

Fashion was tops for class of 1962

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Their senior year started Sept. 1, 1961, for the Class of 1962. Lunch prices were 25 cents per day if paid at least one week in advance. If you paid by the day, meals were 30 cents each and there was no credit.

The class started out with 57 members bringing the total high school enrollment to 243. The class would contain 50 by the time they reached graduation in May of 1962.

Fashion seemed to be high on everyone's list of memories from the Class of 1962.

Cheryl (Koehler) Votapka remembers it was the age of the bobbysoxers. That meant girls wore dresses or skirts with layers and layers of can-can petticoats. That also included penny-loafers and saddle shoes. Hair-dos for the girls were a mixture of bouffant and ponytails. For the boys it would be a crew-cut or maybe a duck-tail. After someone watched American Bandstand and saw boys roll the cuffs of their long-sleeved shirt up on the inside instead of the outside, that became the rage.

Claar's Clothing Store offered a Toni Todd coat dress for \$9.98.

One time some of the girls wore sweatshirts to school advertising the college they planned to attend after high school. They got called to the principal's office. She said nothing happened to them, but they had a good scare.

Crichton Roberts recalled specific dress rules for boys. He said during his sophomore or junior year, school administrators decided that if a boy wore trousers to school that had belt loops, he must wear a belt. Mr. Roberts said the next day almost every boy came to school wearing blue jeans with the

belt loops cut off. He said another time it was decided that on Fridays boys would have to wear white shirts and neckties. In an act of mini-rebellion they wore the neckties all right, but with a plain white T-shirt.

That school year Dress-Up Day was Dec. 22, the last day of school before Christmas break. All students and teachers were to wear their "good" clothes.

Sharon (Bryan) Slabaugh was among the country kids who rented rooms in town during the week, going home on weekends.

Senior Carolyn McCartney was homecoming queen. Her court was seniors Mary Anderson, Marlene Brown, Pam Banta and Connie Sue Pollnow. Barbara (Jeffus) Young was the 10-year queen.

Like classes before, the Class of 1962 took driver's education during their freshman year with Gertrude Railsback as their teacher. Students were excused from school when it was their turn to drive around town. The actual instructor in the car was a senior. The car they trained in had a push-button gear shift.

Mrs. Railsback was also the debate and speech teacher. Charles Frickey remembers one trip to a tournament when she got a traffic ticket going through Hoxie.

Some of the other teachers fondly remembered by the class were Letha Schoeni, math; Eugene Oshima, science; Daryl Parker, history; Robert Friend, English; and Martha Nemeth, business.

Mrs. Votapka said electric typewriters were brand new and the school only had one or two in the typing classroom. She said the students had to take turns switching from the manual to electric.



HOMEcomings ROYALTY of 1962 (left to right) Pam Banta, Marlene Brown, Queen Carolyn McCartney, Mary Anderson and Connie Pollnow. Escorts (left to right) Jack Wesch, Jon

Peters, Ron Erickson, crown bearer unknown, Howard Kuhn, Steve Cathcart and Charles Frickey.

Mr. Frickey remembered the time the entire physics class had an evening study time to work on problems. He said they all had the wrong answer.

Music and dances were always a big part of high school life. Teen Club celebrated its second anniversary with Carolyn McCartney as president. Club was held at the American Legion and Les Walters would teach the members some of the old folk dances like the polka, the shottish, the grand march and the flying Dutchman. It was always lots of fun.

Music listened to included some country and western. But the stations tuned in by every kid in the county had to be KOMA out of Oklahoma City. Some of the favorite artists were Buddy Holly, the Everly Brothers, Fats Domino, Fabian and Frankie Avalon.

Mrs. Slabaugh said she was in love with Elvis.

Mr. Simpson was the wrestling coach and Oberlin took sixth place at state. Mike Mahart took third place at

120 pounds.

Pam Banta was the leader of The Decatettes drill team. Other seniors on the team were Susan Ridgway and Carolyn McCartney.

Prom theme was "Arivederci Roma". Jane Magers was queen and Steve Cathcart, king. Jim Bryan was the prom marshal.

One of the movies playing that year at the Chief Theatre was "Butterfield 8." It starred Elizabeth Taylor and came with a warning: "It's for adults. It's not for children."

Other socializing happened at the Jayhawk Cafe for an after-school cherry Coke and French fries or at the Eckhardt Teen Center on U.S. 36.

Mr. Frickey recalls times of just hanging around or studying at someone's house. He said there may have been some mischief, but never anything destructive.

Mr. Roberts remembers when a teacher's little foreign car was carried up the steps of the school and placed crosswise in front of the double

doors and another time some female undergarments were run up the flagpole. There were the usual drag races from the entrance of Sappa Park to the bridge just west, about a quarter mile. He said there was lots of rubber marks on the road, but no crashes to speak of.

The Class of '62 contained many students who excelled academically and in leadership. Ralph Unger was FFA president and placed first out of 1,000 who took the information portion of the FFA leadership school. Mrs. Votapka received the state degree, the highest possible in FFA. Charles Frickey and Pam Banta earned I ratings at state speech contest; Ralph Unger got a III and Nancy Claar was eligible to go but was ill. Mr. Frickey was a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. He scored the highest mark ever attained by an Oberlin student. He was also named valedictorian with Judy Brown taking the salutatorian slot.

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