REUNION REVIEWS WERE GOOD!

Sesquicentennial Fourth draws thousands

(Michael Andersen's Herald-Register front-page story gave the best account of the total weekend activities. We invite you to relive, if you were here, and/or 'just imagine' if you weren't.)

by Michael Andersen

Thousands of past and present Grinnellians descended upon the city's public places the July 4 weekend to meet old friends, stir up memories, celebrate the birthdays of their country and their city, and to enjoy themselves during Grinnell's biggest bash of its 150th year.

"It was the most fantastic weekend party we've seen in Grinnell for many a year," said Mayor Gordon Canfield, who spoke at several of the public events and visited almost all of them.

Joann Wells, who helped manage registration for the Grinnell High School Alumni Association All-Class Reunion, said they'd distributed about 1,260 registration packets for the weekend, and that perhaps 1,000 other Grinnell-Newburg graduates attended alumni events without bothering to register.

Thousands of other local residents, young and old, turned out for community-wide events like a Saturday evening dance on Fourth Avenue, a Sunday afternoon parade, and the Independence Day fireworks Sunday night.

The influx of visitors and revelers kept private businesses busy, too. The Grinnell Coffee Company sold out of Candyland Suadae on Saturday, and several bar workers reported heavy traffic Saturday night.

More all-class reunions to come

Jerry Hagen, president of the Alumni Association, said the weekend had been an emotional, organizational, and financial triumph for the group, which started planning the all-class reunion four years ago after a group of 1940s graduates successfully organized a somewhat smaller event along similar lines in 2000.

Hagen said at an official alumni association meeting Saturday that he anticipated all-class reunions taking place every five years, with the next in 2010. [Note: Date changed to 2008, with reunions every four years.] The association plans to use its growing alumni database — about 9,000 addresses strong before last weekend — and its regular newsletter to publicize future events.

Revenues from new lifetime memberships in the association and from a pair of alumni music showcases Saturday and Sunday also bought the group quite a bit of money, Hagen said.

"I think we're going to be in a lot better shape than we've been before," Hagen said. The money will go to pay a secretary for the group and to continue distributing the group's newsletter.

Around Grinnell and the surrounding country, small groups of alumni caught up with old friends at individual class reunions, most of them hosted by graduates who still live in town.

Former teachers and administrators at the high school were also invited, and they joined in the weekend's cycle of greetings and remembrances.

The district opened its schools themselves to curious visitors during the day Saturday. A steady trickle of former stu...

(Continued on page 3)

New GHS alumni officers elected

GHS Alumni Association officers elected 10/5/04 for a one-year term, from left, are: Mary Corbett Shutts '65, Secretary; John Taylor '52, Vice-Chair; Carolyn Osborn Groenbach '64, Chair; and Jennifer Johnson Ashing 2000, Treasurer. Additional members currently on the GHS Alumni Board are: Betty Broyles Gerber '53, Char Arment Bailey '61, Betty Strand Ludden '62, Becky Downey Wilson '64, Frank Shutts '65, Deb Maupin Charnetski '66, Gail Boivier '67, Becky Gideon Goehringer '68, and Janna Lang Stoker '69. Ex-officio: Esther Jones Bethel '50, Jerry Hagen '51 and Rick Ramsey '56.
New hall of famers inducted at alumni meeting

Local entrepreneur and philanthropist Claude Ahrens '31 and teacher and coach Lyman Case '28 were inducted into the Grinnell High School Alumni Association Hall of Fame at a well-attended meeting July 3.

The pair, who both graduated from the high school, were in the hall's second class of inductees. They joined a set of 13 luminaries inducted at the high school's first All-Class Reunion in 2000.

Also inducted was J.B. Grinnell, who failed to meet the requirements for membership in the hall because he never attended school in Grinnell, but who the association decided deserved honorary membership because of his lifelong commitment to education. One of Grinnell's first buildings was a school, and he was instrumental in luring Iowa College from Davenport to Grinnell.

Also at Saturday's meeting, alumni recognized their oldest members and the oldest teachers and administrators who had helped to educate them.

Grace Haag, 97, taught at four Grinnell elementary schools and became Bailey Park's first principal in 1957. She was on hand Saturday to receive a standing ovation from the crowd.

The school's oldest living alum, Anna Evans '18, could not attend but sent her son Carl '51. Also honored Saturday were Mildred Paxson '24, Anna Ramsey '26, and Lucile Potts '28 (see below).

An illustrious club

Ahrens, Case, and Grinnell joined Roosevelt advisor Harry Hopkins and Federal Theater Project head Hallie Ferguson-Flanagan Davis, microchip inventor and Intel founder Bob Noyce, aviator Billy Robinson and his assistant, inventor Charles Hink, attorney Charles Manly, author Ruth Suckow, photographer Cornelia Clark, cultural developer and songwriter Fannie Buchanan, admiral and Joint Chiefs Chair Arthur Radford, doctor and editor John Talbott, and teachers Julia Wheeler and Helen Lemme.

The pair were selected by Rick Ramsey, Jerry Hagen, and Dick Ritter, all of the alumni association, from six nominations. The recommendations were approved by the association's board of directors. -ma

Thank you

Our thanks to EVERYONE who gave their time and talent for our 2004 July 4th weekend All-School Reunion. Our thanks, also, to the hundreds of alumni and friends who attended the many different events. Your participation and enthusiasm made all our efforts worthwhile.

-Esther Jones Bethel '50, Reunion Chair, and the G.H.S. Alumni Board

HONORED AT THE GHS ALUMNI MEETING July 3 were, from left, Anna Knight Ramsey '26; Grace Haag, who at 97 was the oldest teacher in attendance; Mildred Kingston Paxson '24; and Lucile "Sid" McDowell Potts '28 (see story).
Things to do...Places to go

Continued from page 1

...ents and teachers scoured the walls for old trophies and revisited old haunts.

"Does it still smell like formaldehyde?" asked one alum as he walked into an old high school biology classroom.

A much-loved parade

City-sponsored events over the weekend took in both the annual celebration of Independence Day, like a parade and fireworks, and sesquicentennial-themed events, like a historical scavenger hunt and a downtown concert and beer garden.

Over 150 units joined the parade, said Rick Jacoby, who has helped organize the event for in recent years.

"I would say this parade is the largest parade Grinnell's ever had," Jacoby said.

Ominous clouds and weather reports Sunday evening delayed the much-anticipated fireworks display and canceled most of a community talent show that had been planned beforehand, though rainfall turned out to be light. But hundreds of locals waited in cars, at home, or under shelters in Ahrens Park and re-emerged by 11 p.m. for a show of unusual flash and flair.

Drizzles Saturday afternoon also dampened turnout at some city events, such as a historical scavenger hunt that sent its participants on a tour of old sites around central Grinnell. But Pam Montgomery, the tour's organizer, said about 100 people had completed the tour.

The rain cleared by Saturday evening, in time for a well-attended street dance to music from local rockers Route 66 and the blues veterans of the Blue Band. At a hectic beer garden nearby, partygoers put away 17 kegs of brew (and some wits wondered whether over in Hazelwood Cemetery, the teetotaler who founded Grinnell and once kept a house within shouting distance of the festivities, was restless in his grave).

Clockwise from top: Grace Haag wins all honors with her window display at Paper & More (formerly Arnold's Shoe Store); Class of '44 exhibits in Cunningham's window; Class of '62, first to graduate from the Sunset St. building, entered their float in all the parades; Class of '50's float in the Fourth of July Parade; Scott Baumann '76 and his children join the Class of '74 bike tour; former teacher Verles Emry and daughter, Vonda Emry Fowler '77, check out the trophy case at Grinnell High School; Class of '64 had a float and 90 in attendance, proving they're 'smarter and know more', Larry Millhollin '55 sells his book, "Remembering Grinnell"; Norman Dillie '47 looks at photos in Central Park.
People to see
31 classes plan separate reunions

CLASS OF '84: Photo-time netted 45 members for their 20th Reunion at the Eagles Club Friday night.

CLASS OF '89: Classmates found friends the minute they arrived in Grinnell. From left, Brad McDonough and Brent Gray.

Reunion organizer Zanny Thorndike Strickler '89, right, welcomes Kris Larsen, wife of Jon, at State Street Station.

CLASS OF '79: The 25th Reunion found Theresa Fleener, Doug Allen, Scott German, Rick Fleener, Susie Embree German '81, Matt Carey and Lisa Dicke.

Denise Willemesen Harris, Brenda Ruchotzke Crawford and Kim Hartzell Clark enjoy the Friday night dinner.

CLASS OF '74: Celebrating were Dave Latcham, Debbie Vitera Herrold, Cathy Dostal Keenan, Peggy Heishman German, Barbara Noe Koch, and Ann Standerwick.

Enjoying drinks at the Depot are Marcia Dicke Buck, Jo Olson Beaderstadt and Melissa Emerson.

Refreshments were needed after Dale Lamb's 10-mile bicycle tour of Grinnell. With Lamb are Nancy Walters Kilbury and Dennis Churchill.

CLASS OF '68: Organizers were Shirley Emmert Starnes, Shirley Hobbs See, and Becky Gideon Goehring. The class supported the John Light Golf Tournament at Oakland Acres Saturday.

Enjoying their 36th reunion Saturday at Oakland Acres, from left: Roger and Beverly Ryan, Sam Lacina, Bill Vosburg, Ray Burlingame and Bill Wiley.

CLASS OF '64: Bill Burke and Tom Pugh find a scrapbook at their class table worthy of photographing.
Alumni showcase wows!

Tom Lacina '74 does a rendition of "Great Balls of Fire," and amonishes: "Kids, don't try this at home."

Bob Molison '53, with a pith helmet and a twinkle in his eye, sings "On the Road to Mandalay."

Paul Renaud '66, accompanied by his wife Marcia, sings "What Sweet Music" from A Little Nightmare Music by P.D.Q. Bach.

Jay Marcum '75 (left) and his father Jack '51 both entertained at the showcase. Jack also emceed the show, along with Tom Lacina and Michael Hunter '98.

Rich Thorson '80, Debby Howig Pohlson '70 and Bill Hammen make sweet harmony with "Leavin' on a Jet Plane."

Here, Alumni Showcase performers take a bow — celebrating making this wonderful weekend the successful cornerstone of the Sesqui-Celebration.

The Gallery Showcase, open before and after the performances and featuring 17 artists, drew alumni and others.
Class of 1954 has a special 50th

WE’VE GOT MAIL!

Thanks for a dream that became reality

...And so I want to thank you and all the others who had the dream, that became a vision and came to reality on the 4th of July weekend. First of all, you got me registered and when I picked up my packet, everything was in perfect order. Thank you! And then the weekend which you and others had worked on for over a year was incredible. The registration process worked so well. Everywhere I turned, I was connected with former acquaintances and friends. It was such an astonishing experience. I didn’t know there could be such an event. The town’s participation with the holiday’s celebration added a lot. The Saturday morning breakfast was a big hit. But the Showcase and Art Show blew me away! Could that have been one of the most professional and sophisticated presentations that auditorium every saw? The “over forty” crowd really showed up and those who schooled us must have looked down with the pride that can only come when you know your students responded and took it to the next level. All I can say is “WOW.”

Please share my gratitude and thanks with others, committee people, etc. However, finally when you have so much success it begs the question. When do we see this happen again? The mold has been created and the citizens that have remained in the home community and those of us who will come “home” to spend our final years must not let this model of togetherness, of neighborhood and community gather dust. Grinnell was a good place before this celebration, but it is a much better place with the strengthening of “community” since the event. And to you and others who were with you goes the credit and my gratitude and thanks.

— Stan Greenwald ’51

An increasingly special community

I hope this will be among many notes received to confirm both the pleasure I’m certain all must have felt in our home town’s warm welcome and an unavoidable pride in Grinnell’s obvious progress in important civic areas such as opportunities for children, education, health care and human services among others.

Not for the first time was I humming ‘I love those dear hearts and gentle people who live in my home town’ as I returned to my non-hometown in Minnesota, and I suspect that sweet old song was remembered by others.

The essence of Grinnell as outlined in the J.B. Grinnell presentation at the UCC along with its size makes it an increasingly special community in our urbanizing world.

— Ann DeLong Haase, ’57

50th Reunion plans were carefully mapped out for the 86 graduates, and 51 attended the July 9-11 activities. From left are Janet LaGrange Hasselbrink, Bob Jackson, Helen Van Draska O’Brien, Co-Chair Janet Wichman German, Donna Lauber German, and Judy Jackson.

Chod Delong, left, enjoyed the All-School Reunion over the 4th of July before celebrating his 50th the following weekend. Pictured with him are Jodee Mitchell Roese and Keith Cogley. Reunion events included Friday and Saturday dinners, bus tour, golf tournament and Sunday picnic breakfast.

Jim Ufer, center, prepares for his Master of Ceremonies role at the Country Club banquet Saturday night. Offering assistance are Jim Jackson and Art Mann. The reunion theme was “Grinnell Revisited – 50 Years Later,” and all meals featured Iowa grown foods.
Superintendent’s Update

by Dr. Dave Stoakes

Recently Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack was in Grinnell to present the city with the “Iowa Shines Award” for its outstanding support of a K-12 education system. The “Iowa Shines” program is designed to honor those communities that have used state resources, coupled with local resources and volunteers, to improve the quality of life for their citizens by investing in community attractions, schools, and health care services.

The G-N School District was nominated by the Iowa Department of Education because math, reading, and science proficiency rates, graduation rates, and ACT scores exceed state averages, even though the state of Iowa ranks near the top of all states in each category. In addition, the district was noted for its commitment to before and after school programs, early childhood education, and rigorous graduation requirements.

The governor complimented the Grinnell community for understanding the connection between an outstanding education system and economic development, and indicating he would cite Grinnell as a model for other Iowa Communities to emulate.

**Percentage of Students Proficient and Above (ITBS) Compared with State (2001-2003 Biennium) and National Averages**

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**102 Scholarships Awarded**

The year 2004 was a record year for the Grinnell-Newburg Dollars for Scholars Chapter, as it presented 102 scholarship awards to graduating seniors from Grinnell High School. In keeping with the Chapter’s policy, every student who applied for aid received an award. Scholarships range in size from $175 to $4000. In the Chapter’s first six years, a total of 507 awards have been made. Tax deductible gifts may be made to Dollars for Scholars, P.O. Box 538, Grinnell, Iowa 50112.

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**Upcoming Reunions 2005**

**CLASS OF ’55** — 50th Reunion, June 25, Grinnell Country Club. Contact Agnes Mikel, 641-236-0778. (November-May address: 630 N. 56th St., Mesa, AZ 85205), mikelaggi8@yahoo.com.


**CLASS OF ’80** — 25th. Contact David Cunningham, 641-236-5591, dfcham@compuserver.net.

**CLASS OF ’85** — 20th. Contact Julie Brignon Vanersvelde, 641-236-7141, e-mail Classof1985ghs@hotmail.com.

**CLASS OF ’95** — 10th. Contact Joel Smith, 641-236-5920 or Eric Forsberg, 641-792-1690.

**CLASS OF 2000** — 5th. Contact Katie Wehr, 641-236-8971, kathryn_wehr@yahoo.com.


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**GHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NOW HAS:**

105 5-Year Members!

263 Life Members!

**Join Today**

$25 Five-year membership

$50 Lifetime membership

Write checks to: GHS Alumni Assoc., P.O. Box 582, Grinnell, IA 50112.

Want to comment? Send a suggestion? Have a question?

P.O. Box 582 is our official GHS Alumni Association mailbox!

We've grown fast and we're still working to secure our growth and plan for the future. We want to be the BEST Alumni Association — and with YOUR HELP, we can be.
Thanks for Keeping in Touch!

In awe:
Wrist Great Job. Either We're
why she's pictured with a broken
even std through grass. Which is
she went through window. She
when she found door closed.

THANKS TO ESTHER.

NEW OFFICERS
July 4, 2008!
Reunion:
Next All-School
The Hall of Fame
Two Names Join
104 Reunion
The Big Summer
IN THIS ISSUE