

Thorndale ISD Ex-Students News
Reported by Charlene Olbrich
Ex-Student Association Advisory Committee Member
November 1, 2009

We hope you all had a Happy and Safe Halloween. The little ghouls and goblins are so cute all dressed up in their costumes. We had about 75 and love to see each and every one of them, even the big ones.

Can't believe our band is going to state and will have the verdict by the time you read this. We do wish them the best. Such a cute colored photo and article in the newspaper. Go Band!!!

We have a prayer list that we need to take very seriously.

Exes mom, Mrs. Gould, mother of several of our exes passed away. We surely extend our condolences to this family.

Beth Smith Gest, Class of 1946 of Rockdale lost a sister-in-law.

Kim Brune Gibson, Class of 1986 of Rockdale had a death in her husband's family.

Exes mom, Imajeane Fisher is still in the rehab center and is very weak.

Delma "Sloppy" Kiesling, Class of 1941 is back in the hospital.

Exes mom, Mrs. Emma Merz, is in the hospital.

We need to keep all these folks in our prayers and send sympathies to those who have lost loved ones.

We received a nice donation in memory of ex-principal/coach, Bob Mathis, from Kelton and Alice Schneider, Class of 1959 and ex-teacher, respectively. Our many thanks to them.

We received an e-mail placing Kevin Gilbreath in the class of 1975. We really appreciate this information. He will now be on the class roster for that year. If you have information or just want to bring us up to date on someone, we don't have to put your name in the paper. We always respect anyone's request. All you have to do is tell us.

Invitations from Homecoming seem to be trickling back in. If anyone knows the current address of Kurt Fuessel, Class of 1968 of Belton, we sure would like to hear from you. Kurt now joins our other 220 "Lost" exes.

I don't know if you will remember, but back in August, a lady by the name of Margaret Flint Hagan of Amarillo called asking for information on her grandfather, J. K. Quinn. Our Historian, Evelyn Beard Young, Class of 1953 of Rockdale tracked down the information the lady was looking for - no surprise. Evelyn's good at remembering all these things.

The article was about Thorndale ISD's 100 year anniversary written by Chris Amante and I think it was in the Thorndale Champion. The article is priceless so I'm going to repeat it exactly like Chris Amante wrote it with notes inserted and it may take a couple of weeks to complete. So it begins -

This fall, Thorndale Independent School District will be going on one century - 100 years of memories generated by students and teachers who have graced the benches and desks of its many incarnations. (This was written in 1983.)

Five years after the town was established in 1878, Thorndale's first school was built on a one-acre site donated by W. S. Carothers. The one-room schoolhouse was erected in 1883 and Messrs. J. C. Elliott, J. K. Quinn and G. W. Gresham were the first appointed trustees for the school.

In 1905, students started classes in a two-room, white frame building.

"It was the most glistening white we'd ever seen," Grace Fulcher Berry said in remembering bygone years. "When we moved into the two-room building, I was scared to death my books were going to get lost." (Grace Fulcher Davis Berry was in the Class of 1915 and passed away July 23, 2001 at the ripe old

age of 103. She worked, edited the Thorndale Champion until after her 100th birthday. Grace was loved by all who knew her and had the most beautiful smile always on her face.)

A three-story brick building, with 12 classrooms and, on the third floor, an auditorium, was erected in 1914. Mrs. Berry, 84, said the brick building was "absolutely elegant" and its auditorium stage "too elaborate for words."

In 1915, she and four other women constituted the first class to graduate from the "new" school and the first to use the gold-and-white stage for commencement exercises.

"Back then, " she said, "you did not read your commencement address, you had to memorize it. We grew up the hard way."

In the early 1900s, kids had to pick cotton, so school did not start until September, she said. And for recreation, those same kids went to Literary Society meetings on Friday nights, where debates were the attraction of the evening, Mrs. Berry said.

"That was our recreation then. But it would be hard work now," she said and laughed.

For Mrs. Berry and her four classmates, the girl's basketball team was another form of recreation. Clothed in "real full, big black bloomers and white midi blouses," the five girls played teams from surrounding community schools, she said.

TO BE CONTINUED - - -

We can be found on the web at www.thorndale.txed.net or you can write to locojo@austin.rr.com. You can always call 512-898-2072, or you can write to Thorndale Ex-Students Assn., P. O. Box 393, Thorndale, TX 76577. We love to hear from our exes.