

# Alumni are reminded of how things were back then

ASSEMBLY, from Page 1

Stooges were portrayed by Kyle Whisler, Luke Stone and Jason Showalter.

In the 1940s, The Andrews Sisters were a popular musical group trying to keep people's minds off the biggest event of the decade, World War II. Veterans of that war and others were honored after the '40s presentation with singing of the National Anthem and Jason Showalter's speech, "What Price Freedom."

Janet Redlin sang Faith Hill's song "There You'll Be" and "Taps" was played to conclude the remembrance of veterans.

Patsy Cline, country diva of the '50s, was portrayed by Andra Townsend, who sang "Crazy." Rodney Corke as Elvis Presley sang "Jailhouse Rock" and Josh Vignery performed "Great Balls of Fire" as Jerry Lee Lewis.

Bonnie Neville, Larry Scott, Patti Thompson, Dee Gard, Leonard and Lorna Nelson, Max and Ruth Ann Jewell, Ron and Judi Vignery and Eldon and Joy Boyington danced to "Rock Around the Clock" and did the Bunny Hop.

Inventions from the '50s included power steering, the automatic transmission and frozen "TV dinners." Playboy was a new magazine and the first sex-change operation was reported.

The hot spot in Goodland was Steiner's Drive-In, and in '56, the senior class got in trouble for having a cowchip-throwing contest. Girls could wear jeans to school on Thursdays only. Babysitters made 50 cents an hour and read the children to sleep with "The Cat In the Hat."

Alaska and Hawaii became the 49th and 50th states in the '50s. The deaths of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper in a plane crash came at the end of the decade.

Dale Schields as Ed Sullivan led the audience through the '60s on the "Ed

Sullivan Show." Guests were Don McKenzie as Chubby Checker, Gary Schields as Roy Orbison, Andra Townsend, Holly Stephens and Lacy Stephens as Diana Ross and the Supremes and the Goodland High X-Pressos.

Dale Stephens did stand-up comedy as John Wayne and Kathy Bahe as Nancy Sinatra sang "These Boots are Made for Walking."

In the '60s, Elvis was discharged from the Army, astronauts became the new heroes, John F. Kennedy became president and was assassinated, and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated.

The football and basketball teams from Goodland High that competed at state championships in the '60s were honored and alumni were reminded of the Goodland Drive-In movie theater.

"Ed Sullivan" asked, "Who remembers the Goodland Drive-in? Who actually watched a movie there? Who snuck in in the trunk of a friend's car? That's my school!"

The Goodland Sals, a former pep club, was represented by Michelle Coash, Jeanette Bogart, Sarah Melia and Terri Richardson and the 2002 Jumpin' Juniors performed.

Members of host families for foreign exchange students and other volunteers displayed flags of the countries that have sent exchange students to the Sherman County schools.

All in the Family was a hit television show in the '70s, making Archie and Edith Bunker fixtures in living rooms all over the country. Robert Kinderknecht, Joan Beal and Karen Amos did a skit of the show with classic lines, like Archie telling Edith to stifle and making fun of Gloria's husband Mike.

Josh Vignery and Eric Stefan did a skit of Cheech and Chong and were joined by Shad Sheldon to sing "Long Train Runnin'" as the Doobie Brothers. A streaker interrupted their program, which was common in the '70s.

Other memories from the decade included M\*A\*S\*H, John Denver, Howard Cosell, Grisswald Vacation and "Saturday Night Fever."

The Cowgirls were added to Goodland High, as the '70s saw the beginning of the girls' athletic program.

Rollie Hallagin as David Letterman hosted "Late Night" to lead the audience through the years 1980-2001.

"Letterman" began the program with, "Welcome on this fine Kansas day! Be good to me or I'll shut off the air conditioner."

But the air conditioner was already off, as he acknowledged when he told the crowd, "Michael Jackson had to cancel his performance today because he heard the heat in the fieldhouse is so bad it will melt plastic."

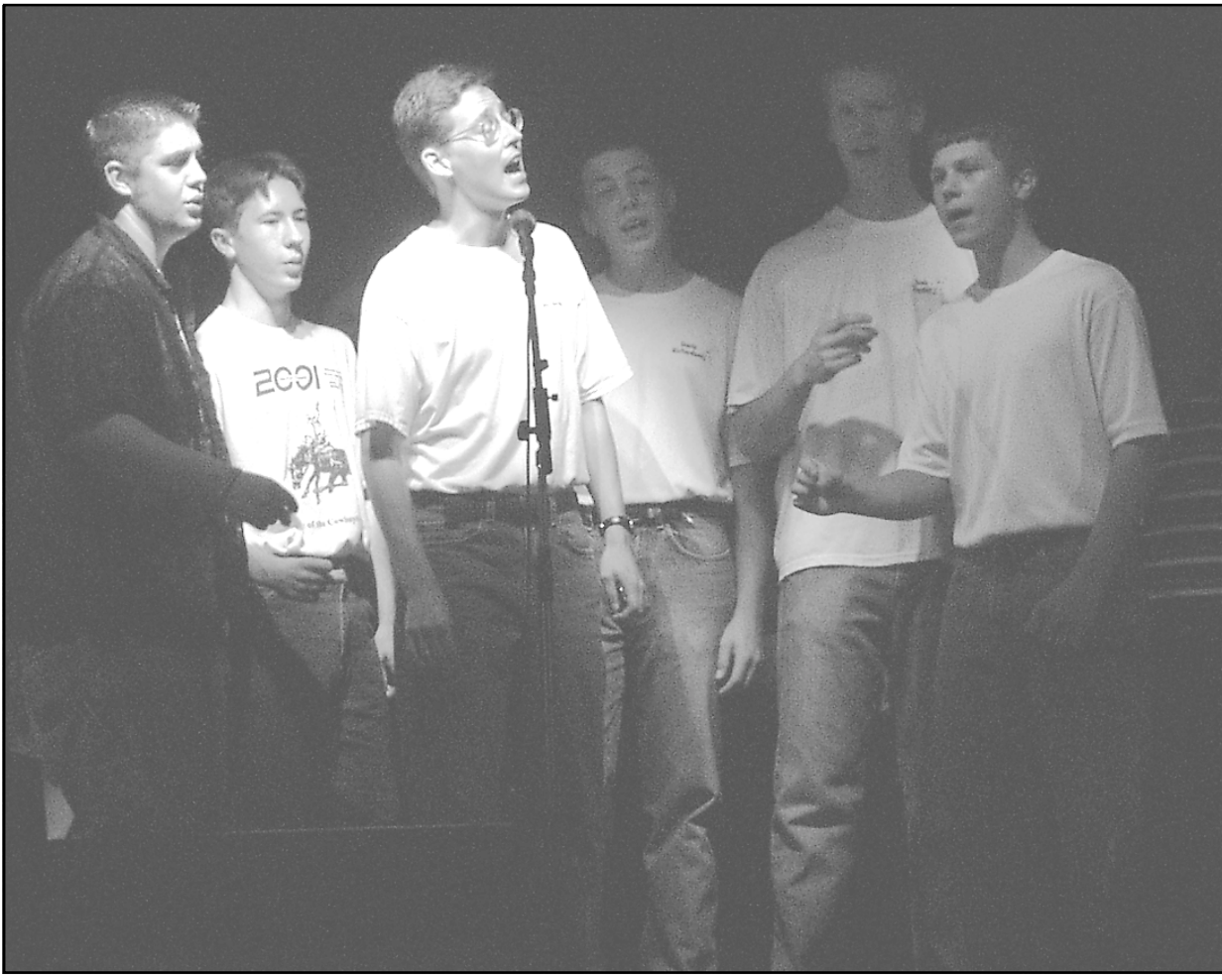
"Letterman" had as guests Renee Braun as Madonna; Sandy Trachsel, Angie Winter and Barb Bedore as the Flash Dancers; and Seth Hayden and Jeff Vignery as Maverick and Goose from "Top Gun." Jessica Kashka sang "Heaven is a Place on Earth" as Belinda Carlisle and Deedi Hoss sang "My Heart Will Go On" as Celine Dion.

Danny Mangus as Garth Brooks sang "Friends in Low Places" and Carol McClure and Russell Withers portrayed Monica Lewinsky and Bill Clinton.

The audience was reminded of the tragedies of the Challenger explosion and Princess Diana's death in a car crash and the disaster of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Happier times remembered were East and West Germany uniting, Mark McGwire's home run record and the glorious wedding in the early '80s of Diana to Prince Charles, making her a very popular princess.

Of course "Letterman" had one of his famous Top Ten Lists — the top 10 reasons you know you are at the Sherman County Reunion.: average alumnae's weight drops by seven pounds, the hot spot in town is painted



Director Randy Berls led the X-Pressos in singing '60s songs at the Reunion Assembly on Saturday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

pink and turquoise, you hear for the 1,000th time, "You haven't changed a bit" and the No. 1 reason, "Graduates, can you spell alcohol!"

A crash was heard backstage and

"Letterman" asked, "Did someone kick the bucket back there?"

"Sorry folks," he said, "just the cleanup crew."

With that, Alumni Association Presi-

dent Barb Whisler came on to the stage decked out as a maid in a gingham dress with a bucket, mop and duster. Then the program concluded with the X-Pressos singing "Celebration."

## Reunion considered success

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ful. "It was outstanding," she said. "I think everyone enjoyed themselves and I've heard nothing but compliments."

Association members feared road construction around Goodland, which has blocked off all but one main entrance to downtown, would cause major traffic problems and frustrate alumni. Whisler said most out-of-town alumni didn't mind the inconvenience, though, because it means progress for their hometown.

"I didn't hear any negative comments," she said, noting that people from bigger cities said they are used to traffic and construction.

"To them it was like, 'This is just a part of progress,'" Whisler said.

She said many parents who took their children to Steever Water Park, which opened in the spring, were impressed with the new facility. Others wanted to see a picture of what Pioneer Park, planned for west of where a new road will connect Cherry Avenue and Business U.S. 24, will look like.

"I told them to come back in five years and see it," Whisler said.

Someone else will be responsible for reunion activities then, though.

Whisler said a new Alumni Association president and officers will be elected this summer and take over in January. The association's next project, she said, is organizing the annual Homecoming parade in September.

## Treasurer may run for govenor

TOPEKA (AP) — A county treasurer who won a lawsuit allowing her to post "In God We Trust" signs in her office says she might run for governor.

Shawnee County Treasurer Rita Cline says she will form an exploratory committee to see if she has enough statewide support for the run.

## County to look at fixing leaking roof

Sherman County commissioners will consider what to do with the leaking roof of the old Southwestern Bell Building at Tuesday's regular meeting, and talk with Joseph Fuentez, new Good Samaritan Center administrator, about the replacement of a building behind the center.

Curt Way, road and bridge supervisor, plans to update the commissioners on the fencing at the new landfill and the sale of a 1984 service truck and will ask for a closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

The commissioners will also

consider the emergency medical training contract as proposed by Jay Jolly, administrator of the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. in the commissioner room on the main floor of the Sherman County Courthouse, Eighth and Broadway.

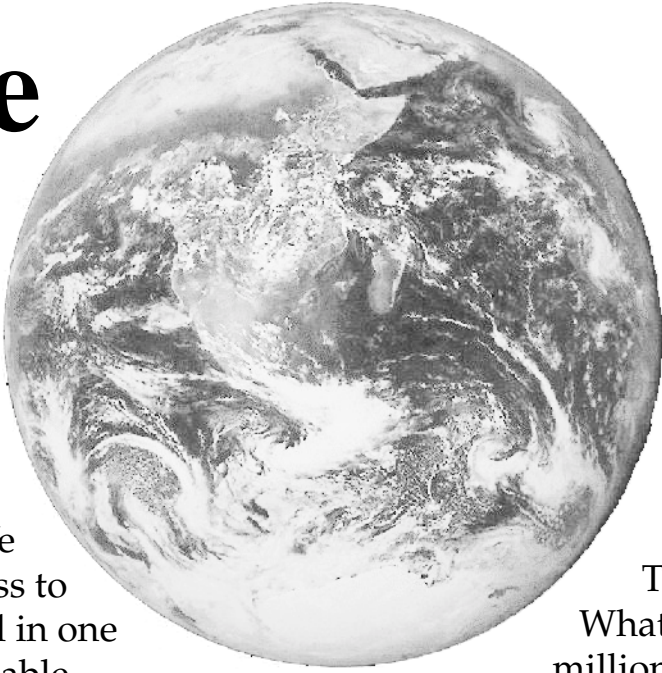
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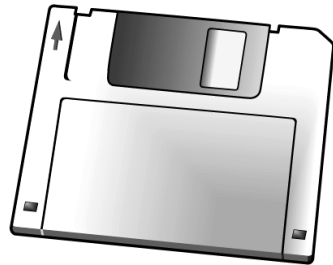
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