



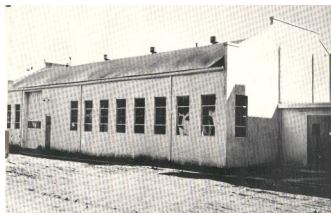
The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

Volume 2 Number 1

Winter—2014

Demolition Begins



On February 19, 1952 a bond election was held. The bond sum was for the amount of \$35,000. These funds would be used to pay for the cost of constructing, furnishing, and equipping a Vocational Agricultural building, which would include a music room. The bond passed and the building was completed in October of 1952.

This original building plus a steel structure addition in 1970 has stood the test of time. Restoration of vehicles, learning how to weld, building an assortment of farm equipment and learning how to overhaul an engine are just a few of the learning experiences that have happened in the confines of this building. Add to this, a repertoire of practical jokes, and one begins to understand how this building has stood the test of time and served the students who have gathered there for classes through the past sixty-one years.

In 2013, constituents of the Goessel School District realized the need for a new vocational facility. In April, a \$3.3 million bond election was held and passed with a 95% approval. This money will allow for the addition of a new academic wing to the northwest side of the high school. The addition will house, agricultural education, high school science, and family and consumer science in a learning community setting. Other improvements include changes to the art and weight rooms. At the elementary school a storm shelter will be added, as well as renovations to the boys' bathroom.

Preliminary work for this project began in November of 2013 when an existing maintenance building was relocated and sewer

lines were moved.

McPherson Wrecking arrived in December and began dismantling the old metal portion of the agricultural building. Steel and tin was recycled. By the end of December the old concrete slab had been removed and the area had been cleared and cleaned of any debris.



Students were allowed to watch as class time permitted. Some chose to cheer on the process.



Loyd Builders expects to bring final bid recommendations to the BOE for approval by 2-10-2014. Pending weather and bid approvals, new construction should begin on March 1.

Contact Information
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Alumni Association

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Visit us on facebook:

goessel alumni

The alumni newsletter is also posted on the alumni page of the USD 411 webpage.

Memorabilia



With the construction of a new educational wing and the rearrangement of classrooms, a new alumni office will be established in the old GR room. Memorabilia will be displayed and stored in this office.

As more people become aware of this arrangement interesting artifacts are beginning to surface.

While sorting through family possessions, the family of Alvin '37 and Audrey '36 Boese, came across an interesting Goessel High School

artifact. The picture on the left, is a belt buckle that measures approximately two and one half inches horizontally and one and one half inches vertically.

The family was not aware of the buckles existence and so were unable to pass on any of its history.

They have donated the buckle with the anticipation of finding out the purpose of the buckle. It may have been used on a uniform. Perhaps, it was given as a promotional gift for excel-

ling in a particular club. At this point research has been inconclusive.

If you have seen a buckle like this, know of the existence of others, or know the history of the buckle please contact the editor. Contact information is listed on the first page of this newsletter.

Thank you to Anita Boese, Aileen Esau, Alan Boese, and Ama Reimer for this interesting artifact.

Keeping In Touch

The alumni database continues to grow. There are still a number of classes that have not submitted any information. Addresses, preferably email addresses, are needed for these classes, '78, '83, '84, '85, '86, '90, '92, '94, '95, '99, '03-13. If you know of classmates or alumni who haven't received this newsletter, please let us know their addresses. Updates are also welcome. Contact ad-

resses are listed on page one. This information can be very helpful when planning a class reunion.

The contributions sent from those alumni who continue to receive the newsletter via the postal service are greatly appreciated. Suggested contribution is \$5 per year.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep Goessel Alumni informed, notify classes of

various events of interest surrounding Goessel High School, and receive information about the upcoming 2016 Alumni Homecoming event.

Goessel Alumni helps promote Goessel Community Foundation

Goessel Community Foundation members were joined by Goessel alumni, Lynn "Weirdwolf" Schmidt, '78, October 25 at a home football game to give away an autographed football. Contributors to the GCF Impact Fund were eligible to have a chance to win a Chiefs football autographed by Chiefs Quarterback, Alex Smith.

The Goessel Community Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life for people living in and around Goessel by providing financial support to non profit organizations that make a positive and meaningful impact in the community.

The board's goal is to raise \$217,000 by the year 2017.

There are several options for donors wishing to start a new fund. New funds can be established anonymously or named in memory or honor of a love one or influential person in the donor's life.

Please contact a board member for more information about how you can make a difference.



GCF Board members are Myron Schmidt, '65, Anita Goertzen, '79, (pictured above), Patsy Dirksen, '79, Karen Dalke, John Fast, and Cindy Wiens.

Teacher Highlights

Marvin Smith began his career as a teacher at Goessel in September, 1958. He began the year teaching one of Goessel High School's new subjects, chemistry. He also taught algebra and general math that first year. Eventually, he would add physics, biology and computer to his resume.

He grew up in Pawnee Rock and graduated from Pawnee Rock High School. After spending some time working on his father's farm, he decided to attend Bethel Col-

lege and graduated from Bethel in the spring of 1958.

Marvin Smith was a beloved science teacher who not only enjoyed teaching but also, was able to invoke an interest in science for many students.

His contributions are well remembered by many former students. He is remembered for his superb knowledge of the subjects taught and his excellent classroom presentations.

His teaching career ended

abruptly with his sudden death in July of 1983.



"Marvin could teach. He often reached the unreachable." Samuel Ulsaker, superintendent of schools, 1983 Bluebird Yearbook

Ray Rempel began his teaching career at Goessel Grade School in 1966. Currently he lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada. He was a teacher at Goessel from 1966 to 1972. I asked Ray to share some thoughts about his time at Goessel.

The first year I was at Goessel I taught 7th and 8th grade. After one year I graduated to the High School.

As a beginning teacher I was fortunate to have Ray Frey, Willard Linschied, and Rev. John Gaeddert as mentors. I thoroughly enjoyed teaching. Being a teacher provided me the opportunity to help the students produce plays like, *The Diary of Ann Frank*, *The Sound of Music*, *Winnie the Pooh*, and others.

We were fortunate to have a comprehensive group of very

talented students who thoroughly enjoyed and excelled in competitive debate and public speaking competitions. One highlight had to be Goessel's second place at the State's 1972 Debate Championships.

Besides the forensics and teaching, both the grade school and high school gave me the opportunity to do some coaching in athletics. I especially remember the eighth grade basketball team. What a great group of kids. As I recall, we even struck fear into the Moundridge coach and team.

In 1980 our family was crushed by the life altering bicycle/car crash that devastated our son, Jeremy's, life. Within a couple of years I was encouraged to begin and operate a brain injury association in Canada. By the 1990's Elsie and I had



started and operated a Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Long Term Living Program. (Jeremy became an International level Wheel Chair sprinter. He married his coach and they have two teenage boys.)

For many years my two serious interests have been Back Country camping and photography. A highlight for me at the age of 68 was spending a week hiking and camping along the Tonto Trail of the Grand Canyon.

A Publication from the
Alumni Association

Ilona Abrahams, Editor



Softball team. 1940-1941.
Mr. P. R. Kaufman, coach



Softball team. 1959-1960. Mr. Delmer Kaufman,
coach.

Softball was a long standing tradition at Goessel High School. The 1929 Bluebird yearbook, (the first one published), shows a team of eleven players. The last softball team was during the 1962-1963 school term. In the fall of 1963-1964, the Goessel High School Bluebirds competed for the first time in eight man football.

Alumni Association

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