

Alumni fondly recall the glory days

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IVN Contributing Writer

There were many family ties in evidence at the IVHS Alumni Reunion Sunday breakfast. Brothers, sisters, parents, children and friends assembled to visit and reminisce.

Many Kerby Union grads were in attendance this year and shared favorite memories going back 65 years or more, before the development of modern conveniences like washers, dryers, dishwashers and televisions. In those days, attending school was much preferred over arduous household or farm chores.

Norma Jean McKinnon Beard ('49) was grateful to be able to get out and meet people. "We were home all the time working," she said. "Selma was so far away, it was like a foreign country."

Arlene Buckles Rians ('48) remembers, "We had great teachers and we knew everyone. Our freshman class was so big it made up half the school. On Senior Skip Day, we went to San Francisco."

Norma Buckles Bolinger ('51) remembered K.U. High School as a fun place to go to school. She related that students were told to take home all their belongings over the Christmas break and report to the new I.V. High School, (which is now Lorna Byrne Middle School) in January. "We moved to the new school in the middle of the year. I had a lot of good friends and we still keep in touch. I haven't missed a reunion yet," she said proudly.

The sisters took the opportunity to say, "Hello" to their other sister, Dolores Buckles Silacci, in Turlock, California, who always has a subscription to the Illinois Valley News.

Billie Plumlee ('48) and her brother Doug Plumlee ('53) both said they enjoyed going to school. Billie fondly remembered her KUHS science teacher, Mr. Reager.

Annabelle Brewer ('52) said "We were the first class at the I.V. High School on Junction Avenue."

Sisters Arlene Hoover ('60) and Arlene Hoover Robin ('61) both reported "lots of good memories," as did Larry Wright ('51).

Chris Duncan Leppert ('54) had fun in Richard Newman's journalism class. "He inspired us all," she said. She also related an interesting story about encountering her typing teacher Josephine Hoesley in San Diego 20 years after she had graduated.

Donna Zimmerman Tellyer ('56) said her high school experience was "Just great fun and a good education, too. What I learned has helped me throughout my life."

Tom Berkner ('63) was proud of competing at the state level in wrestling when he was just a freshman.

"My favorite teachers were my math teacher, Mr. Kellenbeck and my physical education teacher, Ron Brood, who later became superintendent of the entire school system. Thanks to those two gentlemen, I became a teacher and now teach special education in Hawaii," he said. Berkner also served 20 years in the Navy.

Carol Dinkel Dickson ('74) said she enjoyed being on the Drill Team, which performed routines during football games.

Wilma Fisher Hyde ('76) was in the last high school class at the Junction Avenue location and enjoyed the Senior Skip Day at the coast. "We didn't have the All Night Grad Party back then," she said.

Marie Cunningham Darrell ('77) was a member of the first class to move into the current I.V. High School on River Street. During the last week of her sophomore year, "We stole Liz Bryant's entire classroom during Mr. Crocker's study hall. All the desks and chairs, including the teacher's desk and wheeled blackboards were rushed down the hall and dumped into another classroom."

Every year, Darrell gets together with about a dozen high school friends to rent a house on the Oregon coast. Different cities from Bandon to Lincoln City are selected by these self-titled "Cougars on

the Loose." "We shop, eat and catch up," she said. "It gives us a chance to really talk."

Ted Crocker ('77) appreciates all the friends he made and still has today.

Val "Dink" Cameron ('79) related how much she enjoyed playing basketball. "We won first in the Conference," she said.

Sherri Lamb's ('85) favorite memory was a marketing and DECA (Distribution Education Clubs of America) class trip to Portland led by teacher Emma Smith. The students tricked Smith into letting

them attend the movie "Risky Business," telling her it was about business. Kim Smith, her best friend and Smith's daughter was in on the deception.

Shanna Rhoten ('86) loved attending high school, athletic games, "pop" music shows and establishing lifelong friendships. "I loved growing up in a small town and that my kids are able to go to my schools, too," she said.

Nehemiah Wilson ('15) enjoyed "hanging out in calculus class and eating breakfast, especially the donuts," he said.

Class of 1991



(Courtesy photo for The Illinois Valley News)

Eli Baker (left), Nick Bersaglieri, Nalita Baumbach, Keith Webb, Charity Meidinger, Rhonda Terril, Allison Blair at Chinquapin Park Saturday, July 2.

<p>Art's Red Garter</p> <p>POOL TOURNEY Tuesdays @ 6:30</p> <p>KARAOKE Wednesdays 9 PM</p>	<p>TIM & MICHELLE</p> <p>Friday, July 15 @ 5:30</p> <p>from Taylor's Country Store</p>	<p>Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE</p> <p>LIVE MUSIC On Saturdays @ 6</p> <p>Every Wednesday Open MIC Night 6 - 8 p.m.</p> <p>Jay Barley Fridays @ 6 p.m</p>	<p>Karaoke w/ Steve</p> <p>Friday, July 15 @ 9 p.m.</p> <p>Pool Tourney - Saturdays at 7 Free Pool Games on Sunday</p> <p>@ Sportsman Tavern</p>	<p>The G Spot</p> <p>PODUNK POETS & ROGUE RAGE DUO Friday, July 15, 8 - 11</p> <p>Hump Day Karaoke w/Jammer Dave 8 p.m. - midnight</p> <p>OPEN MIC THURSDAYS 7 - 10 PM</p>	<p>HERBAL CREW Friday, July 15, 7 P.M. \$5</p> <p>Jammer Dave's Karaoke Saturday, July 16, 8 p.m.</p> <p>@ McGrew's!</p>
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