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If these walls COULD TALK

■ Fenton High School building turns 50 years old

By Vera Hogan

The year was 1969 and a lot was happening in the world. The Beatles made their last public performance, the first Concorde test flight was conducted in France, Boeing 747 jumbo jet made its debut, Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, the epitome of the American muscle car, was introduced and the Woodstock music festival attracted nearly 500,000 rock-n-roll fans,

The first man landed on the moon on the Apollo 11 mission by the United States and Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first humans to set foot on the Moon.

The Vietnam War raged on as did protests over the fighting. The price of a daily newspaper was 10 cents in 1969. The cost of a new house was \$15,500. The average income per year was \$8,550. The cost of a new car was about \$3,270 and putting gas in it would cost only 35 cents per gallon.

The new Fenton High School (FHS) opened its doors for the first time in September 1969. The top song was Aquarius/Let the Sunshine in by The Fifth Dimension, and it became the Fenton High School Class of 1970's class song.

When students first walked through the halls of their new high school at the start of the 1969-70 school year, they likely did so feeling a combination of excitement and fear. This was a whole new world for them, in a building much larger than the schools they had attended for the years prior.

The new school, administration building and athletic facilities, all part of the high school project, and the land were built for \$6.25 million. Many people in town were outraged. According to Ruth Beardsley, wife of the late Richard Beardsley, a member of the Board of Education at the time, "People in town were upset that the building was so far away."

On top of that, it had a swimming pool, considered frivolous at the time.

Donna Seger, who with her husband Ken Seger, managed the A.J. Phillips Museum for many years, agreed. "It was way out in the country. Kids were used

to walking to school right here in town."

To commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the Fenton High School building on Donaldson Drive, the Tri-County Times has been working nearly all summer to put together this special section highlighting many of the students and their activities from the 1969-70 1970-71, 1971-72, and 1972-73 school years. It would be impossible to include all of the school happenings of those years and we apologize if someone or something significant was inadvertently left out.

Source: thepeoplehistory.com; pop-culture.us

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From Dairy farm to school desks

Land from the Hunt family farm became the home of Fenton High School in 1969

By Sally Rummel

Fenton High School literally sits today on land that used to be a dairy farm in the city of Fenton.

In the 1960s, Yates and Mary Hunt, local dairy farmers since 1919 on what is now West Shiawassee Avenue, were approached by members of the Fenton School Board to sell 125 acres of their farm for a building site for a proposed new high school and athletic campus.

At the time, their farm housed a successful herd of Holstein cattle that sold its milk to Sealtest Dairy, and grew crops like hay, corn and silage to feed the animals.

Lifelong residents of the area, the Hunt family also valued education and knew that Fenton was growing and needed a proper space for its schools.

They sold the property to Fenton schools for a fraction of what they could have



The Yates Hunt family in 1919 are (from left) Ruth Hunt, Arthur Hunt, Mary Hunt, Elmer Hunt, Yates Hunt and (front row) Robert Hunt and Vern Hunt.

sold it for to a developer — as a gift to the future of education in Fenton.

Their shared vision for a brand new state-of-the-art high school and athletic grounds became a reality when school resumed in the fall of 1969 at the brand new \$5.6-million campus.

Fifty years later, fifth generation farming is still in the lifeblood of the Hunt family.

Seventy acres remain in the hands of three of the grandchildren of the original owners, including Ronald B. Hunt M.D., Bernadine (Hunt) Saxe J.D. and Bethany (Hunt) Whetstone. Their dad, Robert Hunt, was in charge of the farm until he died on Sept. 9, 2015 at age 100.

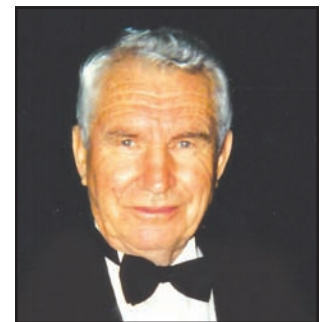
The other grandchildren of Yates and Mary live nearby, including Berniece Starrs in Linden, Richard Hunt in Linden and Rodney Hunt in Grand Blanc, Russell Hunt Ph.D and Marsha Hunt of Detroit.

Half of the remaining Hunt property is now contracted to the state of Michigan in a Right-to-Farm agreement under its Farm Preservation

Program. While it was a controversial issue with the city of Fenton at the time the Hunt family applied for this designation, the issue was resolved and the Hunt family prevailed.

The farm is now in the process of being certified for organic farming. The land-owners lease out 25 tillable acres to a gentleman farmer who grows organic hay. A greenhouse on the property now grows organic heirloom tomatoes, raspberries and blackberries.

The sale of some of their farm property to Fenton Area Public Schools remains a huge source of pride for this local family.



Robert Hunt died on Sept. 9, 2015 at the age of 100. Times file photo

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FHS built by company *in business since 1925*

■ Sorensen Gross Construction served as general contractor for new high school

By Vera Hogan

When it came to building the new high school, officials chose a general contractor with decades of experience — Sorensen Gross Construction Company.

According to the company's website, "Sorensen Gross has a 90-year tradition of integrity, quality and excellence in the



construction industry, and our history has a lot to do with who we are today."

Sorensen Gross Construction Company was founded in 1925 in Grand Rapids by John Sorensen and Robert Gross. The company moved to Flint in 1927 and quickly established itself as the city's premiere builder. In 1966, Ghassan Saab, CEO, joined Sorensen Gross and soon realized the opportunity to lead a company with a solid reputation and a loyal, competent staff.

Some of the recognizable projects built by
See **SORENSEN GROSS** on 7



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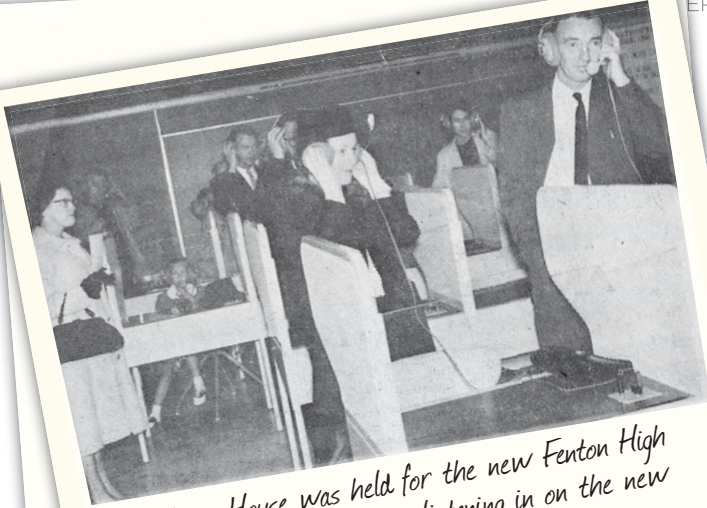
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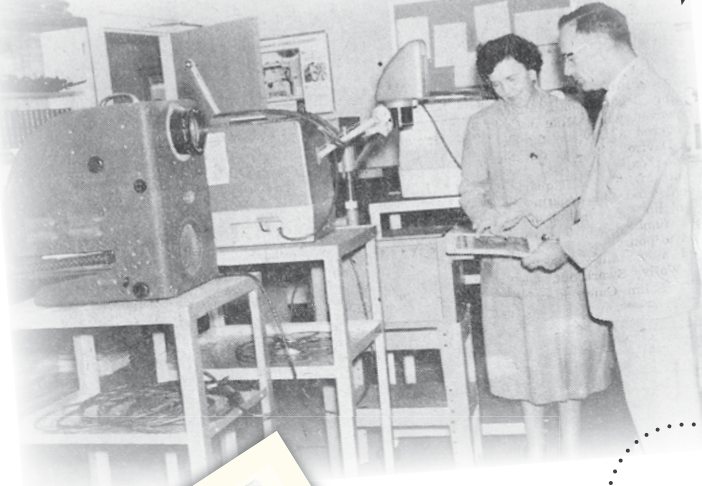


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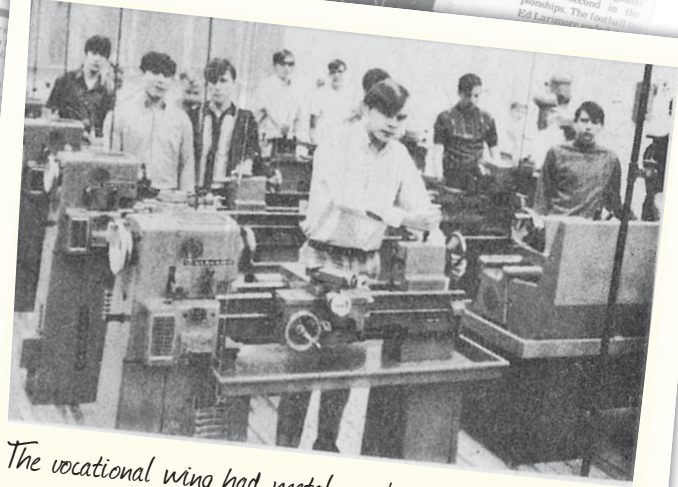


An Open House was held for the new Fenton High School. Parents shown here listening in on the new language laboratory equipment.

The new audio visual department was state of the art with a battery of slide projectors, video and film editing equipment.

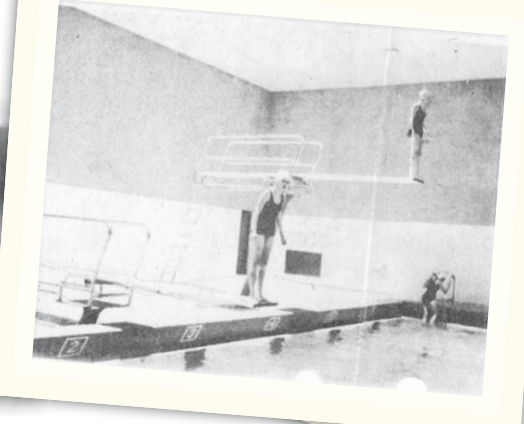


Students entering the new facilities for the first time in the fall of 1969

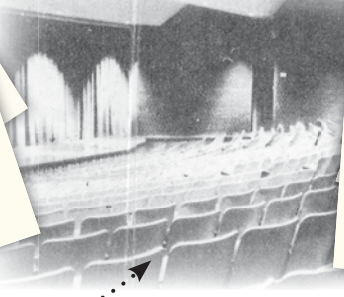


The vocational wing had metal working, woodworking and automotive repair shop.

Fenton's new swimming pool was the envy of area high schools and a highly debated luxury item at the time.



The new 632 seat auditorium was dedicated to Ruby Zima, (above) Director of the Drama Club.



SORENSEN GROSS

Continued from Page 5

Sorensen Gross include: Bishop International Airport, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint Institute of Music, Whiting Auditorium, Mott Community College, General Motors Buick City, Genesee County Courthouse, Genesys Health Park, Hurley Medical Center, McLaren Hospital, and multiple buildings for University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Flint.



Ghassan Saab, CEO of Sorensen Gross Construction and current Fenton resident
Photo: accesscommunity.org

In the March 1970 open house and dedication program, the new Fenton High School is not only a visible example of educational planning and construction, it is a functional example of the willingness of the Fenton community to provide quality facilities and services for youth and adults.

"Therefore, this high school is a symbol of the enduring belief of the people in the Fenton Area Public School District in the values of education. Your Board of Education appreciates the total community support which made this facility possible," according to the program.

The Board of Education at the time included President Ray S. Rausch, Vice President Richard A. Beardsley, Secretary Marion J. McNab, Treasurer Curtis A. Schupbach, and trustees G. Winifred Koop, Ralph D. Ettinger, M.D. and Thomas B. Merrill.

Administrators were Superintendent George T. Telgenhoff, Principal Josef Horak and Assistant Principal LeRoy Decker.

The mechanical contractor for the building was Davaney Plumbing & Heating, Inc., and Harlan Electric Company was the electrical contractor. The architect was Louis C. Kingscott & Associates, Inc.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The new high school had a number of special features that included:

- Public address system throughout
- T.V. control room and studio and studio T.V., receiving conduit to all rooms
- Large group instruction rooms
- Library with individual study areas and audio visual educator laboratory
- Photography laboratory
- Publications room
- Teachers offices and work areas
- Auditorium with professional stage and dressing areas
- Integrated light and air fixture in library, cafeteria and lobby
- Air-conditioned auditorium, cafeteria and offices

COST

What many don't realize is that the administration building and athletic facilities also were part of the high school construction project. The costs of the entire project are broken down as follows;

- High school building construction — **\$4,064,182**
- Administration building construction — **\$120,399**
- Site, landscaping, athletic facilities and utilities — **\$659,084**
- Special equipment — **\$447,641**
- Sewer, water — **\$212,521**
- Architect, legal and finance fees — **\$331,146**
- Moveable equipment — **\$205,000**
- Site purchase — **\$168,655**
- Capitalized interest — **\$43,000**

TOTAL — \$6,251,628

CAPACITY STATISTICS

- The school site covered 120.9 acres
- The building could house 1,250 students
- There was parking for 1,250 cars
- The cafeteria could seat 500
- The auditorium could seat 636
- The gymnasium could seat 3,200
- There was seating for 140 in the library
- There were 1,188 student lockers
- The swimming pool could accommodate 100
- In the stadium there were 750 seats for spectators and total seating of 3,000

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Fenton school Leadership

The following served on the Fenton Area Public Schools Boards of Education. Some of their names and offices changed after the March 1970 dedication. The first students in the new school represented the Class of 1970.



1970-1971 SCHOOL YEAR

Board of Education

- President: Curtis A. Schupbach
- Vice President: G. Winifred Koop
- Secretary: Thomas B. Merrill
- Treasurer: Richard A. Beardsley
- Trustee: Ray S. Rausch
- Trustee: Jan B. Graham
- Trustee: Douglas C. Mullen

Superintendent of Schools

George T. Telegenhoff

FHS Principal

Josef Horak

Assistant FHS Principal

LeRoy Decker

FHS Athletic Director

Ivan Williams

FHS Director of Vocational Education

Clayton Turner

Fenton 'Boosters'

still around after 50 years



Booster clubs are organizations in schools at the high school level. It is not a social club. Its main function is to volunteer their time and develop support for the student programs and raise funds to supplement various student activities.

According to the 1970 Fentonian, there were 69 businesses recognized as Boosters. Some of those 69 continue to be in business in Fenton today and continue to support schools and student activities.

Some of those businesses on the 1970 Boosters list are:

- The State Bank
- Gerych's
- Billmeier
- Fenton Glass
- Vic Canever
- Fenton Memorials



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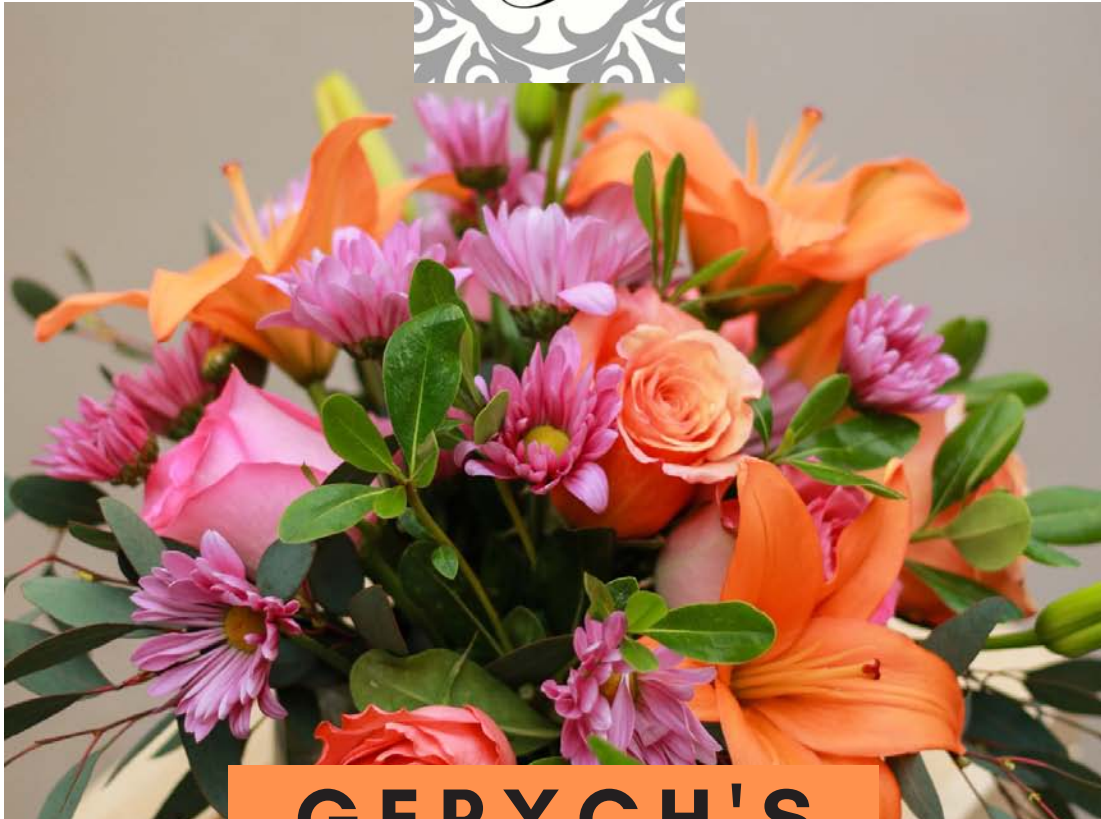
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THE 'ROCK'

If there are Fenton High School graduates around that know the entire original story behind the rock, we haven't found them.

The painting and sometimes "relocation" of the rock to a place to be determined and later retrieved has been going on since the 1940s.

According to Connie Foley, FHS Class of 1966 and a member of the Fenton Alumni Association, "Our parents graduated from Fenton High School in 1942 and 1943 and they painted the rock way back then. I think it started with them and Holly and we all kept it up over 70 years."

Another woman wrote to us anonymously and said, "My husband often tells the story about he and

In an October 2010 Times photo, Fran and Ralph Steward do some "rock sitting" on Fenton's traditional rock. The Steward family donated landscaping around the old Fenton High School rock.

Times file photo



The rock as pictured in June of this year. Fenton High School graduating classes have been painting "the rock" for more than 70 years.

Photo: Tim Jagielo

other Holly students taking Fenton's rock in 1961 and dumping it at "Dead Man's Curve." (South Holly Road going east, just outside of the Fenton City limits) Alas, someone found out who took it and the kids had to go get the rock and put it back."

Although it has not been physically relocated in some time, graduating seniors continue to take artistic license and make the rock their own, at least until the next class comes long.

Fenton High School's Class of 1969 repainted the original school rock on Saturday, Aug. 17, as part of its 50th reunion. Approximately 40 people gathered to paint the rock and take photos.

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Lifelong Fenton resident speaks to *Class of 1972*

■ It was the 100th FHS commencement address

By Vera Hogan

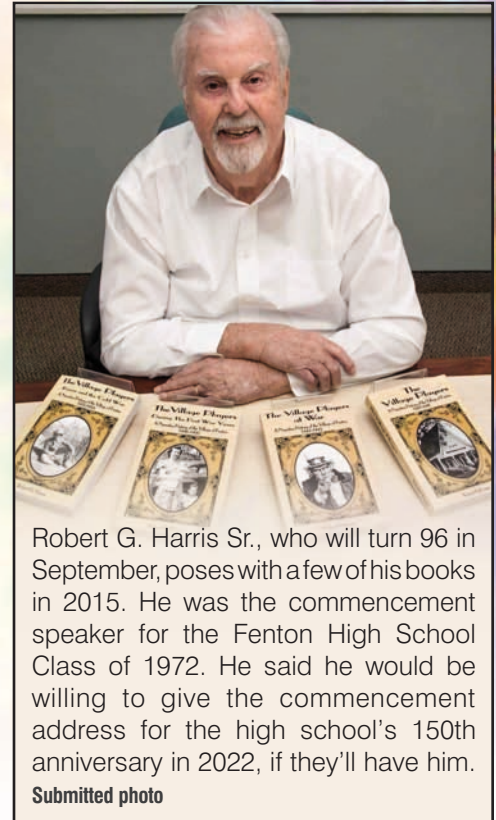
Robert G. Harris Sr. will be celebrating his 96th birthday this September. But that has not slowed him down. The lifelong Fenton resident is currently working on his seventh book. His books provide a narrative history of the "Village of Fenton" throughout the decades. He also penned a novel about the U.S. Marines called "Many Come, Few Are Chosen."

Harris, a 1941 graduate of Fenton High School went on to earn his Ph.D. and was the commencement speaker for the FHS Class of 1972. At the time, he was president of Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas.

"It was one of the typical commencement speeches," Harris said. "It did include my feelings that one should enjoy the work they are doing, how terrible to have to go to work hating what you were doing. Also don't be afraid to change your job or your course of study."

"I told them about the sign I had on my office door that read 'Remember, Fortune favors the stout of heart,'" he said. "While stationed at the Naval station Point Mugu California in 1949-1950, our little group of Marines would play pool at lunch time. The pool table was in the BOQ (bachelor officer quarters) for the Navy. There was

See **ROBERT HARRIS** on 12



Robert G. Harris Sr., who will turn 96 in September, poses with a few of his books in 2015. He was the commencement speaker for the Fenton High School Class of 1972. He said he would be willing to give the commencement address for the high school's 150th anniversary in 2022, if they'll have him.

Submitted photo

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Actual 1970 FHS Class Schedule

STUDENT DAILY SCHEDULE

Student day starts at 8:00: dismissal at 2:35
Closed campus with half an hour lunch period.

Bell Schedule:

8:00---8:10	Homeroom
8:15---9:10	First Hour Class
9:15---10:10	Second Hour Class
10:15---11:10	Third Hour Class
11:15---12:35	Fourth Hour Class (*see note)
12:40---1:35	Fifth Hour Class
1:40---2:35	Sixth Hour Class
2:45....	Buses depart

***Note**
The lunch schedule:

Group A....	Class period....	11:15---12:10
	Lunch period....	12:10---12:40
Group B....	Lunch period....	11:10---11:40
	Class period....	11:40---12:35



Science class



Typing class



Home economics class

ROBERT HARRIS Continued from Page 11

a sign on the wall that read 'Rules for Pool.'
"It had items like, 'Never shoot easy' and 'Don't give up until the balls stop rolling,'" he said. "The last rule was, 'Remember, Fortune favors the stout of heart.' I adopted it as my life motto."

With the 150th commencement for FHS coming up in 2022, Harris smiled and said, "I was going to volunteer to do it again — if they would have me."

Harris and his late wife, Marie, have two grown children, five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. He has lived in the same house his parents owned on Swanee Beach since 1936. World War II started when he was a freshman at Michigan State University. He entered the United States Marine Corps (USMC) officer program and was commissioned in June 1945. He decided to make the Marines his career and served almost 25 years, retiring in October 1965 in order to accept a fellowship at MSU.

He received a bachelor's degree in math in absentia from MSU in 1956, and received a master's degree in electrical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California in 1957.

In 1968, he received his Ph.D. and soon thereafter became president of Johnson County Community College in Kansas.

He started Harris Financial (on North LeRoy Street in Fenton) in 1980. His son, Bob Jr., joined him after 14 years in the FBI. The business is now run by his grandson, Rob Harris.

"Writing has always been an interest of mine," he said. "I looked at the library to see what had been written about Fenton. Largely it was about the 1800s, so I decided to do a newspaper research book about my FHS years 1937-1941. Then I had to do a follow-up on the War years 1942-1946, the post war years 1946-1950, Korea and the Cold War 1951-1955, the late 1950s, 1956-1959."

Harris is currently working on the years 1962-1965. His books are available at Fenton's Open Book in downtown Fenton.



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1971 grad shares high school memories

By Vera Hogan

Esther Hiuser graduated from Fenton High School in 1971 — the year there was no yearbook. Hers was the second class to graduate from the new school.

She remembers that when she was in school there were several classes that are likely not offered today. They include shorthand, office machines such as the mimeograph, which was used to duplicate documents before copiers. Typing was taught on manual and electric typewriters. “There were no computers,” she said.

There also were Home Economics classes that taught skills like sewing and cooking. Metal shop and wood shop classes provided useful training for the skilled trades.

“There were no severe weather or tornado drills, no gun or lockdown training and no cell phones,”



Esther (Boulton) Hiuser

Hiuser said. “We used pay phones.”

It was a closed campus during lunch hours. “A hot lunch cost 40 cents per day and the menu consisted of mostly canned veggies and fruit, milk, and a main dish like sloppy joe’s on a bun,” she said.

Hiuser said the lunch menu was printed out monthly. “There were no choices, all plates served were the same,” she said.

During the holidays, students could get a turkey dinner.

Hiuser said illegal drug use incidents were few and far between at Fenton High School.

After high school, Hiuser graduated from Baker Business College and enjoyed a variety of subsequent careers. She has four adult children and one grandchild.



Jim Peabody '79



Patty (Smith) Peabody '80



Dave Lucas '79

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Class of '72 grad shares fond memories of FHS days

■ Long-time CE employee now in politics



Kevin Keane, FHS class of '72



Mayor Kevin Keane, city of Flushing.
Submitted photo

By Vera Hogan

Kevin Keane is a graduate of the Fenton High School Class of 1972. Today, he is the mayor of the city of Flushing.

"I went to CMU for two years, ran out of money, worked in restaurants and three GM plants, returned to CMU and met my wife, Carol," said Keane of his time after high school. "We have been married 40 years (41 in September) have two adult children and two grandchildren.

"Shortly after we were married I was laid off from GM again," he said. "I utilized the Federal Trade Relocation Program and CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) and changed trades. I began as a janitor at the Consumers Power coal-fired power plants in Essexville and held increasingly responsible positions, retiring from Consumers Energy nearly 40 years later as area manager for Governmental and Community Affairs for Genesee and Lapeer counties."

The Tri-County Times counted on Keane as a trusted Consumers Energy spokesperson for several years.

"I was transferred to Flint in 1990 and have resided in Flushing since then," Keane said. "My first political appointment in Flushing was to the Planning Commission, then the Zoning Board of Appeals and ultimately was appointed and then successfully ran for City Council.

I was elected mayor in 2013 and will seek my fourth term in November.

My fondest Fenton memories include playing Truman Pendennis in the melodrama, "Love Rides the Rails (or will the Mail Train Run Tonight), leading the FHS Marching Band as drum major down LeRoy Street for what I believe was the last time in the spring of 1972 before Urban Renewal, and serving many of Fenton's business and community leaders at the Fenton Hotel in the early '70s.

"Of course, there was my temporary residency at the fire hall in the wake of the (August) 2007 tornado," Keane said. He served as the Consumers Energy liaison and spokesperson when so many were out of power on the heels of that storm.

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Shelly & Duff

Still together after all these years

■ FHS grads celebrated 44 years of marriage on Aug. 1; are third generation sweethearts

By Vera Hogan

If anyone embraced their high school years it was Shelly Durand (Class of 1972) and Duff Hay (Class of 1971) — and they have been embracing each other for the past 50 years.

“My husband, Duff Hay and I were high school sweethearts, meeting in the summer of 1969,” Shelly said. “We went together all through high school and married Aug. 1, 1975. We celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary on Aug. 1. We have been together 50 years. So hard to believe. We have three married children and seven grandchildren.

“I was a Fenton high cheerleader and the 1972 Homecoming Queen, and he was captain of the football team,” she said. “We have a lot of wonderful Fenton High School memories.”

“In those days, you didn’t have texting, so we would exchange actual love notes in between classes,” Shelly said.

Duff and Shelly were very active during their Fenton High School years, participating in Student Council, baseball, softball, cheerleading, wrestling, plays and more.

“One of my fondest memories of my high school years was being voted Homecoming Queen,” Shelly said. “That was such a surprise and such a joy. I loved all my many friendships that were made and still are kept up today. People say to enjoy your high school years because they just fly by. That is so true. I can’t believe our new high school is going to be 50 years old.”

The couple moved to Illinois after Duff graduated from MSU because there were no jobs available at the time in the Fenton area, Shelly said.

“The auto industry was way down and he found a job working as a mechanical engineer at Amoco Research Center in Naperville, Illinois,” Shelly said. “So we loaded up and moved out of state, knowing no one. We missed

See **SHelly & DUFF** on 16



(Top) Shelly (Durand) Hay and Duff Hay at the 1972 Fenton High School prom. (Right) Shelly (Durand) Hay was crowned the 1972 Homecoming Queen. (Bottom) Duff and Shelly Hay are pictured here at their daughter’s wedding reception. Submitted photos

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Class of 1970 motto:

'Peace, Love and Understanding'

■No 'vals' or 'sals' yet — just top male and female students

There were 215 students in the Fenton High School Class of 1970, the first to graduate from the new high school building.

The class flower was the black-eyed Susan. Class colors were gold and brown. And in keeping with the times, the class motto was "Peace, Love and Understanding."

Fenton did not declare a valedictorian and salutatorian in 1970. Instead, FHS recognized the top male and top female students. In 1970, The top male students were Bill Dery and Wes VonSeggern. Top females were Margaret Hook and Carol Frederickson.

The Student Council president in 1970 was Tom Merrill. Class officers were Jim Schmelter, president; Dennis Ostyn, vice president; Debby Wagner, secretary and Linda Essenburg, treasurer.



SHELLY & DUFF

Continued from Page 15

the lake growing up in Fenton, so we ended up moving to Lake Holiday in Sandwich, Illinois.

"We always meant to move back to Michigan, but once our children got in school, formed friendships, sports, etc., we found ourselves in Sandwich now for 40 years," she said. "I was a stay-at-home mom, but I also worked from home for many years with our home business. Duff invented the 'stowaway hold away.' It is a mooring device that holds your boat away from the dock. We built them in our garage

a family business. It kept us busy."

Three generations of FHS sweethearts

Duff and Shelly are, in fact, third generation of Fenton High School sweethearts. Shelly's dad, Jerry (Meatball) Durand graduated in 1942. Her mother, Joyce (Sewell) Durand graduated in 1943.

Duff's father, Sydney C. Hay, Jr. graduated in 1942, and his mother, Mary (Mitchell) Hay also graduated in 1942.

Duff's grandfather, Sidney C. Hay, Sr., graduated with the FHS Class of 1911. His grandmother, Josephine (Fuller) Hay graduated in 1912.

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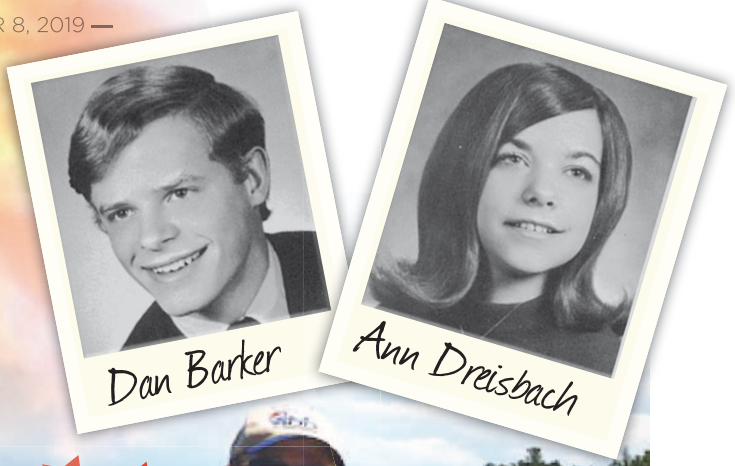
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'...And love will steer the stars'

★ Dan and Ann shone bright during their FHS years

By Vera Hogan

The Fenton High School classmates of Dan Barker and Ann Dreisbach likely remember them as the couple destined to spend a lifetime together — and they have.

Members of the Class of 1970, the first graduating class in the new FHS building, the couple will celebrate 47 years of marriage this September. They are the parents of two daughters, Kelly, 39 and Lindsey, 37.

"We have lived in Fenton (or the surrounding area) our entire married lives except for a year or so we lived in Colorado in the 70s," Ann said. "Dan and I both went to Ferris State. We are both retired. Dan worked at GM Proving Grounds as a test engineer. I worked for Independent Medical Networks as a patient advocate, helping uninsured patients obtain medical coverage through various programs."

Ann said, "It (1970) was a memorable year — new school, teacher strike, bomb threat. Due to the teacher strike, our graduation ceremony took place on June 25. We were given diploma covers with no diploma inside because we had to return to school the next week to take exams. The actual diplomas were given out in July."

Ann said she and Dan started dating in 1969 and were married in 1972. "I was the homecoming queen," she said. "My younger siblings had their friends vote for me. I never felt like queen material. I was also a cheerleader."

Dan was very involved with school sports and extracurricular activities. He played four years of football, was in the Glee Club for two years and wrestling for three.

"Since retiring we just like to not 'have' to work, no schedule and no commutes," Ann said. "Since retiring we have done some traveling in the U.S. but our favorite place to travel is northern Michigan. We live in such a beautiful state."



Dan and Ann (Dreisbach) Barker today. The couple spent two weeks in Cheboygan on Lake Huron this summer. Ann described it as "absolutely beautiful." Submitted photo

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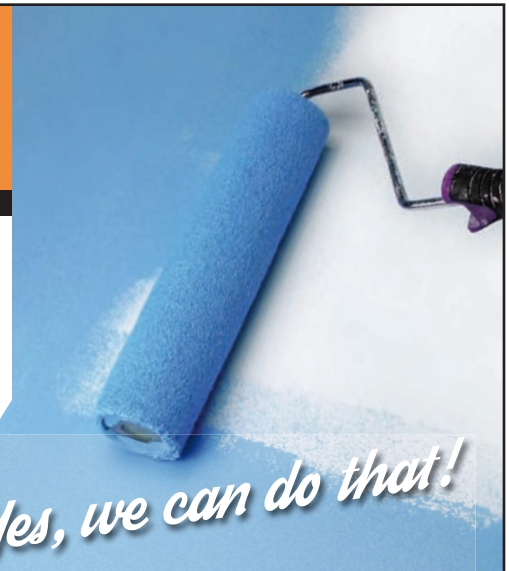
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In honor of the 50th anniversary of Fenton High School, current students painted a mural on this FHS wall. **Submitted photo**

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Happy 50th Anniversary

Fenton High School



EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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As Fenton High School reaches its 50th anniversary, the Fenton Education Foundation would like to both congratulate and celebrate the role they play as a hub for our community. The Fenton Education Foundation was formed in 2004 to assist students and teachers through the support of programs in academics, arts and athletics.

Our Goals

To enrich the educational experience of students in Fenton Area Public Schools by cultivating private/corporate funding sources to augment existing revenues available to the district.

PROGRAMS: To offer financial support for new and existing programs, new equipment or facilities, capital improvement projects, and field trips.

COMMUNITY: To strengthen the bond between the school and community by building awareness of schools within the local community, reconnecting with alumni, and fostering partnerships with local businesses.

LEADERSHIP: To raise academic achievement through leadership and mentoring programs not available in today's educational programs.

FINANCIAL: To provide structured management of funds donated to enhance the learning opportunities of children in Fenton Area Public Schools.

A Snapshot of Our Support

- Safety Campaign raised in excess of \$20,000.
- Teacher Grants in excess of \$120,000 given to teachers across the district including enhanced resources for reading, science and language, interactive seating, and leadership engagement.
- 3D printer for Fenton Senior High School Students.
- Band uniform replacement through fundraising and a private scholarship/grant.
- Two T-shirt heat printers for Tigers Inc. supporting entrepreneurship and skills training.
- Over \$7,000 in scholarships for Fenton High School senior students presented on behalf of Fenton families.
- Support of the Fenton High School Robotics participating in the General Motors Dollars for Doers giving program and received matching funds through donations made by General
- Athletic Program support through the purchase of mannequins for CPR/AED training for coaches, a Gator for the Athletic Trainer, and a scoreboard for the softball field.
- Establishment of an Endowment Fund to support the mission well into the future.

Help Us Continue to Support FAPS for another 50 years!

Attend our Events

- Winter Blues Dinner (February)
- Texas Hold 'Em Tournament (March)
- Tee Up Fore Education (August)
- Back to School Pancake Breakfast (September)
- Black Tie Awards Dinner (September)

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Who We Are

The Fenton Education Foundation is a volunteer run organization with an executive board made up of local business owners, parents, administrators, city officials, and alumni with a desire to support the Fenton Area Public Schools both in the present and future years. We believe that our mission supports our schools and leads to more viable businesses and a stronger, more vibrant community.

Thank You

A special thank you to our business owners, community members, parents, teachers and FAPS students for supporting the Academic, Arts, and Athletics programs through the Fenton Education Foundation

Visit www.SupportFEF.org for more information



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Music

of the early 1970s
reflects **tumultuous times**



Photo: billboard.com

Jackson 5 "I Want You Back"

*"When I had you to myself,
I didn't want you around.
Those pretty faces always made
you stand out in a crowd.
Oh, baby, give me
one more chance ..."*

The Jackson 5, brothers with lead singer, Michael Jackson, at the age of 11, also had three other songs on the top of the charts that year — "I'll Be There," "ABC," and "The Love You Save."



Photo: facebook.com

Simon & Garfunkel "Bridge Over Troubled Waters"

*"When you're weary, feeling small.
When tears are in your eyes,
I'll dry them all. I'm on your side,
oh, when times get rough.
And friends just can't be found
like a bridge over troubled water ..."*

Composed by Paul Simon and performed as a solo by Art Garfunkel, "Bridge Over Troubled Water" is a song about providing comfort for someone in need.



Photo: Wikipedia.com

Shocking Blue "Venus"

*"A goddess on a mountain top
was burning like a silver flame.
The summit of beauty and love
and Venus was her name.
She's got it, yeah baby,
she's got it ..."*

In 1970, the Dutch rock band Shocking Blue took the song to number one in nine countries.



Photo: allthatsinteresting.com



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The Beatles
“Let It Be”

“When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be. And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be ...”

Many people are of the mistaken impression that Paul McCartney was talking about the Virgin Mary. He was, in fact, talking about his own mother, named Mary, who died when he was a child.

Carpenters
“We’ve Only Just Begun”

“We’ve only just begun to live. White lace and promises, a kiss for luck and we’re on our way ...”

“Close To You”

Why do birds suddenly appear every time you are near? Just like me, they long to be close to you ...”

Both of these songs, recorded by brother and sister, Richard and Karen Carpenter, have been played at wedding receptions for the decades since 1970.



Three Dog Night
“Mama Told Me Not To Come”

“Will you have whiskey with your water or sugar with your tea? What are these crazy questions that they’re asking of me? This is the craziest party that there ever could be ...”

Randy Newman, who wrote the song, said it’s about a party that left a “bad taste” in his mouth. The drug scene was fairly new to American middle-class youth at that time.



Edwin Starr
“War”

“War, huh, yeah. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing. War, huh, yeah. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing. Say it again, why’all. War, huh, good God, what is it good for? Absolutely nothing, listen to me ...”

This is a protest song about the Vietnam War, although it makes a broader statement of the need for harmony in our everyday lives. “War” was one of the first Motown songs to make a political statement.

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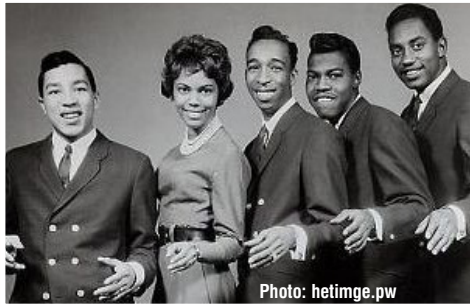
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The Guess Who
“American Woman”

*“American woman, stay away
from me. American woman,
mama let me be.
Don’t come hangin’ around
my door, I don’t wanna see
your face no more ...”*

The song was written by Burton Cummings. He said what was on his mind was that girls in the States seemed to get older quicker than Canadian girls and that made them dangerous.



**Smokey Robinson and
the Miracles**
“Tears of A Clown”

*“...Now if there’s a smile on my face,
it’s only there trying to fool the public. But
when it comes down to fooling you, now
honey that’s quite a different subject.
But don’t let my glad expression
give you the wrong impression.
Really I’m sad, oh I’m sadder than sad.
You’re gone and I’m hurting so bad.
Like a clown I appear to be glad ...”*

Smokey Robinson based this song on the Italian opera “Pagliacci,” which is about a clown who must make the audience laugh while he weeps behind his makeup because his wife betrayed him.



Neil Diamond
“Cracklin’ Rosie”

*Cracklin’ Rosie, get on board.
We’re gonna ride ‘til there ain’t
no more to go, taking it slow.
Lord, don’t you know. Have
made me a time with a poor
man’s lady ...”*

Cracklin’ Rosie is a bottle of wine. Diamond got the idea for the song from a folk story of an Indian tribe in Northern Canada who had more men than women. On Saturday nights when they go out, the guys all get their girl; the guys without girls get a bottle of Cracklin’ Rosie.

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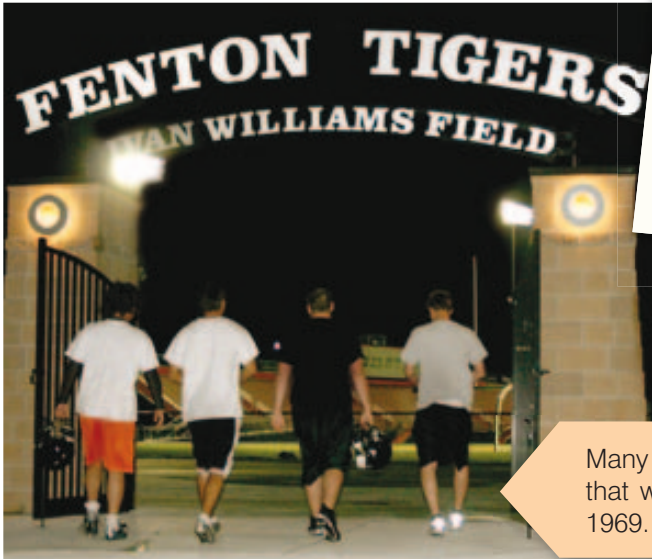
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Tiger Field dedicated to *Ivan Williams*

■ Ceremonies took place during October 1969 Homecoming — and the Tigers won



Compiled By Vera Hogan

Fenton High School's new football stadium was formally dedicated as "Tiger Field" during the October 1969 Homecoming game between Fenton and Holly.

The largest crowd estimated to have ever attended a Fenton High School football home game, approximately 4,000, filled every seat in the new stadium and overflowed to all sides of the field.

During the half-time ceremonies, homage was paid to Ivan Williams, the high school athletic director. The evening had been designated "Ivan Williams Night."

Mayor Jack R. Winegarden read the Fenton City Council resolution proclaiming that day as "Ivan Williams Day." The Board of Education" gave him a night.



1934 to 1949, who had hired

gave insight into Williams' character and history.

A reception for Williams was held in the foyer of the new high school after the game.

In 1969, Williams had already been a teacher at Fenton High School for 30 years. In 1965, he was elected to the Michigan High School coaches Hall of Fame. Clarence Heemstra of Grand Rapids, superintendent of Fenton schools from Williams to Fenton,

Many FHS football players have passed under the arch that welcomes participants and visitors each fall since 1969. *Times file photo*

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A look
back at

fenton ATHLETICS



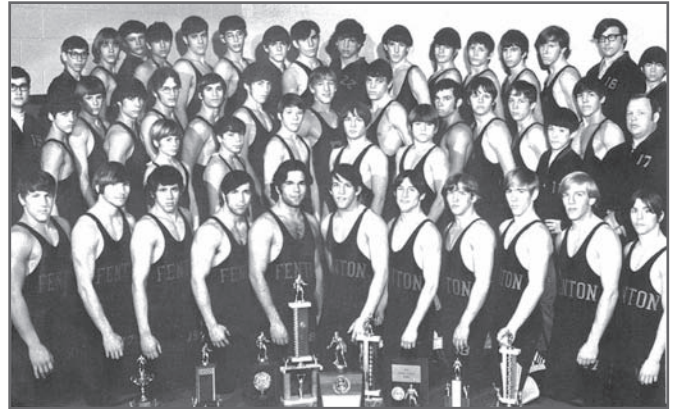
By David Troppens

As Fenton High School changed its current building in the fall of 1969, some other changes were happening in terms of the sports scene.

In 1968 the Flint Metro League came into existence, and is now the area's most consistent athletic prep school league.

But what about Fenton sports? What were the strongest sports as the Tigers moved into their new gym? Which ones lagged a bit behind. How about the development of girls' sports?

What we will be doing — with the aid of several info boxes — is give people a feel of what it was like to be a Fenton sports fan during this era.



Fenton's 1972 wrestling team

WRESTLING

The budding of a state super-power was just beginning when the Fenton students entered the new high school in the fall of 1969.

The previous winter, Fenton High School hosted the first-ever Metro League Wrestling Tournament, taking second to Carman-Ainsworth, losing by five slim points. Six Tigers made it into the finals while Marv Pushman (165) and Dan Kurt (Hwt) earned league titles with pinfall wins in their title matches.

Pushman would go on win a Class B state title in his weight class. The building of wrestling coach Duane Wolfert's impressive program had begun.

Fenton would go on to win three straight league titles, starting with 1971, and would go on to win 16 league titles in his tenure as coach.

They had their share of success at the state level as well, earning Class B state runner-up honors in 1971 and team state championships in 1972 and 1973 as Fenton's new school enjoyed its first years.

Mark Wiesen and Joseph Varney won individual state championships in 1972 while Randall Chene won one in 1973.



Mark Wiesen

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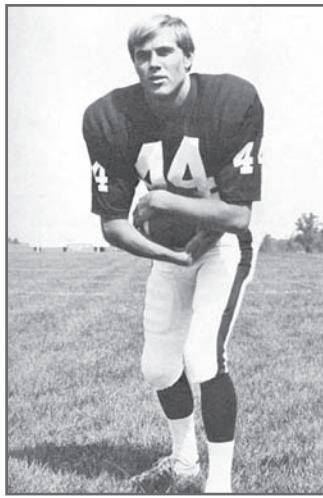
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FENTON BOYS ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

When the Tigers were moving into the new school, the football team was in between two strong eras.

From 1959 until 1967, the Tigers never lost more than two games during a season, earning perfect 9-0 marks in 1966 and 1967. However, in 1968, the Tigers fell to 5-4, and then dropped to 3-6 during the fall of 1969.



Scott Hofstetter

Coach Mark Wegner would eventually get the Tigers back to the top of the Metro League mountain.

In 1970, Fenton improved to 5-4 overall. Some of the top players on that team were co-captain and center Tom Vincent, end Craig Lintz, running back Terry Sizemore, defensive lineman Scott Foley and defensive back Duff Hay.

By 1971 the Tigers were dropped back to a 3-5-1 record, but were a second-place team with a 2-2-1 record in Metro action.

The 1972 team got Fenton back to the top of the standings, as the Tigers ended in a three-way tie atop the Metro Mountain with Carman-Ainsworth and Swartz Creek, with 5-1 league marks. Fenton finished 6-3 overall. Some of the key players on that league championship team were running back Scott Hofstetter, lineman Mark Wiesen, defensive end Ken Avery and defensive back Stewart Grove.

The Tigers would go on a nice run of seasons, earning winning records in 17 of 19 seasons.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Led by coach LeRoy Decker, the Tigers had a strong hoops team during the high school transition years.

Coming to Fenton after leading Holly's squad to the Class B state championship game in 1958, Decker made Fenton into an area power, leading the squad to the Class B state semifinals in 1964, and several other deep runs during that time.

When the Tigers entered the new building for the 1969-70 school year, the Tigers captured an 8-2 Metro League record, earning a co-championship. With MVP Ric Adams and captain Gary Teachworth leading the way, Fenton defeated Holly, Linden and Durand to win a Class B district title. They also beat Mt. Morris and Millington, earning a spot in a regional title game against Carrollton. Unfortunately, the Tigers lost 65-54.

Fenton had other strong teams during this era, winning district titles in 1972 and 1973 as well. The 1972 squad finished in second in the Metro. Led by Bill Kellogg and Bill Grove, the Tigers finished in second place with a 9-3 Metro record in 1973.



1969-70 Fenton boys basketball



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BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

As Fenton moved to its new high school, many knew about the strong wrestling team, and rightfully so. It was a powerful program that won state championships.

However, the boys cross country also had its share of success during this era. With Ray Ladd as the head coach, the Tigers won the first three Metro League titles in boys cross country. The fall team of 1969 was the second of those squads. The team dominated the league that season with Don Keswick (10:20) winning the league meet (races were only two miles at that time), followed by Mark Evans, Gordon Smith, Frank Blissett and Brian Harris, who each finished in the top 10. They won the Holly Invitational, took second at the regional meet and finished state runner-up at the Class B state meet.

In 1970, Keswick won the league meet again (13:16.2 over 2.5 miles) as the Tigers won their third straight league crown. Blissett, Harris and Steve Smith also had top-10 finishes. The squad dropped to second in the Metro and to third the next season.



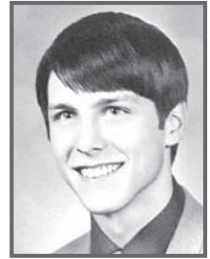
Don Keswick

BOYS GOLF

The Tigers had a strong golf team during this era, repeating as Metro champions during the first year in the new building. Lapeer won the next title, but the Tigers went on to win four straight after that.

During the 1969-70 season, John Cowan, Rob Guilbault, Tom North and Billy Uffelman helped lead the team to a 20-2-1 dual record overall, while winning a regional title. The Tigers placed 13th at the state meet.

In future seasons, Bill Cowan and Tim North would be a couple of the strong golfers on league championship squads.



Rob Guilbault

BOYS TRACK

The Fenton boys didn't win any league crowns, but there were some strong performers during this era.

Don Keswick set the mile record (4:26) and Frank Blissett broke the two-mile record (10:05) the first season at the new school.

In 1972, the Tigers enjoyed a state champion. Dave Karns won the 880-yard dash crown with a time of 1:55.9.



Dave Karns

BOYS TENNIS

There were new tennis courts, but it took awhile for the boys varsity tennis team to establish itself. And while the Metro League existed, there weren't enough teams with tennis squads for it to be a league sport until the 1972-73 school year.

The 1970 team placed fifth in the Class A regional, and that's about where they stayed during this period. The Tigers also placed fifth at regionals during the 1972-73 season.

BOYS BASEBALL

The Fenton varsity baseball team was reasonably competitive during this era. The squad experienced a yo-yo type of existence, taking second in 1970 and 1972 and fifth in 1971 and 1973.

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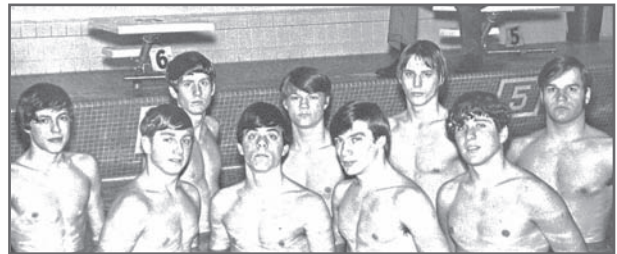
BOYS SWIMMING

With the new school, came the new swimming pool, so it wasn't long before swim teams became part of Fenton High School.

There isn't a story about a team in the 1970 yearbook, but by 1972 the Fenton boys had nine swimmers qualify for the state meet, earning the squad their first winning season.

The Metro League recognized boys swimming as an official league sport starting with the 1970-71 season. It wasn't until 1973 that the Tigers earned their first league event title, taking the top spot in the 200 medley relay.

Interestingly, there was a water polo squad for at least one season. The 1973 yearbook has a photo of the team after winning a game.



1972 State qualifiers:

(front row above) Ray Svejcara, John Talbot, Pat Toop, Dave McDonald. (back row) John Riddel, Dyke Justin, Jim Minock, John Calkins and Kerry Anderson.



Ray Svejcara shows off his belly flop.

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GIRLS SPORTS slowly gain respect through 1970s

By David Troppens

As Fenton High School changed its building, the women's sport's scene wasn't nearly as developed as it is today.

Title IX — a federal law that has helped even the bar for athletic opportunities for women — didn't happen until 1972, and looking back it's apparent the women needed it.

Fenton had just four girls teams represented in the 1970 yearbook (and only three varsity teams), and those squads only had a photo with names included in the book. The entire women's sports recap involved only two pages.

Consequently, it's hard to find a lot of information about those first years for women's sports at Fenton's new school, but we found some from the era. And as the years went on, more women's teams would surface and thrive at Fenton beyond the early 1970s. Here are some of the highlights during the first four years at the new high school.

GIRLS TRACK

The Fenton girls had a strong team as the new high school opened.

The team won five Metro titles with Melissa Kidder (220-yard dash), Pam Ambler (440), Jan Aldrich (high jump) and Becky Clark (long jump) winning individual events. The 1970 yearbook declared the Tigers league champs, but there is no such documentation in Metro League records, so it may have been an unofficial crown.

In 1971, Ambler (440) and Aldrich (high jump) defended their titles while Debbie Minock won the 220 title. Fenton also won the 880 medley relay again.

The team won another four event league titles in 1972 with Minock (220), Ambler (440) and Vickie Gilbert (880) winning individual event titles. In 1973, the squad had six league titles with five being individual titles — Minock in the 220, Cindy McQuigg in the 440, Gilbert in the 880, Wanda Anderson in the 80 hurdles and Joy Rix in the high jump. That squad also competed in the Open Class State meet, taking 12th. Minock was fifth in the 220 (27.0), Gilbert was seventh in the 880 (2:27.7) and the 880 medley relay (1:55.8) took fifth.



1973 Fenton girls track

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

It is hard to find many details about the girls basketball team during this period.

It appears the team's best season during this era was the squad from the 1972-73 school year, when the first senior class at the new school completed their school careers with a second-place 7-4 Metro League record. The only other league record found was the team's 2-4 mark in the first year at the new school.

Ainsworth dominated the Metro League during this period.



1972-73 girls basketball

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Later in the 1970s, the Fenton softball team would be a state power, but the Tigers were already putting together some decent squads during this period.

Unfortunately, the Metro League didn't recognize a conference champion until the spring of 1973. The Tigers took second with a 7-4 league mark that season.

The squad had strong players like all-league participants Michelle Mora and Susie Guilbault, but the squad's best player during this era was probably Jeanne Mathews. Mathews had a 31-11 league record as a pitcher and batted .511 during her career. She began her career in 1973.



Jeanne Mathews

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Athletic facilities

had their pluses, minuses the first year in the new school

By David Troppens

When Fenton High School opened its doors for the first time ever to start the 1969-70 school year, it was a celebration that future Fenton athletic director Ken Wensel still remembers well.

"I stood by the trophy cases down by the gym," Wensel said. "I remember seeing a sea of faces coming in for the first time. There was a lot of anticipation."

Fenton's new building gave the district opportunities it didn't have prior to the building opening. Everything was new and first-class. All except maybe some of the outdoor athletic facilities, which took some time to catch up with the rest of the upgrades.

"We had to fix up the diamond," Fenton's varsity baseball coach at the time Bill Hajec said. "That first year there was more beach sand than infield sand. We had to go and play at the old school field. People would run the bases and it looked like they were running on a beach."

"The field wasn't developed yet. We were playing in a sand pit," varsity baseball player and younger brother of Hajec, Jimmy Hajec said. "It hadn't been

used enough and packed down enough. When you ran on the field, you gave your legs a good work out."

That was the case for a lot of the outdoor fields. It took some time before all of the athletic venues matured into the quality athletic fields many athletes would become accustomed to.

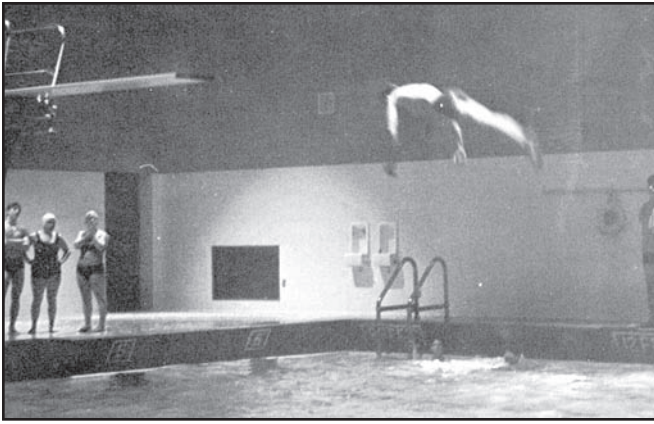
The football field had its issues as well. Grass football fields are developed in a crowning position with the middle of the field slightly higher than the sidelines. That way water flows off the field. Apparently, Fenton's new football field had the opposite dynamic.

"It was like a bowl, so when it rained the water would stand there and it was all wet," Bill Hajec, who also coached football at the time, said. "You had no choice but to play in the mud. It was horrible. It was a piece of crap."

So it's fair to say that it took at least a few years to get some of the outdoor athletic fields up to par with some of the indoor facilities the new high school provided. Perhaps the best outdoor facility involved the

Continued on next page





ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Continued from previous page

tennis courts. Prior to the new courts, the school used the courts located downtown near the Shiawassee River.

"They were awesome," Fenton senior at the time Stewart Grove said. "The best part of the new courts were the fences. You didn't have to chase your balls all over the place. It was a high-tech surface and they even put the practice walls on the north side so you could go out by yourself, hit a ball against a wall and get some practice by yourself if you needed to."

The indoor facilities were pretty impressive from the start.

"No one else's facilities could even compare with Fenton's at the time," said Wensel, who was Fenton

High School's athletic director from March 1974 until 1985. "Our gym was bigger than the city school gyms."

Another gem was Fenton's new pool. As Fenton's Community Education Director, Wensel used it a lot for classes.

"The pool was not only used by the students during the daytime, but I had events fully programmed from the time swim practice ended until about 9 or 10 at night Monday through Saturday."

"We had the pool and all sorts of stuff we didn't have before," Grove said. "It was a pretty cool thing."

The early 1970s was the time Fenton's wrestling program was about to become a state power as well, and they had the facilities to help make that possible.

"We had a designated wrestling room," Grove said. "The whole floor was matted with new foam mats, and right across the hall was the weight room. It was much better than the old school."

But maybe the school's biggest advantage had nothing to do with the facilities. Fenton had a strong athletic program at the time for one more reason, it's coaches.

"Fenton's coaching staff was in its prime back then with the LeRoy Deckers, the Ken Wegners, the Duane Wolferts and so many other great coaches," Wensel said.

"You can go on and on about the quality of the coaching staff. It was absolutely terrific. They were dedicated, hard working and they were talented."

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'When the moon is in the Seventh House and...'

Age of Aquarius

■ Chosen as FHS Class of 1970 song

*When the moon is in the Seventh House
And Jupiter aligns with Mars
Then peace will guide the planets
And love will steer the stars
This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius
Age of Aquarius
Aquarius
Aquarius*

*Harmony and understanding
Sympathy and trust abounding
No more falsehoods or derisions
Golden living dreams of visions
Mystic crystal revelation
And the mind's true liberation
Aquarius
Aquarius*

*When the moon is in the Seventh House
And Jupiter aligns with Mars
Then peace will guide the planets
And love will steer the stars
This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius
Age of Aquarius
Aquarius
Aquarius
Aquarius
Aquarius*

*Let the sunshine, let the sunshine in, the sunshine in
Let the sunshine, let the sunshine in, the sunshine in
Let the sunshine, let the sunshine in, the sunshine in
Oh, let it shine, c'mon
Now everybody just sing along*

*Let the sun shine in
Open up your heart and let it shine on in
When you are lonely, let it shine on
Got to open up your heart and let it shine on in
And when you feel like you've been mistreated
And your friends turn away
Just open your heart, and shine it on in*

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Thank you!

The Tri-County Times would like to thank the following individuals who provided information, memories, photos, documents and yearbooks so that we could put this special commemorative section about the 50th anniversary of the Fenton High School building together.

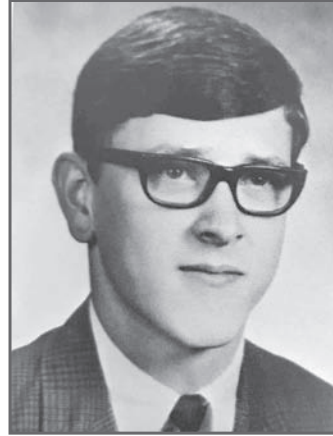
They are:

- **Dr. Adam Hartley**, *Fenton Area Public Schools Superintendent*
- **Mark Suchowski**, *FHS Principal*
- **Connie Foley**, *Fenton Alumni Association*
- **Leo Doan**, *curator Fenton's A.J. Phillips Museum*
- **Donna and Ken Seger**, *historians and retired museum curators*
- **Carla Jaggi**, *president, Fenton Alumni Association*
- **Ruth Beardsley**; *wife of the late Richard Beardsley, a member of the Fenton Board of Education*
- **John Peterson**, *FHS Class of 1973*
- **Dan and Ann (Dreisbach) Barker**, *FHS Class of 1970*
- **Shelly (Durand) Hay**, *FHS Class of 1972*
- **Esther (Boulton) Hiuser**, *FHS Class of 1971*
- **Ken Wensel**, *1970 Community Education Director (future athletic director & principal)*
- **Frances Moore**
- **The Hunt family**
- **John Peterson**



Leo Doan at Fenton's A.J. Phillips Museum in May 2018
Times file photo

GUESS *who?*



This 1970 Fenton High School graduate went on to work in the city of Fenton's Department of Public Works for 37 years. He served as the Water Department supervisor. He is now the curator for the A.J. Phillips Museum,

taking over for Ken Seger in July 2017. He married Teresa Hammond, a 1974 FHS graduate. Her dad is former Fenton Mayor Carl Hammond. His stepdad is former Fenton Fire Chief Bruce Dorland.

Can you guess who he is?

(See answer below)

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