

Schoolhouse

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Britt and her friend Lois Southwall Bertram knew an alumnus who had been talking about getting a reunion together for a couple of years. The two decided to stop the talking and start the doing. Within seven months they sent out 49 letters and booked the '76 Room at Irem.

"I had a lot of addresses from the Lehman reunion," said Britt, 66, who is also working on her 50th high school reunion. "We got most of the people. Everyone was really excited by the idea."

The Hillside School was built in 1903 on Hillside Rd. It replaced the Texas School, which was on Lower Chase Rd., and the Huntsville School, which was near Huntsville Corners.

In Millie Hogboom's Jackson Township History, she wrote how the students hated the merger and coined the name "The Pest House" for Hillside. One explanation for the name stems from the fact that some children had to walk two or more miles to school. Another explanation is the school was used as a shelter for sick people during an epidemic. Therefore, it was called pestilence or Pest House.

Prior to 1941, the school had eight grades. During that same year, Jackson Township bussed seventh through 12th grade to Lehman.

At the end of 1948, Hillside School was closed and the students were transferred to Kingston Township schools for one year. In the fall of 1949 all Jackson Township students attended Lehman-Jackson School, having formed a jointure with Lehman.

Bertram currently lives in the old school house. She and her husband, James, bought it in 1954. "It just happened to be up for sale. They were going to make it a sewing factory, but it didn't go



Alumni of the one-room Hillside School in Jackson Township take time out from catching up to pose for a snapshot. From left, August Walters, Jeann Ikelet Reed, Norma Carey Wright and Robert Norris.

through," she said. It took the couple four years to remodel it into a modern multi-room home.

Bertram said one reason she felt especially inclined to organize the reunion is because they are planning to sell the house soon. "The reunion was important, maybe because we are going to leave (the house)," said Bertram, who attended the school from 1935 to 1941.

At 77, Hazel Bulford Fielding was the oldest alumna to attend the reunion. She attended Hillside through sixth grade and was happy there was a reunion. "I had a wonderful time. I hope they have one next year," she said.

Britt recalled the many games she and her classmates would play. The lineup included Kick the Ricket, Relievia, a game much like tag; and Annie Annie Over, in which two teams would throw a ball over the school building. "We played marbles and jacks. I think I started there with 10 marbles and ended up with 300," said

Britt, who views the reunion as a complete success.

Dorothy Cooper, 85, happily recalls the old one-room Hillside School as having a family atmosphere. The school contained the teacher's desk in front, a wood burning stove in the back next to the long shelf where all the little lunch pails were set. Cooper attended the school from 1918 to 1926.

"We were all friendly and all shared with one another," she said proudly. "And we learned

"I thought it was wonderful. I could listen to the older children have their lessons."

Joan Britt
Huntsville School alumna



The organizers of the Hillside School Reunion, Joan Coolbaugh Britt, left, and Lois Southwell Bertram.

our ABC's and timetable and states. That's one thing the kids today don't know." Two of Cooper's four children also attended the school.

Some people who attended the small school hail its many benefits. "I thought it was wonderful. I could listen to the older children have their lessons. Then when you got to that grade it was like you already knew it," said Britt.

Bertram enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of the school. "You got to know everybody. We were really, really close," she said.

Cooper believes it was a give and take situation. "We were taught the basics. Some things we learned better than others," she said.

The students who once sat with their lunch pails behind them and their teacher in front of them came together to remember the simpler times at the country school, finding the fresh faces of youth in old friends.

Candidates

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out of hand?"

Allardyce: "Lehman has big budget problems this year because the district has been mismanaged and has gone into debt. The biggest issue, as I see it, is whether or not we will have to ask for a tax raise. But I feel that the area has grown and the tax base has been built up as perhaps this will not be the big problem some think it will be."



BOB ALLARDYCE

Miller: "I'll do whatever has to be done to get the budget in order. That's the only comment I have on that."

Kaufman: "We've seen worse days in Lehman than we have at this time. I think our district is on the road back to recovery. We finally managed to be free of the large deficit we once had and I think we'll end on a positive note this year. From the standpoint of the teachers and the salaries, we need to be able to control our lean budget."

If you are put in the position of having to decide among programs to cut back, what programs would you cut first?

Allardyce: "The teachers in this area are going to have to face the fact that enrollment is down in this district and we just won't need that many teachers. We can cut down on the budget for teacher salaries."

Miller: "Whatever needs to be done and choices to be made will be made when they need to be made. I can't speculate on what might happen this year right now. We'll deal with it when we need to do it."

Kaufman: "We do not want to change things that will cut back on educational programs, so we will need to cut other types of expenditures. Refinancing and cooperative purchasing will allow us better budget control. Smart money management and a strong stance on the teachers' salary issue are both also needed."

If elected, how would you improve education in the Lehman District?

Allardyce: "If I am elected, I'd accept the ideas of everyone in the district. I believe that there are many people with good ideas in the Lehman area who have not yet

stepped forward to offer their opinions because no one has ever listened to them and they are discouraged. I would not be afraid to listen to other people's ideas since we can always learn something from others. I would also not be afraid to stand up to the teachers' union. But public education is going to be destroyed unless someone has the guts to stand up to the union. I have the guts because the little guy is tired of picking up the bills. The education of our kids is the first priority of our school. There are a lot of tough decisions to be made and somebody has to be the bad guy, I have the guts to do it."

Miller: "We need to continue on with the new technology and make sure we provide it for all students. The younger you learn things like the keyboard, the easier it is to learn."

Kaufman: "We need to push technology. With our long distance learning lab, we will be connected to colleges and will offer our students more opportunities to grow and learn."



DAVID KAUFMAN

What do you think the current board has been successful in doing for the student population of Lehman?

Allardyce: "I believe the school district has a lot of good teachers and administrative staff. This has certainly been reflected in the number of students who have done well on national tests. But I don't like some of the things going on in the school such as the handing out of condoms."

Miller: "I think getting the 'Link to Learn' grant for the long-distance learning lab was a good thing. This technology will allow us to teach as many students as possible and will not limit the fiber optic technology involved to only a few."

Kaufman: "The improvement on student's PSAT's have resulted in a Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist and three Commended students. We are pushing the importance of technology with the long-distance learning lab and have also been successful in bringing foreign language to the lower grade levels."

Spruce up

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actually works in real life.

"I thought that I would come here to the council meeting first and then get a committee together," she explained. She'll call on several classroom friends to help her to organize a successful downtown beautification project that would include the addition of park benches, flower pots, and special banners.

"I want to make sure this will be a student project with students doing the work," she emphasized prior to asking the council for their support. "Of course we will want adults to join us as a support group," she said, "but this will be an educational project that students at our school could have fun doing."

Part of the fun will involve the rest of the community, if Tara's plans materialize. She'd like to have several community-supported fundraisers such as a bake sale, a t-shirt sale, or a carnival on Main Street during the next few months to raise the necessary money for the projects she envisions. Donated goods and services from community business people will also help to make the project come to life.

"If we had brightly colored benches, beautiful flowers and colored banners on Main Street, we could create more pedestrian traffic," suggested the thoughtful student. "We would see neighbors meeting each other, jogging together, walking family pets and enjoying the town's natural beauty," she told a captivated borough council.

John Supulski, a member of the road crew in the borough, agreed that Tara's ideas have merit. "I think there are great possibilities here," he said enthusiastically. "Trees and plants in the community are always valuable assets because they cut down the costs of replacing costly sidewalks and beautify the town too.

"I want to make sure this will be a student project with students doing the work."

Tara Matlock-Puchalsky
Dallas 6th grader

A project such as this could kill two birds with one stone."

Ted Wright echoed Supulski's thoughts. "This is an excellent idea," he said. "Perhaps we could start out small and one day we might even stage a town block party." Jay Pope summed up the thoughts of the entire council by endorsing the Middle School student's community project. "I'm very excited about Tara's ideas," he said. "I think they will bear sweet fruit for the Dallas Borough." He asked that Tara keep

the council advised to the progress of her committee.

In other business, the council voted unanimously to require peddlers and solicitors wishing to do business within Dallas Borough to undergo fingerprinting and to get a permit and photo identification card.

A resolution to approve the appointments of Michael Prokopchak, Dana Moran, and William Berti to the road department crew as part-time employees was passed.

Pope reported that all preliminary

repair work has been done on the borough tennis courts and, according to Pope, "The courts are good enough to play on now."

Bids were received for the Franklin St. road project and R.N. Fitch and Sons offered the lower of the two bids submitted. Fitch was awarded the project for \$9,380, a price that was in line with expectations.

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