MOUNTAIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

REUNION '95

JULY 7TH ~ 8TH ~ 9TH • 1995

Reunion Program

Former Students, Staff and Friends of Mountain District High School and North & South Mountain Continuation Schools are invited to

REUNION '95

JULY 7, 8, 9, 1995
Mountain Township Agricultural Hall, South Mountain

Friday, July 7
7:00 p.m.
(all functions casual dress)
Registration at the Agricultural Hall, Wine and Cheese Party
(Cash Bar)

Saturday, July 8
Activities of your choice, e.g. golf, tennis, visit to memorabilia room, etc.

6:00 till 8 p.m.
Roast Beef Buffet, catered by STJ Catering, Agricultural Hall

Brief Ceremonies (approx. 8 p.m.)

Dance 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Sunday, July 9
Ecumenical Service, 11:00 a.m., Agricultural Grounds

Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday available from local organizations

Committee works hard on reunion

by Rebecca van Noppen
Staff Reporter

The Reunion '95 planning committee has worked hard over the last eight months, trying to make this weekend the best reunion celebration ever.

Since last November, dozens of people have been putting their energy into the Mountain District High School (MDHS) reunion that will take place at the South Mountain fair grounds from July 7 to 9.

Over 500 former staff, students and associates from MDHS and its precursors - North and South Mountain Continuation Schools - are expected in South Mountain this weekend.

Thanks to the efforts of the planning committee, with over a dozen members, the reunion is expected to be a success.

According to committee co-chair Bob Weagant, the input and cooperation from the community has been exceptional. If it wasn't for everyone's zeal and energy, plans wouldn't be falling into place as well as they have.

"The cooperation level has just been exceptional," Weagant says, adding many people have put their time, efforts and talents into making this reunion a success.

"It's their alma mater...and that sense of allegiance is there."

The planning committee has been meeting regularly each month (and more) since November 1994. In its initial stages, volunteer Richard Gilmer said there was no shortage of interest in the reunion.

After months of planning, interest and excitement is growing. The planning committee has been encouraged by the interest shown from within the community.

Individuals, businesses and service groups have been busy putting their efforts into events like the wine and cheese reception, Saturday night's country and traditional dances, Saturday's bus tours of Mountain Township, Sunday's brunch, and the ecumenical service on Sunday.

Over 1800 invitations were sent out months ago, inviting anyone associated with the schools to come to the reunion. Over 500 people have registered for the whole weekend, and organizers expect a few more, especially at Saturday night's banquet. People are expected to come from as far as Florida, California and Vancouver.

The MDHS closed in 1970, and had been open for over 15 years. This year marks the 25th anniversary of its closing. Before the existence of MDHS, the North and South Mountain Continuation Schools served Mountain Township residents.

Former staff and students are expected to have the weekend of a lifetime as they meet up with old friends and reminisce about their school days.

Last class of graduates

'Change is inevitable,' Gordon Blair, Grenville-Carleton M.P. told Mountain Township High School's last graduating class, 'and therefore we must not dwell on the past'.

Mr. Blair praised the contribution made to the community by the small high school and said it was regrettable such houses of learning must be brushed aside in the wake of progress.

The Grenville-Carleton M.P. was speaking last Friday night when students, parents, and friends gathered at the Hallville School Auditorium for graduation ceremonies, social evening and dancing.

Eighteen graduates marched onto the stage to the music of 'Exodus' and Brian Prescott sang 'The Lord's Prayer'. Suzanne Baldwin, a member of the graduating class gave the Salutation.

The graduating class was introduced by Susan Shaver and Wendy McDonald and the school year was reviewed by Lois Flegg.

Barbara Anne Hoy looked whimiscallly into the future and predicted what each graduate would be doing in the year 2000.

School Principal Greig Fowler praised the work of the compact district high school. He thanked taxpayers for their willing cooperation through the years, and said it was unfortunate the 'old' must make way for the 'new'.

Presentation of diplomas was under the direction of Lorne Mellon, a member of Stormont, Dundas Glengarry Board of Education and Deborah Blaine replied on behalf of the class.

A timely poem, composed and read by Dawn Louise Clark, entitled 'Graduation' was enthusiastically received by the large gathering.

Harvey Shaw, Director of Education, presented Honour Certificates and Trustee Medals were presented by Mr. Mellon.

Advice to the undergraduates

•Please turn to page 4



Last graduating class before school closed 25 years ago.



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1932 - 1952

Mountain school official opening

One of the solutions to inequable educational opportunities between rural and urban areas was the consolidation of adjacent small rural school sections into a single section for the purpose of providing a central school (Amendment to Section 41 of the Public Schools Act in 1902). Many public meetings were held across Ontario in the ensuing years, but no consolidated school appeared until 1910, when Hudson Consolidated School was built at Guelph; by 1922 there were 16 in operation, and 10 more in various stages of construction. The establishment of the North Mountain Consolidated School was indeed a 'pioneering' project in rural education. Only North Mountain and Mallorytown in all Eastern Ontario had such schools; there appear to have been no others east of a line from Kingston to Pembroke, except Grant Consolidated School in Carleton County.

Three men sitting around the pot-bellied stove in Stanley Fetterly's corner store in Hallville one stormy day in the winter of 1920 started the ball rolling that led to the building of the North Mountain Consolidated School. Their conversation was about the difficulties of getting advanced education for their children who had to board away from home or drive long distances behind a horse to attend secondary school.

While they were still talking, Tom Carlyle, the reeve at the time, joined Fred Cassidy, Bob Beggs and Stanley Fetterly. He had just returned from a meeting of the Counties' Council, and reported that a letter from the Department of Education advocating consolidation of Schools had been read that very day. It might be noted that the Province of Ontario at that time had its one and only Farmers' government - that of the United Farmers of Ontario (UFO); this may account for the promotion of a plan for better education of rural school children at that particular time.

Other contacts were made, and the first organization meeting of supporters was held in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on October 28th, 1921. A committee was formed with Rev. M.C. McKinnon as Chairman and Edward Bush as Secretary. Mr. McKinnon's enthusiasm as chairman is credited with carrying this project through to the election of the first board in 1922.

The five-man board was as follows:
Ivan Christie, representing Hyndman School, S.S. #9; Joseph Loughlin representing Loughlin School, S.S. #12; Wesley Hoy representing Kerr's Ridge School, S.S. #13; William J. Allen representing Reid's Mills School, S.S. #14; Robert Beggs was chosen as chairman, and served in this capacity for many years.

Hopes that Mountain and perhaps other school sections would join the project made the trustees decide to build the new school between Hallville and Mountain Station, and to change the name from Hallville Consolidated School as originally planned to NORTH MOUNTAIN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL. Though no other sections did join, the N.M. C. S has been a landmark in the community since its erection.

From January, 1922 to April, 1923, the new Board operated the four public schools without much change, but, in addition, opened Continuation School classes in September, 1922, in the old Methodist Church in Hallville. Miss Consuelo B. Morrow and Miss Olive Miller were hired to teach high school subjects (9-12), and many students who had not been able to attend school away from home took the opportunity to return to school. Immediately after Easter, 1923, on April 23rd, the first classes, all the way from First Class to Third Form (Grades I - XII) moved into the new school, and must have thought it just a little less wonderful than heaven itself in comparison with their former school surroundings.

Thus, here in Mountain Township, was provided for every boy and girl an education at least the equal of that enjoyed by the children in the urban centres (from the Report of the Minister of

•Please turn to page 4A



North Mountain Consolidated School now an apartment building. *Photo - B. Crawford*

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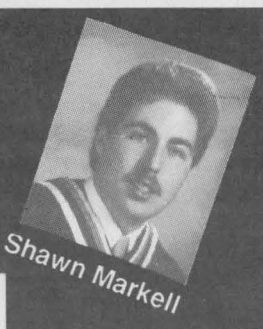
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1970

1200 welcomed at reunion

When old friends meet it is always a time for memories, and last weekend at South Mountain and Hallville happy carefree school days emerged from the mists of time, as former students were re-united once more.

Kemptville's lovely new community centre was the setting for the reunion banquet and approximately 1200 were welcomed 'home' by Master of Ceremonies, Stan Berry.

Mr. Berry, a graduate, and later school principal of the Mountain Township Educational System, is presently Director of Education of Carleton Board of Education.

Everyone should have known everyone else but it was interesting to note so many casting sly glances at Conspicuous 'Name Badges'.

Someone remarked that confusion was understandable since time had taken its toll, and the handsome boy with the blonde wavy hair is now bald while the winsome 16-year-old 'dearly loved' in 'Third Form' is now a graying grandmother.

As early as Friday night and by Saturday noon hundreds had already registered at both schools.

Saturday afternoon ball games were watched with particular interest as all players were of the pre-war era and one could not help but notice that 'sharp drop' a Roy Hastings special, no longer bewildered batters.

Girls' teams of the same period also competed and here, too, there was a noticeable change in the 'curves'.

Older softball players from as far north as Metcalfe, Manotick and North Gower, as well as, those along the front will well remember when that Hallville team was almost unbeatable and South Mountain earned a similar rating.

The line-ups for Saturday's game looked like the teams of old - but as the score indicates reflexes and judgement have changed. Final score, Hallville 12. South Mountain 11.

Here's the batting order as it appeared on the official scorer's pad:

HALLVILLE - Ty. Hyndman, Casey Hyndman, Charlie Christie, Bee Wylie, Mel Christie, Roy Hastings, Harold Durant, Lanson Hyndman, Earl Boucher.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN - Art Milne, Stan Price, Frank Milne, Ted Berry. Arnold Shaver, Lyle Simser, Clint Coleman, Dalt Kenney, Lloyd Workman.

Homecoming Church Services features the bright Sunday morning and churches throughout the township all reported large attendance. Many were noticed strolling through the old cemeteries and quiet tears were shed as the name of a former school mate was noted.

Sunday afternoon nearly a thousand gathered at the ball park to watch the hilarious antics of "The Philadelphia Hobos" as they battled the home team (South Mountain).

They were dressed like 'Hobos', but for the first three innings they proved they were 'Pros' on the diamond. After that any resemblance to the game of softball was purely coincidental, but the crowd loved every minute of it. Following this game all moved across to the familiar school grounds for another game with 'stars of yesteryear' participating.

By Sunday evening many were reluctantly taking a last look at their old classrooms, bidding fond farewells to relatives and friends and heading back across the miles to the places they now call home.

The schools will most likely both fade from the landscape as newer, bigger, costlier complexes take over education, but all who ever attended either school will cherish their copy of 'Reunion 70'.

The 32-page book, complete with pictures, is crammed full of memories and vividly tells the interesting history of both houses of learning.

The Township is proud of those who planned the great farewell party and although many willing hands made it all possible the co-ordinators deserve special mention.

General Chairman, R. Greig Fowler was ably assisted by Sharon Richardson, Mabel Shaver, Freda Mellan, David Berry and Arnold Graham.

The happy event ended late Sunday night and there were tears.

Possibly Grade Ten student Anita Kirchmeier's brief lines best describe that ending:

Happiness,
The enjoyment of life,
Will always end as a teardrop.

Mountain District High School 1953-70

North Mountain Consolidated School 1923-52

South Mountain Continuation School 1913-52



Reunion '70 Whopping Success!

Pictured is just part of the crowd of 1200 who attended the banquet at Reunion '70 held in the Kemptville arena Saturday, June 27th. Teachers and graduates from the Hallville and South Mountain school area, both recent and from years past, gathered to talk over old times as area schools close and the education system changes in the district.

Photo by R. Martin

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PRINCIPALS OF MOUNTAIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Stanley Berry (1953-54); Garnet Gallinger (1953-54) Ezra Getz (1954-57); R. Greig Fowler (1957-70)

STAFF - 1969-1970

R. G. Fowler, Principal; Douglas Hunter; Chester Chang; Mabel Shaver; Paula Cunningham; Douglas Cunningham; Liette Pineault; Freda Mellan.

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS SINCE 1953

Edward McCarthy, Michael Sheehan, Kenneth Sunderland, Dwight Morrow, Frances Thompson, Doris Landry, Ruth Evans, James Dolphin, Roy Wylie, Melvin Tomkins, James McMillan, Dorothy McDill, Marc Larose, Marcell Vaillancourt, Anne Fowler, George Vanderkuur, Joan Robinson, Ed Clifford, Phyllis Mayhew, Barbara Dean, Mrs. Wm. Kirkwood, W. E. Fisher, Harry Anderson, Sheela Howard, John O'Brien, Perry Hadcock, Peter Hill, Barbara Woollam, Cyril Buchanan, Gary Pickard, Carleton Nixon, Anne Watson, Christine Stewart.

SECRETARIES IN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Joan Robinson, Linda Baldwin, Marjorie Patterson, Marjorie Rintoul, Claudette Chenier, Phyllis Fisher, Sheila Coligan.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS SINCE 1953

Merrill Allen, John Milne, Karl Guy, Lyle Crowder, Howard Mellan, Ralph Shaw, Melvin Christie, Willis Riddell, Dwight Gilmer, Arthur Morrison, Merle Graham, David Berry.

SCHOOL BOARD SECRETARIES SINCE 1953

Fenton Hyndman, Earl Richardson, Gordon Cumming.

CARETAKERS SINCE 1913

Thomas Ennis, Jim Blackburn, George Hess, R. Barrigar, John Thorpe, John Cameron, Ernest Marriner, Jack Smith, Arthur Farrell, Arthur Marriner, Richard Larocque, Jerry Foley, Glen Marriner.

CONTINUED

Last class

was given by Barbara Levere and Anne MacDonald responded with a farewell from the undergraduates.

During the evening the graduating class and 'On Graduation Day' and a duet was sung by Brenda Cameron and Joe Marriner.

Valedictorian was John Jansen and accompanists for the evening were Mrs. Ewart Simms and Miss Patricia Clark.

Official opening

Education, 1919). Transportation was provided for every student who lived more than a mile away, and most did. Efforts were made to procure the best teachers available, and Home Economics and Shopwork options were available almost from the beginning, The fine auditorium on the upper floor provided an excellent place for public meetings of all kinds, dances, and other gatherings, and, together with the school facilities, was the pride of the community, albeit an expensive one; taxes soared but, by 1945, the last debenture had been paid off.

In 1952, the public school section became part of the Mountain Township Public School Area, and, on January 1, 1953, the high school section entered into Mountain District High School. Until 1960 it continued to be used by both public and high school students, but, in that year, became the public school to serve both the South Mountain and Hallville areas. When the new Nationview School at South Mountain was completed in 1971 the North Mountain Consolidated School ceased operation, and the sounds of the students who thronged its corridors and its rooms for 48 years was only a memory in the minds of those who planned it, watched it develop, and received their education in it.



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