
THE NEXT PAGE

The Victoria High School Alumni Association Newsletter
Current Circulation 1321

April 1996

Victoria, Kansas

Volume 3, Issue 1

Where's the balcony?

You are a VHS alumni. You've come home for a visit and you decide to attend the annual school play. As you sit in the auditorium, you reminisce about the previous times you were in this room. You recall hearing the band playing from the balcony as the year's graduates walk up the aisle. You look up from your seat to get a glimpse of the old balcony. But it is not there. It has been remodeled and turned into the school's ITV room.

At some point along the way, a decision was made to stop using the balcony area for audience seating and storage and turn it into a classroom. A satellite Spanish class was born. Within two years, the school ventured into ITV--interactive video teaching. In one half of the old balcony, televisions were set up that allowed the students at the various schools using the ITV technology to see each other during class sessions.

Chris Janzen, the foreign language instructor at VHS, was enthusiastic as he spoke about the ITV classroom. He feels that smaller schools that cannot afford to hire teachers will have a better chance at remaining open because of interactive video technology.

Janzen mentioned that there is no adult supervision in the ITV classrooms at the different schools except for the one that has the instructor. Students are viewed through the televisions. Microphones provide the communication between the schools.

Janzen said students are taught how to use the system at the beginning of the year so they can manipulate it when their classroom is the one without the teacher.

There are a number of other electronic gadgets in the classroom. Janzen noted that there are no chalk boards; instead he can use an overhead projector and focus in on a portion of a document which can be seen by all the students at all the schools. A fax machine allows him to send tests to the secretary of the other school, who can then make copies for the ITV students. The completed tests can be faxed back to the teacher just as quickly.

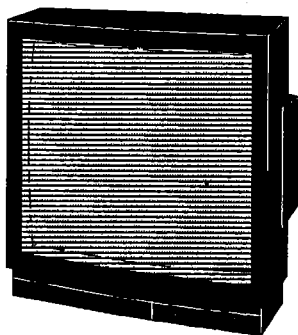
Some of the courses being taught through ITV are German, psychology, sociology, Spanish, and equine management. One nice thing about being connected to other schools, Janzen said, is that even though the schools may be opponents in sports, with ITV the students become classmates also.

This past year, the other half of the balcony was turned into a second ITV

New leaders selected

The first annual business meeting of the Alumni Association was held at the Victoria Grade School cafeteria on September 23, 1995. During this meeting, the various committees reported that membership of the Association had reached 1321 and that expiration dates of

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued on page 4)

Victoria High School Alumni Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Schmidtberger ('82), Pres.
Marge Rome ('58), V. Pres.
Sandy Goetz ('82), Treasurer
Diane Pfeifer ('73), Secretary
Det Younger ('58)
Kurt Dinkel ('86)
Mike Younger ('92)
Colleen Kuhn ('84)
Susie Windholz ('69)

COMMITTEES

Membership

Det Younger ('58)
Marge Rome ('58)
Sarah Robben ('94)

Entertainment

Rich Billinger ('68)
Frank Dreiling ('68)
Kathy Kuhn ('68)
Tom Schmidtberger ('78)

Newsletter

Pat Schmidtberger ('82)
Connie Windholz ('74)
Ann Wellbrock ('91)

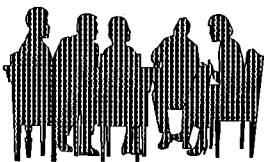
Scholarship

Regis VonLintel ('62)
Wanda Karlin ('76)
Gerard Wellbrock ('86)
Mandy Sander ('94)
Stacey Schmidtberger ('94)
Chris Sander ('94)

The established committees often have the help of others not listed above depending on the need.

You are encouraged to contact any of the officers, directors, or committee members with comments or suggestions concerning the VHS Alumni Association or send correspondence to P.O. Box 386, Victoria, Kansas 67671.

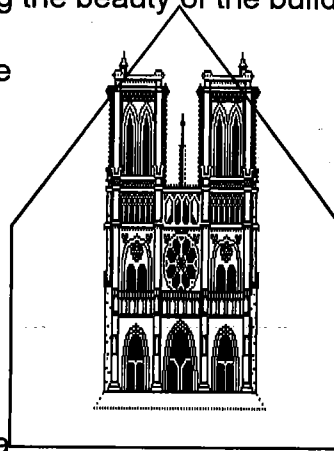
Membership means ownership. Have pride in your Association.



Church plans Memorial Day raffle and auction

If you grew up in Victoria, more than likely you somehow became involved with the only church located in the community--St. Fidelis Church. Even if your only involvement was to take a tour of the beautiful church, you could still see that the German ancestors put a lot of sweat and toil into erecting the magnificent structure, which so impressed a visiting politician, William Jennings Bryan, that he nicknamed it the Cathedral of the Plains.

The present day parishioners of St. Fidelis Church are interested in maintaining the beauty of the building and have been discussing needed repairs and ways to those repairs. Total refurbishing will be around \$265,000. Through a generous parishioner, some of the funds already exist; however, a large portion of the money required still needs to be raised.



A fund raising committee has been organizing a raffle and auction to be held on Memorial Day of this year to raise some of the needed funds. For a \$25 donation, a person can have a chance to win a 1996 Chevy S10 extended cab pickup. Five chances can be gotten for a \$100 donation. The winner will be drawn on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

Plans are being made to hold an auction of new or fairly new donated items and tickets will be sold in advance for a meal that will be served that evening. Other Memorial Day activities being arranged are a Bingo, a country store, and various games, including volleyball, basketball, and horseshoe tournaments. There will also be a cake walk, jail, dunking booth, and pie throwing contest.

Many local organizations are donating their time and energy to make the festivities possible. The church is a big part of the community; therefore, it is only logical that the community would be willing to work to keep it up to par for future generations to enjoy.

For further information, you may contact one of the committee members--Gene Wellbrock ('56), Michelle Geist, Wilmer Dinkel ('73), Ollie Kuhn, or Connie Windholz ('74).

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*Alumni
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 *Balcony
 *Banquet
 *Board of Directors

*ChatterBox
 *Classroom
 *Committee
 *Entertainment
 *FBLA

*Graduates
 *Herzogfest
 *High School
 *Homecoming
 *ITV

*Membership
 *Memorial Day
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*Project Prom
 *Scholarship
 *Sneak Day
 *Student
 *Victoria

Historical St. Fidelis Church is getting spruced up. May see new colors and better sound inside by end of year. Will that be enough to keep us awake during the homily, Fr. Frank?....Sunflower Bank opens drive-up again—for handicap access only....Think back to your Senior year. Do you remember your class motto?....Class of '71 tries Sneak Day to no avail. Caught in the act, they are told to return to school or receive failing grades. Didn't they learn anything?...CYO members take skiing trip to Eldora Ski Resort near Denver. No broken bones reported, but some adult sponsors insist on ski trails with trees on them. Others need instruction on drop points for ski lift....Have some kids discovered the old rhyme: "Rain, rain, go away. Come again some other day"? If they have, we've got to get them to stop saying it. WE NEED THE RAIN!....Next time you see a motorcycle zip by—wave—it might just be VHS alum Alice (Sander) Rohr ('52) and her husband Al going on vacation again. They covered 5,000 miles last summer....

C H A T T E R **B** O X

Where's the balcony?

(Continued from page 1)

classroom where business law is taught. Before that change, however, that half of the balcony was used as the Macintosh computer lab.

Needing a new home, the Mac lab was transferred to what many of us remember as the old shorthand or German classroom just to the east of the old typing classroom. A solid wall once divided the two rooms, but now windows allow teacher Susie Stark to keep an eye on both classrooms at once. Carpet was added and electricity was run from the ceiling to accommodate the 25 computers arranged closely in the room.

The computer room is used not only by the four classes that Stark teaches, but also by students needing to work on homework or by other teachers who plan projects requiring computers. A sign-up sheet is posted so arrangements can be made to move Stark's students to the adjoining room when the Mac lab is needed for other things.

Stark talked proudly of some of her students' projects. On the cork board were business cards that the students designed, some of which are actually being used by their parents. She also explained an assignment the students have which requires them to reproduce as closely as possible brochures they obtained from various organizations. Graphic images on the brochures are scanned into the students' brochures, but all text must be manually recreated.

Because some textbook assignments can be boring, Stark has gone to the Victoria community looking for projects for her students. In the past, her students helped type the information for the St. Fidelis Church's Herzog book. Presently, they are helping design ads for a cookbook the church is publishing as a fund raiser.

If it has been a while since you saw the old balcony and the old German/shorthand room, you might want to join the Alumni Association when it gives tours of the high school before the Homecoming football game October 11. Both have changed looks over the years. And who knows? Maybe the old balcony will one day again be changed to an auditorium balcony.

THE NEXT PAGE

*The Victoria High School Alumni
Association Newsletter*

Published semi-annually in the Spring and in August

Newsletter Committee

Pat Schmidtberger ('82)

Connie Windholz ('74)

Ann Wellbrock ('91)

The goal of this newsletter is to inform our fellow alumni of Alumni Association events and business. We also hope to be a resource for all alumni to publish personal occurrences of interest to the membership of the VHS Alumni Association, such as marriages, deaths, births, career accomplishments, etc.

We will use this newsletter as an outlet for stories concerning our alma mater.

We appreciate any information that refers to graduates of Victoria High School and encourage you to contact us.

**Call a member of the Newsletter Committee
or send your information to:
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Box 386, Victoria, Kansas 67671**

We reserve the right to edit or deny any articles.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 26 —

High School Graduation
(1996 grads become newest
Alumni members)

May 27 —

St. Fidelis Church Memorial Day
Fund Raising Activities

May 30 —

Grade School Graduation

July 11 (Tentative Date) —

7:00 p.m. Association Board
Meeting

August

Next Newsletter mailing

Aug. 10 —

Herzogfest (Newsletter Committee
will sponsor Bingo booth)

Oct. 11 —

Homecoming



John Weber opens Local Body shop

John Weber ('89) opened his own business at a young age--22 to be exact, and now at age 25 he thinks it is the best thing he could have done. Things are going real well for him here in his hometown.

In May of 1993, John established Weber Body Shop at 208 East Main in Victoria. With help from his brother Jason Weber ('94) and another part-time employee, John works on complete vehicle restorations and insurance work. He'll also give insurance estimates on wrecked vehicles. "Big or small, we do it all," says John.

He and his crew will fix small dents in cars or restore an old vehicle to its original condition. If a car is in need of a wax and polish, the shop is ready for the task.

For small touch ups or full-fledged paint jobs, the colors are mixed right on the premises using a computerized PPG mixing system. A Devilless Paint Booth provides a sealed area for John to spruce up an automobile with new paint. Using the booth, allows for a cleaner paint job, keeping the fumes from penetrating the rest of the building.

John has lived most of his life in Victoria, except for nine months while attending Salina Area Vo-Tech School majoring in auto body work. Before opening Weber Body Shop, he worked at several places in Hays.

John, the son of Lavon ('58) and Charlotte (Braun, '65) Weber of Victoria, plans to marry Kami Wellbrock ('94), daughter of Neil and Pam (Brown, '72) Wellbrock of Victoria, in October.



John Weber stands in front of the body shop he opened in May of 1993.

Dollars for scholars

Committee sets criteria

Another year is coming to a close and a new group of young adults will be starting their lives outside the secure walls of Victoria High School. Some may choose careers in the work force immediately while others will choose to continue their education at a school of higher learning. For those who wish to attend post secondary schools, the financial burden may be great. Therefore, the VHS Alumni Association will be sponsoring a

scholarship program again this year.



For graduating seniors of 1996, scholarship recipients will be analyzed by the Scholarship Committee based upon their involvement in extra curricular activities, special academic awards, work/job experiences, church or community activities, and individual need as stated on the

application. All applicants must have a G.P.A. of 2.5 or better. Applications will be due in late April.

At this point, the number and amounts of scholarship awards for 1996 have not been set. However, if you would like to help build our scholarship fund, donations may be made directly to this fund and should be sent to the Association address with a notation of "Scholarship Fund". We as alumni of VHS should feel proud to offer scholarship awards again this year and the Board hopes to make this program of the Association grow for the future.

New leaders selected

(Continued from page 1)

membership would be printed on the newsletter labels. A review of the activities of the homecoming weekend and association events was given. The awarding of two scholarships for the past year was discussed. The treasurer report stated that the current account balance was \$6965.77.

New business included the election of the new Board of Directors. The Board of Directors were elected as follows: Three-year terms: Det Younger ('58), Pat Schmidtberger ('82), and Marge Rome('58); Two-year terms: Diane Pfeifer ('73), Kurt Dinkel ('86), and Mike Younger ('92); and One-year terms: Sandy Goetz ('82), Susie Windholz ('69), and Colleen Kuhn ('84). No other business was brought before the group and the meeting was adjourned.

A special meeting followed for the new Board of Directors and the officers were selected with Pat Schmidtberger as president, Marge Rome as vice-president, Sandy Goetz as treasurer, and Diane Pfeifer as secretary.

*F*rom the past with *Leo Kuhn*⁷

Times change and along with those changing times, we find ourselves remembering how things were back when. As alumni of VHS, we are reminded of the days when we attended Victoria High School. For many of us, remembering back to our high school days we find many similarities and differences in comparison to the present day educational system.

One such graduate is Leo Kuhn who spoke of his school and teaching days with a current teacher at VHS--Pat Scott. This article will reflect on the time that Pat spent with Leo and the memories that Leo has of his youth.

Leo Kuhn starting teaching in a two room school house at Emmeram in 1928. He taught in that school as well as the Lost Canyon school, the Blue Hill school,


Walker school and the Pleasant Ridge school. When asked what the buildings were like, Leo stated, "They were good. Emmeram was a frame, Blue Hill, Walker and Pleasant Ridge were made of brick while Lost Canyon was made of native rock." In these schools he mainly taught upper levels of students but at the Blue Hill school, Leo taught first through eighth grades. Nonetheless, which ever school he was teaching at, Leo mastered and taught all subjects for the education programs. Those subjects included Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Spelling, Social Studies, Civics, and

Citizenship.

With 42 years of teaching, the typical day became very routine. The day started at 6:00 a.m. with the morning chores since most of the children lived on farms. School started at 9:00 a.m. with the subject of reading from the Bob Merrill Book and on the average, the classroom size was about 15 students so they all started the day with reading. When they were finished reading, then they had recess where the children would play baseball, hide 'n seek, tag, or pom pom pull-away. Even though these were all public schools, there was no playground equipment like today, but the children would bring things from home to play with. After recess was complete, math was taught. Some textbooks were used but many of the math problems were written on the board to be completed. Following math, the students would complete their spelling lessons before breaking for lunch.

Lunch did not consist of a cafeteria or a buffet line; the noon meal usually was a sack lunch brought from home. At the Walker facility, however, hot lunches were prepared at the school although they were rather small.

During the afternoon activities, subjects were interchangeable between civics and social studies since not all the subjects could be taught within one day for a



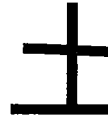
*\$40
per
week
salary*

Cemetery gets whitewash

Pride is an important ingredient for the survival of any establishment including the fair city of Victoria, and it was this pride which prompted the Victoria Catholic Youth Organization to volunteer in giving a face lift to the St. Fidelis Church

cemetery. During the current school year, this organization spent countless hours repainting the front fence of the cemetery. Likewise, while painting the front fence, the group determined that many of the old cross tombstones were in need of fresh

paint. Therefore, the membership and sponsors will be giving face lifts to many of the old tombstone crosses at the cemetery prior to the Memorial Day services and activities on May 27.



Broadway lights shine in little Victoria

— *Herzogfest presents Christmas dinner theatre*

Christmas in New York? Bright lights, city sidewalks dressed in holiday style, in the air there's a feeling of Christmas in the big city. Well it may not have been New York or even a BIG city, but the feeling was just the same for the first presentation of the Victoria Herzogfest Dinner Theatre. As guests entered the dimly lit Victoria Elementary School Gymnasium, they were taken back to the elegance and atmosphere of a Broadway Christmas with tables decked in Santa place settings, green tree centerpieces, and Coleman table lamps. The stage was decorated in a living room setting and the walls of the gym were accented with a string of red and white lights which, taken at a glance, gave away the theme for this festive occasion—"Coming Home For Christmas".

After a brief introduction and welcome by Rick Rupp, chairman of the Herzogfest Committee, the guests

were served by some of the VHS Future Homemakers of America members with a menu of chicken noodle soup, smothered steak, baked potatoes, corn, dinner roll, cake, and a beverage while the Victoria High School Jazz Band entertained with seasonal music. Then it was time to sit back and relax as the Nostalgics, Sandra Weber, Four Harmony, and the children of the Victoria Kindergarten class presented a musical story about a couple's dream to make it home for Christmas. After a forty-five minute program of singing, mingling and holiday cheer, the story and evening came to an end when Santa appeared to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and to give treats to all the boys and girls.

With a song in their hearts and smiles on their faces, the guests of the Herzogfest dinner theatre left the gym never to forget the evening that Broadway came to Victoria.

School closes due to cold???

(Take two aspirin and call me in the morning?)

Remember when you used to wake up in the morning listening for the radio disc jockey to announce: "No school today for Victoria USD 432"? Now, that was music to a kid's ears. And that is just the tune Victoria students heard when temperatures got so low on Ground Hog Day this year that school was closed.

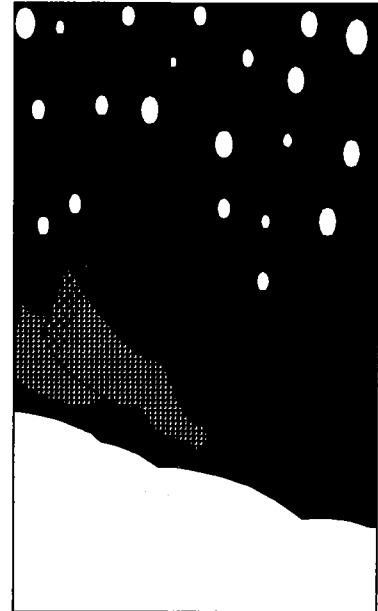
The temperatures in January kept getting lower, until the mercury fell to such a point that the authorities decided it was too cold to ask students to attend school on Friday, February 2.

Did the cold snap have anything to do with the Groundhog seeing its shadow that day? Who knows.

As we discussed the closing of school, we could not recall a time when school was cancelled due to cold weather. However, former superintendent of schools, Pat O'Brien, remembered a blizzard that stranded many VHS students in Pfeifer after a New Year's Eve dance. With the snow piled up to the rooftops, students got an extended Christmas break. No one we talked to could recall the exact year of the storm, but it occurred somewhere between 1969 and 1972. Local resident Irene Vonfeldt remembered sheltering around 13 people who were stranded because of the terrific storm.

Mr. O'Brien also recalled that a second storm in March or so of the same year again forced the kids to stay home and catch a few extra Z's. (We're sure that where they really wanted to be was in school!)

They just don't make storms like that anymore (thank goodness!). Guess our kids won't be able to tell their kids how they walked five miles through a snow storm up hill—both ways—to get to school!



From the past...

(Continued from page 7)

school with one teacher. However, recess time was allowed in the afternoon and students were released from school at 4:00 p.m. to end the school day.

After the students were let out, Leo had to clean his room, grade papers and complete his lesson plans. Then the day was over for Leo? Oh no!!! "Then it was time to go home and milk the cows again, and do whatever else work needed to be done on the farm. I tell you, it was a job," stated Leo.

For his teaching job, Leo commented that he received \$40.00 per week salary for the first year. By his 42nd (and final) year of teaching, he received \$450.00 per month salary.

Leo felt that he had good kids that didn't goof around very much. Which brings us to the topic of discipline. Leo stated, "The students had to behave. I never really had any discipline problems. They were good kids who came from good families. They knew better and I never hit anyone. I usually just made them stay in at recess."

As you can see many of the aspects of school in the earlier years were different from those of today. Even the school year was shorter, running from September through March, and every day was started with a prayer, possibly the Apostle's Creed or the Our Father, and that was followed with the singing of "God Bless America".

NEW CLUB GIVES KIDS HEAD START ON BUSINESS RAT RACE

—contributing to this article were:
Heather Wittman, a '96 VHS senior, and the NEXT PAGE staff

This is the first year for the Future Business Leaders of America (F.B.L.A.) organization at Victoria High School. F.B.L.A. is a national organization which strives to provide students with opportunities to learn more about business or business-related fields. One of the goals of the local chapter is to develop competent and aggressive business leadership by strengthening students' confidence in themselves and their work.

Even though membership in the local F.B.L.A. chapter is small, the students who have become members are very dedicated and hard working individuals. To get the ball rolling and to help pay national dues, the Alumni Association and Project Prom donated money to the organization.

An F.B.L.A. committee planned a business meeting breakfast at which Pat Schmidtberger ('82) was a guest speaker. He informed the group of the types of classes which would benefit them in their education and what it takes to start a business. Schmidtberger is the owner of Schmidtberger Insurance in Victoria.

Another F.B.L.A. committee helped the Site Base Council gather information

and data concerning the possibility of starting an after school program. A committee is also working with the Project Prom organization to help with the mailings and record keeping of donations, and one committee worked on designing a postcard for the Alumni Association



membership drive.

This year was a great one for the F.B.L.A. organization. With the combined efforts of the members and people in the community, the future business leaders got off to a good start. In the years to come, F.B.L.A. has the potential to grow and become an even bigger success.

*** * ATTENTION CLASS OF '71 * ***

Twenty-five years ago we had "Only Just Begun" and the opportunity to get together for our 25th will be the weekend of Victoria's Homecoming on October 11, 1996.

We would like to get an idea of the number of classmates that can and cannot attend so we know if we should plan any additional gatherings. (No response will be counted as a "cannot attend".)

Please submit the following questionnaire by May 15, 1996.

_____ Yes, I can attend. _____ How many will attend?

_____ No, I cannot attend.

_____ I'd be interested in attending the Homecoming parade and possibly ride on a class float.

_____ I'd be interested in a social gathering after the game Friday night.

_____ I'd only attend the Saturday Banquet and Dance.

_____ I'd be interested in a family gathering of some sort.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Mail the above to:

Wanda Klaus
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Terms for Membership

All graduates or non-graduates who have attended Victoria High School are eligible for membership in the Victoria High School Alumni Association. Graduating seniors will have automatic membership for one year. Membership terms will run from September 1 through August 31. A membership drive will be held in August of each year. Those interested in membership should fill out a membership form. (A form will be mailed in August of each year.) Membership dues are \$5.00 per year per member. The membership form and dues should be sent to:

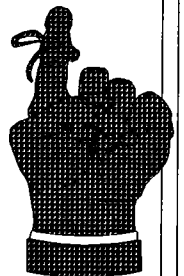
VHS Alumni Association
P.O. Box 386
Victoria, Kansas 67671

Alumni Association members will receive a copy of **The Next Page** twice a year in the Spring and in August. Non-members will receive only the August issue. Members will also be able to attend all the Alumni Association Homecoming activities.

The VHS Alumni Association was established to foster the growth of fellowship of all graduates. Its goal is to provide activities for the alumni of Victoria High School.

A REMINDER.....

This newsletter is a resource for all alumni to publish personal occurrences of interest to the membership of the VHS Alumni Association, such as marriages, deaths, births, career accomplishments, etc.



Please forward your stories to the Newsletter Committee. See page 4 for committee members and address.