

'52 class celebrates 60 years

By MARY LOU OLSON
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"Sixty years ago! Wow! It seems like only yesterday," said Mary Banta Brown. "Most of my memories of Oberlin are very happy ones. I was so fortunate to grow up in a community where everyone nurtures their children and places such a high importance on family and neighbors.

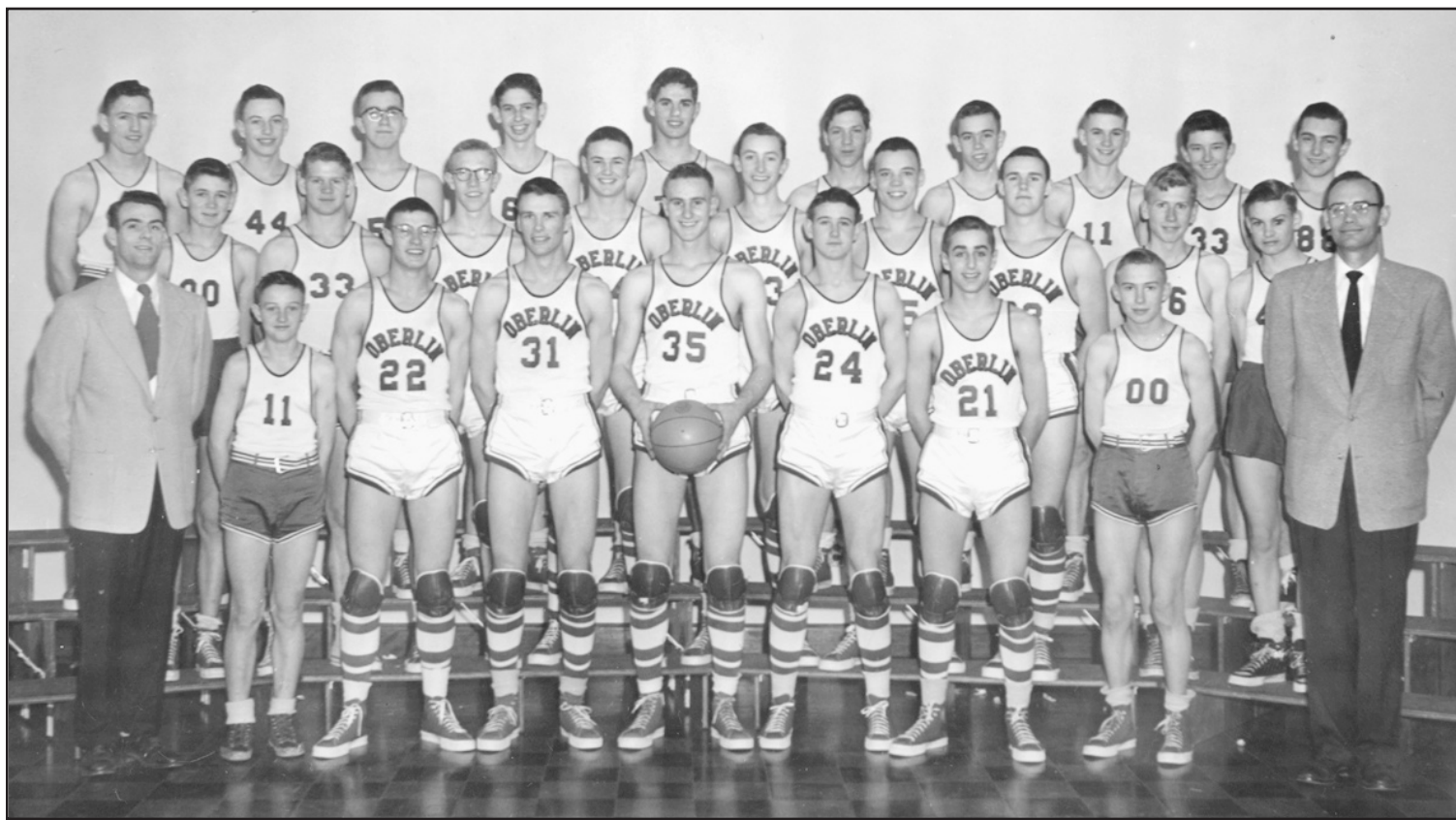
"One memory I will never forget evolved in what I will call a 'clash of cultures.' We had a newlywed teacher move to Oberlin and someone decided it would be an excellent idea to 'charivari' them. Apparently the couple had never heard of this custom before and were very frightened when suddenly all these high school students invaded their little apartment. Afterwards, Mr. Mahon insisted that some of us go back and personally apologize to them and take responsibility for our actions. It was a lesson I never forgot.

"I also recall getting into trouble with the football coach on several occasions for inviting friends to come down to my Dad's office at the Oberlin Milling Company for fun and dancing. I guess the players had a curfew or something."

A classmate, Shirley Castle Ward added, "There were a lot of us from the country who stayed in town in the 1952 class because there were very few who had cars. We roomed with a bunch of girls and there were no girls' athletics, except for intramural sports and we never played other schools.

"I will always remember one teacher, Luther Colyer, who helped those who were dumb in science by tutoring science classes after school. He not only gave of his time, but also had other smarter kids help. That was the one single thing that helped me get through nurses training in Denver, and I worked in the profession for 55 years before retiring last year.

"All of the classes studied together in study hall and one day when I was still a shy freshman, Neal "Tiny" Chambers picked up one of my shoes that I had taken off under the table and



THE 1951-'52 BASKETBALL TEAM included Row 1, (from left) Coach Jack Hague, Donald Musgrave, Allen Hooper, Carl Neff, Eldon Mrstik, Darrel Youngs, Bob Brown, Gary Soderlund, Coach Bill Cummins. Row 2, Lemoine Galusha, Lawrence Weaver, Gary Coulter, Stanley Moore, Ben Spiers, John Cederberg, Sam Yancey, Ray Kennedy, Don Lawson. Row 3, Alvin Johnson, Wilbur Baker, Dan Miller, Willard Shaw, Dee Fortin, Robert Corcoran, LeRoy Hoehner, Rex Moore, Dick Kelley and Robert Morris.

threw it out the window onto the lawn. I was mortified when I had to go out and get it!

"The place to be on Saturday night was Aunt Ettie's, where you could get one of her delicious hamburgers, add catsup, mustard, onion and dill pickles and if you wanted a pop, it came in a big bottle for a nickel!

"It was a different time and we were different people then. We were coming off of World War II and we were poor."

Classmates Dorene Pollnow and Everett Shuler said they met during their freshman year and dated throughout high school.

"It was an exciting time for country kids," Mrs. Shuler said. "Carl Neff and Everett came to high school from Northern Valley in Prairie Dog township and my sister, Melvalyn, and I came from Walnut Grove School, west of town, for the seventh grade.

"Everett and I spent a lot of time together, enjoying sports and movies at the Chief Theater.

Lloyd Moody, the ag teacher, was Everett's favorite and he helped him to become a successful farmer and rancher. Ruth Engelland taught home ec and she and Gertrude Railsback were favorites of mine. We retired in 2004 and moved to Oberlin and have been sweethearts for 64 years."

Carl Neff added, "Many rural students stayed in town for the week and rented bedrooms or basements as few students had cars to drive. I stayed in George Wurm's basement with five other guys. George would have to make a visit to the basement once in awhile to visit with us and we really had many good times.

"I always enjoyed sports but had only played baseball and softball in the summer. It was quite an experience for me to be in organized sports and I went out for them with a passion. I was on the basketball team my freshman year and we went to state which was a major experience.

"I have many memories of attending DCHS but I think the many friends I made from classmates, through sports from other towns and the people of this area have been with me all my life. I recall experiences with these friends, and as you grow older I think stories have grown, and you forget some facts, but the enjoyment of discussion is something we all appreciate."

The wrestlers in 1952 won the Northwest Kansas League championship with firsts by Neil and Dale Votapka and Arnold and Doyle Morton. Charlie Lyons was the wrestling coach. The team placed second at state and Dale Votapka was state champ for the third year in a row. Bill Cummins was the basketball coach and the team won subregional.

Commencement was held on May 14 with 57 seniors. Howard Banta presented the diplomas. Carroll Chambers was valedictorian and Billie McClure, salutatorian. Honor students were Ruth Addleman and Arnold Morton.

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