

# 'Dirty 30's' class celebrates 75 years

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Commencement exercises were held at the City School Auditorium on May 16 when the Class of 1935 graduated during the "Dirty 30's." This year is the 75th anniversary of the class.

Edna (Pavlicek) Mott of Oberlin will be the only member of the class at the alumni banquet on Saturday.



C. Smick

Valedictorian of the class was Sylvia Post and salutatorin, Vorris Reist. Honor students included: Elsie Cathcart, Naomi Diehl, Gwendolyn Dimmitt, Edna Pavlicek and Bernard Schreiber. Senator Glenn Logan of Topeka, a 1909 Oberlin graduate, gave the commencement address and Andy Harger presented the diplomas to 75 graduates.

Class officers were Vorris Reist, president; Gerald Van Vleet, vice president, Bernard Schreiber, secretary; Victor Claussen, treasurer; and Rex Gill, marshal. National Honor Society members included: Marjorie Everist, Vorris Reist, Lorraine Love and Gerald Van Vleet.

The football team in 1935 won the Northwest Kansas League. Russell Anderson was coach and assistant coaches were William Huey and Paul Sandy.

Edna Mott, the only member of the class still living in Oberlin, said, "I attended South Bethel country school. My brother, Ralph and I drove to high school, but our parents would not let us go if a storm was coming. Kenneth Monroe and his twin sisters also drove to school.

"I remember when I was a sophomore in high school, the city fattened two buffalo in a lot between Shields Implement Store and Dean and Clark Clothing Store and they had a buffalo roast before the football game with Atwood. It turned out to be a sad day for the whole community, however, after Mr. Smick, our superintendent, suffered a stroke during the football game and later died. He was very highly respected in the whole area"



**RETURNING FOR A CLASS REUNION** were members of the Class of 1935. They include, front row (from left) Geneva Counter Morford, Muriel Schmahl Thomas, Verein Rubendall Redman, Lorraine Love, Fern Fisher Shafer, \_\_\_ Elsie Wurm Hayes, Elsie Cathcart Robinson. Second row: Lyle McGee, Doreen Nitsch Frickey, Edith Miller Bremer,

Iris Fournier Wurm, Irel Muller Lohofener, Leona Uehlin Smith Kolsky, Edna Pavlicek Mott, Verda Van Vleet Walker. Row 3: Carl Frickey, Dorce Hayes, Walter Moore, Marjorie Everist Nitsch, Doris Willcoxon Brown.

"When I enrolled for school, I wanted to take a sewing and cooking class, but those classes were full so I took bookkeeping, shorthand and typing instead. After graduation, I still wanted to teach so I took a post-graduate course in Normal Training, which included six courses and was taught by Miss Elvin. After completing the course, I taught country schools for five years.

"I remember during the "Dirty 30s" when school closed one time on April Fool's Day. We didn't know if that was an April Fool's joke or really a day off. Sometimes when someone was driving with a team and wagon, the dirt was so bad, they would have to let the horses take them home."

In February 1935, *The Oberlin Herald* reported the worst dust storm on record.

Music was also a big part of the school's curriculum. At the annual winter concert among

those participating were Bernice Rubendall, solo; Norton Kessler and Elaine Guinn, saxophone duet, and Roy Cody, trombone solo.

Among top wrestlers were "Jiggs" Van Vleet, Townsend, Cody, Redman and Montgomery.

## Welcome

In honor of Decatur Community High School alumni weekend, the staff at The Oberlin Herald has teamed up with graduates and businesses to offer an alumni section.

The section features stories on the 10-year anniversary classes starting with 1935 and ending with 2000.

On the cover is the class picture of the 1935 class, which is also included in the section.

This is the 75th anniversary for the class.

Thanks to all the graduates for sharing their old pictures and memories of high school with the staff at the newspaper and to the businesses who sponsored the section.

A special thanks to Tim Davis, who sold the ads, Mary Lou Olson and Kimberly Davis, for writing and putting the section together.

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