Conway, Recording Secretary
Sharon Huff Leonard, Corresponding Secretary

The all-alumni dinner and meeting, will be held Saturday evening, September 23, 2023, at the Community Center. Dinner will be at 5:00 followed by the meeting at 6:00. There is no charge to attend the meeting at 6:00.

Due to the deterioration of the McCune School buildings, the Alumni Steering Committee has moved the all-alumni meeting to the evening, after the banquet at the community center. All-Alumni and guests are invited to attend one or both events. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:00. The all-alumni meeting will follow at 6:00. The 50 year class will be honored at the 6:00 meeting and the scholarships will be presented.

Price of the dinner: \$12.50 per person.

Chicken Mary's, will be catering the dinner. Menu: fried chicken, pulled pork, bread and butter, an assortment of sides including, onion rings, cheesy potatoes, German slaw, potato salad, mac & cheese, baked beans, and green beans. An assortment of pies will be served for dessert.

**Make your reservations for the dinner by
September 15, 2023.**

Contact: Kathy Stewart: kstewie@hotmail.com or telephone (620) 632-4992. Use the order form on page 7 to purchase dinner tickets along with your tickets for the drawings at the alumni meeting.

Join us at the Park Saturday Afternoon after Lunch

After the parade, and after everyone has lunch the alumni committee will be serving ice cream in the park Saturday afternoon, September 23, starting at 2:00. Bring a lawn chair, if possible. The idea is to spend the afternoon visiting with old friends and enjoying being back in the old hometown.

Buy Your Tickets and Win \$100

The Alumni will once again be selling tickets for the drawing during their meeting on Saturday evening, Sept. 23 at 6:00. Drawing prizes are \$100, \$50, and \$25. Tickets sell for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00.

You do NOT need to be present to win this prize.

Buy Your Tickets and Win a Blackstone Grill

The Alumni will also be selling tickets on a Blackstone grill. Tickets sell for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The winning ticket will be drawn at the alumni meeting at 6:00 Saturday evening.

You MUST be present to win the grill.

Check the McCune Alumni Website

Please check the website for the latest information about meetings and the McCune Fall Festival

www.mccunealumni.org

Donations Given in 2021 - 2022

Memorial Donations:

\$2,000

Margaret McColm in memory of Charles McColm

deceased 28 April 2021

\$215

In Memory of Mary Ann Rauniker

deceased 17 November 2021

\$635

In Memory of Janice Sears Kirby

deceased 25 November 2021

Science and Technology Scholarship:

\$1,000 or More:

Anonymous donor

General Scholarship Fund:

\$300 or more:

Mark Smith

\$200 or more:

**Carl Davidson
Harold Millard**

\$150 or more

Ramona Fox

\$100 or more

**Harriet Ginn
Alan and Linda Hobson
William Metcalf
Flo Ellen Ray
Lana Surridge**

\$20,000

**Herman and Ailene Parsons Scholarship
By Terry and Marian Parsons and
their son Dr. Mark Parsons**

2023 Scholarships Awarded

Eight 2023 high school graduates in six different highschools, reside in the former McCune #57 school district. All were contacted and given information about the McCune Alumni scholarships. Six of the students applied. We are pleased to announce the recipients:

\$1,000 Alumni Scholarships

Each will receive \$1000



Ethan Bennett

John Frisbie

Micah Godsell

Klete Keller

Lea McGown

Dylan Paulie

\$500 Science and Technology Scholarship

Each will receive \$500

Ethan Bennett

John Frisbie

Micah Godsell

Lea McGown

Dylan Paulie

\$20,000 Herman and Ailene Parsons

Educational Scholarship

to be divided equally among:

Ethan Bennett

John Frisbie

Klete Keller

Lea McGown

Dylan Paulie

In Memory of

David Han

David was the president of the McCune Alumni Association from 2003 through 2006. For the past few years he served as the master of ceremonies at the alumni banquet. We will miss his knowledge of the McCune area and his great sense of humor.

From the Class of 1973

~by Connie Otto Shiverdecker

In the Fall of 1969 our class began our high school experience. Most of the class had attended McCune schools since first grade.

They were drafting for the Vietnam War. Girls would wear pants to school and we would test the limits of fashion with bell-bottoms and mini-skirts. Richard Nixon was President and a Boeing 747 took its first flight.

Six girls and twelve boys formed a bond. During those four years girls were allowed in FFA and boys took Home Ec and made turtle soup and aprons. The teachers took a personal interest in us and wanted us to do our best. The food was great! Our school had the best cooks around.

During our Senior year we marched and sang protest songs in Current Events with Mr. Cooper and learned some things about the war. We also tried to figure out who would be drafted and who wouldn't. Fortunately, the draft ended as our high school education concluded.

We had an amazing basketball team our Senior year and I remember crying as we lost the last game by one point. The big wooden stairs on each end of the building; Mrs. Smith in the office; sitting on the front steps with friends - all special memories.

Fifty years is a long time but it doesn't seem that long ago looking back. We have lost a few classmates along the way and we've all had our ups and downs. But for those of us left -

Happy 50th Anniversary Class of '73!

Top T.V. shows in 1973

All in the Family	Hawaii Five-O
The Waltons	Sanford and Son
M*A*S*H	Kojak
The Mary Tyler Moore Show	The 6 Million Dollar Man

The Class of 1973 50 Years!



Gene Allen

Janet Bennett Bacon

Marvin Boor (deceased – 2021)

Rick Buzard

Danny Egbert

Anita Essary Leyba

Paula Grandle Thornburg (deceased – 2001)

Randy Kirby

Mike Lovelady (deceased - 1998)

Vicki Markley Younger

Jan Nutt Bevins

Connie Otto Shiverdecker

Steve Parsons

Gary Stephens

Cindy Trotnic Golding

John F. Turkington (deceased – 2022)

David Wells

Dean York (unknown)

Steve Zimmerman

Some best-selling pops in 1973:

*Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree -
Tony Orlando and Dawn*
Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown - Jim Croce
Killing Me Softly With His Song – Roberta Flack

Some best-selling country in 1973:

Behind Closed Doors – Charlie Rich
Lord, Mr. Ford – Jerry Reed
The Most Beautiful Girl – Charlie Rich
You Can Have Her – Waylon Jennings
*Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man – Loretta
Lynn & Conway Twitter*

The Top Movie of 1973

The Sting

Class of 1963

- by Joe and Beverly Smith



I don't know about you, but I can't believe it's been 60 years since our days at MRHS! We thought we would try to get together as a group for Fall Festival to celebrate those 60 years. Current plans are "fluid", to say the least, but we would like for those who are interested and able to venture forth, to meet down by the old high school Saturday morning, September 23, 2023. Jim Huff is going to have a vehicle for us to ride on in the parade. If you remember, we did not get to ride in the parade for our 50th because of heavy rain. This will be our chance to ride in the Fall Festival Parade!

Following the parade, we have talked to Tom Circle about meeting at their restaurant at Strauss for lunch. Everybody can order what they want. No special menu, everybody pays their own way, and we get to visit and catch up with each other. We will have a table at the Alumni Banquet for our group who want to attend. This is all voluntary, and just hope several Class of '63 members will be able to attend part or all of these activities.

Hope to see you at Fall Festival 2023!

Deceased Alumni



Class of 1942

*Merle Clawson
25 Jan 2023

Class of 1944

*Gloria Foster Wintjen
6 Sept 2022

Class of 1949

*Bill Moore
20 Feb 2023
*Dolores Powell Hoheisel
21 Nov 2022

*Peggy Blackburn Maxwell
11 Nov 2022

Class of 1951

*Marguerite Markley Pendleton
4 Apr 2023

Class of 1953

*Dale Shenefeld
22 May 2022

Class of 1954

*Marvin Johnston
26 Mar 2023
*Betty Huston Cares
6 Sept 2022

Class of 1955

Mary Alice Nelson Bennett
16 May 2023

Class of 1956

*Calvin Riggs
22 Aug 2022

Class of 1957

*Charlotte Kernick McColm
17 Mar 2023

Class of 1959

*John Maffei
27 Feb 2023

Class of 1960

Peggy Mullen Kruger
21 Aug 2022

Class of 1962

Sally Mansfield McKinzie
15 Apr 2023



*Connie Montee Depue
30 Nov 2022

*Treva Silc Nichols
15 Dec 2022

Class of 1963

*Louita Burk Carter
25 Feb 2023

Class of 1968

*David Han
25 Feb 2023

Class of 1969

*Melvin Boor
18 Nov 2022
*Edward Nutt
24 Sept 2022

Class of 1973

*John F. Turkington
11 July 2022

Class of 1976

*Jeff Neblett
03 Jan 2023

60 Years-Class of 1963

Leon Baldwin (decs - 2019)
Nikki Bell Kasjaka (decs - 2022)
Judith Boor Risley
Louita Burk Carter (decs - 2023)
Carol Clarke Duesi
Beverly Dalrymple Smith
Nancy Getman Barrett (decs - 2009)
Cheryl Goff Hojem
Jack Graver
James Huff
Linda Kious Hodgden
James Kirby
Rufus Leonard
Lana Marchbanks Surridge*
Sondra Monroe Janssen
Donna Morrison Morgan
Wanda Napier Endicott
Thomas Niebaum (decs 2016)
Ron Pierce (decs 2003)*
Janis Ratzlaff (decs 1964)
Helen Riggs Grove (unknown)*
Betty Rose Craig (unknown)
Joseph Smith
Kay Tridle Bishop
Mildred Ulbrich Larcom
Bobby Wright (decs -1964)
Brenda Zwahlen Parsons

70 Years-Class of 1953

Veda Autem (decs 2019)
Marjorie Baldwin Freeman (decs 2006)
Carl Bronson (decs 2022)
James Howard Clark (decs 2014)
Jacqueline Darland Bolte (decs 2022)
Ruth Davidson Clark (decs 2012)
Donald Depue (decs 2015)
Mary Ellen Ewan Gress
Merle Fincher (decs 1993)
Harold "Hoot" Gibson (decs 2020)
Donald Howell (decs 1993)
Joan Irwin Rentfro (decs 2006)
Helen Johnson Neal (decs 2015)
Mavis Kelley Clark
Helen Larcom Brown (unknown)
Edward McClanahan (decs 2000)
Leah McGlathery Taylor
Shirley Miller Larios
Wallace Morrison (decs 2002)
Bobby Moulds (decs 1970)
Kathy Perkins Allen (decs 2017)
Lois Ratzlaff Frantz (decs 2000)
Delbert Rentfro (decs 2018)
Paul Riggs (decs 2018)
Billy Shanholtzer (decs 2007)
Dale Shenefeld (decs 2022)
Jo Ann Stocker Bentley (decs 2003)
Virginia Sumpter Perkins (decs 2016)
Bill Taylor
Joann Treadway Eigsti (decs 2009)
Mildred Wort Butts



As I Recall

-by Bonita Stewart Fitts

I loved going to school. I would meet the school bus at the end of our lane and ride the 2 1/2 miles to town. We had two bus drivers during my time. One was Roy Tridle

and the other was a nice man whose name I don't remember.

Some of my fondest memories are from the four years I spent in McCune Rural High School. My favorite class was English. All the classes were fairly easy for me except Algebra. Miss Turkington was our math teacher and she tried but algebra never found a home in my brain. The only way I managed to get through it was to memorize the formulas.

But English was different. I had always been a voracious reader and I had a decent vocabulary. I even enjoyed diagramming sentences, etc. (I think that's known as being a nerd). Mrs. Green was our English and Speech teacher and besides that she was in charge of our school plays. The plays were so much fun. They were surely amateurish but we thought we were pretty good. She was also in charge of the cheerleading squad. I was fortunate to be selected as a cheerleader all four years.

The music teacher was Mrs. Stevenson. We had a band, a girl's glee club, a boy's glee club and a mixed group. Our band was really pretty good. We did well at the band contests that were held, I think, at Pittsburg State. Of course we played and marched in the Christmas parades in Parsons and Pittsburg and at half time at our football games. I played the French Horn and believe me that brass mouthpiece was cold to the lips when you are marching in a Christmas parade. Once we were invited to Claremore, Oklahoma where the Will Rogers Memorial resides. They were having a celebration of Will Rogers's life. It was summer hot and our uniforms were wool. We had to march, if I recall correctly, two miles - the last mile being uphill. Bob Hope was the featured celebrity at that event which was quite a thrill to get to see him up close.

Mr. Jursche was our coach and also our Biology, Typing and Shorthand teacher, I didn't own a typewriter which made it difficult to get in much practice and besides that we were required to hand in a perfectly typed paper (No erased words) occasionally. Biology wasn't much fun either when it came to dissecting frogs, etc.

Mr. Millard was our history teacher. I wasn't too interested in history at the time but have since enjoyed learning how our and other countries have developed. Sorry, Mr. Millard. I should have been a more enthusiastic student.

Our HomeEc teacher was Mrs. King. It seemed to be such a waste of time. We were being taught things we farm kids

pretty much already knew how to do. I had the same thought about girl scouts, I went to one meeting and they were so excited to be planning a trip to the country. I already lived in the country so that held no interest to me. I never went back.

Those years were the Kelly Brothers years so needless to say our basketball games were a lot of fun. I remember one year the team was going to play in a state tournament in Hutchinson (I think). I was excited to go on the bus with the rest of the pep club but my doctor thought I might be coming down with mumps or something and I had to stay home and listen to the game on the radio. I didn't have mumps or something and I was quite upset about missing the game.

For a while during high school I would run up to Art's cafe and work during my lunch hour. Later I got a job at the drug store. I remember one Saturday night I was working and someone came running in to tell me they had drawn my name for the cash prize. That was something that was held down by the movie theater on Saturday night. Saturday was a big day in McCune. The farmers would bring in their eggs, etc. to sell at the produce house and then just socialize with their neighbors. I don't remember that there was ever any actual entertainment. It seems to me they just sort of milled around and visited with their friends. How exciting could that have been??

The drug store was owned by the local veterinarian. I would sometimes get calls from a farmer with a sick cow wanting to know how to get in touch with the vet. I never knew because he didn't give me his itinerary.

The vet and his wife had a little girl that they would drop off for me to baby sit along with minding the store. She was a delight. She did things like take out a package of gum, unwrap each stick and then lick off the sugar and put the gum down on the glass counter top. I did all that for 25 cents an hour.

Most of the boys had a car or access to one so sometimes we would double date and go to Parsons Drive-In or drag main street which is 2 blocks long. Those were simpler times but they are worth recalling.

Our class graduated in 1952. Our senior trip consisted of a 50 mile bus ride to the park in Joplin, Missouri. Don't go telling your grandchildren how wild we all were back then, they wouldn't believe it.

We have since lost more than half of our class. It is sad to think about but the memories are still alive.

The McCune Osage Township Library and Museum.

-by Morgan Blanchard-Zimmer

Since late spring, we have had a major increase in the number of library and museum patrons. The museum is thriving, considering a year ago we had to close due to mold restoration. Thankfully, none of the exhibits or pieces in the museum were damaged.

Last April the museum was asked by the Miners Hall Museum in Franklin, Kansas to do a quarterly exhibit. A small exhibit of pieces from McCune were placed there, and we had three presenters. Dick Rauniker spoke in April about the early days of the railroad and the impact of the railroad on our area. Kent Smith presented in May on the founding and early days of McCune. The final presenter was Richard Weathers, who presented the start of industry and some of the major families in McCune at the turn of the century. Since participating in the quarterly exhibit we have had an increase in the number of visitors. Our museum showcases pieces from the McCune area, Alumni memorabilia, a Roy Rogers exhibit, and replicas set in the early 20th century of a school house, a farm house, and a barn. There are pieces as well from the hay day of McCune when we were a boisterous town.

The library has gone from having a handful of youth coming in to 30 to 35! The staff has been overwhelmingly busy keeping well-rounded activities for them, helping all patrons, providing a summer reading program for all, and cooking lunch every day we are open for the kids. There are a large number of youth in the community that need a meal each day. The staff started feeding them from their own money, but have received several lovely donations to help. Labette Bank also donated its city lot to the Library. This lot will be available to the community for rental.

The library did receive a grant from Community Foundation of Parsons for our after school help program. If your child needs help this school year or access to a computer please send them on up, we are happy to help.

A new Wi-Fi point was installed on July 10th, so the community can enjoy access to Wi-Fi even when the library is closed. The best spots to access the Wi-Fi is in the front flower garden and out back (where the library makes an L).

We hope to see many of you at Fall Festival! The library will be having their annual book sale this year right by the East door of the library. Library and Museum Hours are: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am to 6:00pm, Wednesday 2:00pm to 6:00pm, and Saturdays 9:00am to 1:00pm. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for special events and news! We publish a monthly Neighborhood Newsletter which is \$12.00 a year. We sell ads on the back page which are \$75.00 a year.

New Pavilion Progresses

-by Jason Han

As many of you know the alumni association partnered with a community group from McCune in April, 2022. This group had a goal of replacing the cemetery pavilion with a new building. Members of this community group attended the next alumni meeting. These meetings are held at Chicken Mary's in Yale, a small town just north of Pittsburg and anyone is welcome to attend.

The alumni does great work in the community including the scholarship program for recent graduates, preparation for the fall festival activities including the banquet and reunion as well as producing this newsletter. The alumni association found value in the ideas and goals of the group and agreed to take on the partnership with the group. While things appeared to move slowly in the beginning, in reality things were happening fairly quickly. The group set a goal of \$50,000.00 since this is what the cost of the early estimates were.

The partnership with the alumni allowed the group to apply for and be awarded a grant from Evergy Electric. Even with this grant, the donations and support of this community, the group was still short of the needed money. Since the cemetery is city property the McCune city council is updated every month about our progress and during the March meeting it was voted to help the group meet the goal of the needed money.

With the money in place we opened the project for bids and with a few bumps along the way we were able to select a contractor for the concrete work for the floor of the building and a contractor for the building itself.

The new building will be 30 feet by 30 feet, a simple square, with 11 windows, a double main entrance and a single secondary walk door. The colors were chosen to closely match the new city hall building in McCune. With these decisions made it was now time to begin actual work and with the desire to recycle some of the original building for reuse on other projects. There was a volunteer who was able to remove and salvage these parts for future use, and just today, June 29th, there were two volunteers that were able to remove and clean the site in preparation for the new structure. The concrete work is scheduled to begin around July 10th and the building will start as soon as practical for the contractor. So with the partnership of the alumni association and the dedication of all the wonderful volunteers donating both time and money we should have a new building soon and possibly completed for the next fall festival this September.

As the of demolition day drew near there was some reservation of the unknown and as the project unfolded one of the supporters reminded me that with the good people we had involved there was no reason to worry as any problems could be handled by our group, this has proven to be true of this community far and wide if it needs to be done you will support a good cause by donations of money or simply pitch in when needed. With all the bad in the world it seems a blessing to remember what we can do if we chose to work together for a common project we all believe in.



The old pavilion after some salvage for recycling was finished and before it was totally demolished.



A short time later, the old building is a pile of rubble waiting for clean up.



A faithful volunteer cleans the site getting it ready for the concrete pour.

Order Blank

Remember: We are now a tax-exempt organization and all checks must be made to the McCune Alumni Association INC.

Please clip and mail with your check to: Kathy Stewart • Box 122 • McCune, KS 66753 by September 15, 2023.

Please help Kathy by sending one of your return address labels (if you have some) for EACH ticket you purchase.

Name:

Address:

Phone/email:

Tickets For \$100:

Six for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each _____ = \$ _____
(You do NOT need to be present to win \$100)

Tickets for the BlackStone grill:

Six for \$5.00 or \$1.00 each _____ = \$ _____
(You MUST be present to win the grill)

Reservations for the Alumni Dinner :

Cost per person = \$12.50 X _____ dinners = \$ _____

Alumni Donation (\$10.00) tax free = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Subscribe to the McCune Library Newsletter

Once a month the staff and volunteers at the library put out a newsletter filled with local news of McCune and its history. Anyone can subscribe to the newsletter. However, the subscription fee **MUST** be sent to the library.

The Alumni Association cannot accept checks or money for the library newsletter. So, send \$12.00 once a year to:

McCune Osage Township Library
 PO Box 73 509 6th St.
 McCune, KS 66753

Published by

The McCune Alumni Association, Inc.

Box 122

McCune KS 66753



stamp

ADDRESS LABEL

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Log on the McCune Alumni Website at:
mccunealumni.org
We'll keep you posted on coming events.
July, 2023, Newsletter

Please Note:

If we are to continue our custom of awarding scholarships to McCune kids, we need your donations- \$10.00 per alum is suggested. Send your donations to Kathy Stewart.

Why not consider a memorial donation in honor of a loved one, or as a class legacy? Contact Kathy.

Address Changed? Addition to a class list? Something for the 2024 newsletter? Update for the web page?

Contact Sharon Leonard:

295 W 570 Avenue • Girard KS 66743

620.724.8531

email: aleonard@ckt.net

We need articles for the newsletter. Why not write about your years at McCune High, or about the town.

Tell about your prom, your favorite teacher, your sporting seasons and events. Or, tell us what you've been doing since graduation, or, write good things about a McCune friend or classmate.

Send your items to Sharon Leonard.

McCune Fall Festival September 22-24, 2023

•September 22, Friday evening after 5:00. Bean Feed.

The beans will be cooked by Lions Club members and available at the derby grounds just north of McCune on highway 126. All Alumni are encouraged to meet there and join the fun. Bring your lawn chair, dish and spoon. It's always a great time.

•September 23, Saturday morning: 10:30

Grand parade. Main street

(Bicycle and pet parade held before.)

•September 23, Saturday afternoon 2:00 to 4:00

All-Alumni and guests ice cream social
McCune City Park.

Bring bowl, spoon and lawn chair

The Alumni Association will provide ice-cream

•September 23, Saturday evening: 4:30, eat at 5:00

All-alumni & guests dinner- \$12.50 per person
McCune Community Center

•September 23, Saturday evening: 6:00 at the Community Center. Free to all alumni and guests:

All-alumni meeting. Honoring the 50 year class, 1973, awarding of scholarships and updates.

•September 24, Sunday morning: 11:00

Community Church Service