



The Bluebird

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Homecoming Returns To GHS

What exactly is homecoming? The tradition of homecoming has its origin in alumni football games held at colleges and universities since the 19th century. By the 20th century high schools also began to celebrate homecoming. It is usually built around a central event, such as a football or basketball game. A variety of activities, that will boost school spirit, can be included.

The September 12, 1958, GHS BLUEBIRD Newsletter included an editorial about the possibility of a homecoming event. Opinions expressed in the editorial piece, suggested homecoming would provide the opportunity for former students to see each other again while watching a good ball game. Classes could hold reunion suppers, or refreshments could be served. The added attraction could also include a homecoming king and queen.

Most students agreed the homecoming should be put on the calendar and that student council representatives be responsible for the event. But it would be another five years until a homecoming event would be established.

Sometime during the fall of 1963 the student council decided to observe homecoming. Homecoming was observed in February during the Goessel-Hope Basketball game. Earlier the student body had voted for five girls with the basketball team voting by ballot for the queen.

“Girl of our Dream” was the theme. Twila Dirksen, Sheryl Ratzlaff, Carol Reimer, Eileen Schmidt, and Rita Schmidt were chosen as queen candidates, with Darla Vogt and Layne Reusser serving as crown bearers. Rita Schmidt was announced as the 1963 Goessel Basketball Queen and Larry Schmidt, basketball captain, escorted her to the throne on the stage.

Following the game, a reception was held in the study hall room, with the Goessel Pep Club hosting the Goessel student body and faculty.

Contact Information

alumni@usd411.org

Editor: Ilona Abrahams

Alumni Association
P.O. Box 68
Goessel, KS. 67053

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Homecoming Continued

Refreshments consisted of punch, crackers, cookies, and brownies. To dance or not to dance wasn't even a question at the time! Instead, a record player played popular music.

By 1965 student council had decided there would be a homecoming event for basketball and football. The first football homecoming was October 22, 1965.

For unknown reasons, the football homecoming event was dropped for the 1971-1972 school year. Instead, the evening of February 4 brought out a capacity crowd for the crowning of the All Sports Queen. Jane Voth was crowned by Darwin Funk, team captain. Attendants were; Kim Duerksen, Nancy Goertzen, Ilona Schmidt, and Linda Schroeder. Escorts were Gordon Schmidt, Bob Becker, Les Goerzen, and James Voth.

Following the homecoming game on January 14, 1977, the original gym (now auditorium) became the setting for the first homecoming dance in the history of GHS. Randy Gehring of McPherson was the DJ .

On December 22, 1978, an editorial suggests some students are feeling that homecoming has become a popularity contest, and some students are getting hurt in the process. A questionnaire is prepared by the BLUEBIRD staff and 92 percent of the total student body and teachers still feel homecoming should be observed. 77 percent feel they should still have a king and queen.

Using the results of the survey, homecoming is again celebrated on February 18, 1979. Candidates are chosen by the student body and a reception is planned.

Three years later in 1982, there are only five girls in the graduating class. The decision is made that all five girls will be candidates. A dance and reception follow the game.

The validity of homecoming is again discussed in January 1992. Some students question whether it is just a legitimized popularity contest with people voting for their friends. Regardless of the discussion, homecoming is held and alumni, parents, and friends are invited.

In February of 1993, the entire senior class is recognized instead of having a homecoming king and queen, (this may be the beginning of senior recognition). A dance follows the game.

Records get a bit sketchy after this, but it appears that homecoming is held one more time in 1995. Candidates are nominated by the senior class and chosen by the student body.

Friday, February 17, marks the return of homecoming to GHS. Students have been nominated, after which staff will review the nominations, based on academics, school spirit, embodiment of the school pillars, and involvement in school activities. After the teachers' evaluation and recommendation, the student body will have a final vote. Announcement of the GHS homecoming king and queen for 2023 will be made at halftime of the boy's basketball game. A dance will follow on Saturday, February 18, with Ryan Hoopes as D.J. A spirit week will be included the week prior.

Sometimes history actually does repeat itself. Sixty years after the first homecoming event and twenty-eight years after the last homecoming celebration, Goessel will once again see the presentation of a king and queen. Plan to attend the basketball game on February 17, 2023, and become part of Goessel High School History.



Left: 1963—First GHS Homecoming Event:

Geneva Schmidt, Carol Reimer, Queen: Rita Schmidt, Twila Dirksen, Sheryl Ratzlaff

Bottom: 1995—Last GHS Homecoming Event:

Lisa Karlsson, Shanna Unruh, Kim Csapo, Missy Crotinger, and Jeff Bose and Jeremy Janzen

A new approach was taken in 1979 when candidates were selected on the basis of their involvement in extra-curricular activities, such as Pep Club, Y-Teens, FFA, GTS, music and sports.



The Aromas of Lunch

Many of you will remember the aromas of lunch that permeated the halls of school as the cooks prepared lunches. The fresh bread and buns were and still are outstanding. Cinnamon rolls and bierocks right out of the oven are delicious. When I give tours, many alumni ask what type of meals are served. Goessel is one of the fortunate schools where cooks are still allowed to provide delicious home baked goodies. Cookies and bars are always a great way to end the meal. Below is one of the recipes from the kitchen of Goessel Elementary School.

Scotch Bars

2 c. flour	2 c. brown sugar
1/4 tsp. baking soda	2 T. hot water
1 tsp. baking powder	2 eggs, slightly beaten
1 tsp. salt	2 tsp. vanilla
1 c. chopped nuts	1 c. chocolate chips
2/3 c. shortening	

Sift together the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt. Add nuts. Set aside. Melt shortening, remove from heat and add brown sugar and water. Mix well and cool slightly. Add eggs, vanilla, add flour mixture a little at a time. Stir in chocolate chips. Place in 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Don't over bake.

Class Reunion Pictures

Four classes, 1967, 1971, 1972, and 1982, celebrated milestones last year. There may have been others. If you have met or will meet as a class feel free to send me a picture.



Class of 1967 celebrating 55 years



Teachers attending class of '72 reunion. L-R: Ray Rempel, Dave Smith, John Dyck, Chester Roberts, Lester Voth



Class of 1972 celebrating 50 years



Class of 1971 celebrating 50 years—1 year late because of Covid



Class of 1982 celebrating 40 years. Thank you, class of 1982 for your donation to the Alumni Association

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*Laverna Schroeder
Ediger—Class of 1942*

*Albert Loewen—Class
of 1944*