

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge-1861



The 60th Anniversary of the Class of 1954

This month marks the 60th anniversary of Indian Hill High School's first graduating class. On June 10, 1954, the very first commencement ceremony was held for the Senior Class of the newly formed Indian Hill Exempted Village School.

In earlier decades, Indian Hill students attended school at Jefferson School, Concord School, Remington School or Camp Dennison School until 8th grade and then were transported to Madeira, Terrace Park, or Walnut Hills for their high school years. Some even went to local private schools. But in the 1950s and 1960s the Village was growing rapidly, and a Better Schools Committee was formed to try to construct a new school for the Village – a new school that would go through Grade 12. First the Committee successfully campaigned to replace some reluctant members of the Board of Education. Then they sought a bond to build the new school. The bond issue squeaked by with less than a 5 vote margin. The land was acquired and the new school was built on Drake Road. It opened its doors in 1950. (The school was located where the current Elementary School is now.) Then it became an Exempted School District, allowing the Board to maintain local control. The first year there were classrooms to accommodate grades 1-9. Each year an additional room was added to the

school until there were 12 rooms and a gymnasium.

The 27 students in the Class of '54 were the first freshman class in the then new building. Class officers were Gary Baker, President; Gretchen Rosenstiel, Vice President; Ann Copher, Secretary; and Helen Seemeyer, Treasurer. The faculty was comprised of 14 teachers and Mrs. Zura J. Patrick was the Principal. Board of Education members included Mr. C.M. Patrick, Superintendent; Mr. Vernon Hoffman, President; Mr. Stanley Rowe, Jr., Vice-President; and Mr. Fred W. Wilkening, Clerk. Board members at large were Mr. D. F. Howe, Mr. Ray Saffer, and Mr. James G. Headley.

The Senior Class produced a Class Play which was performed in December 1953 and entitled "Easy Money". Eleven students, or 40% of the class, participated under the eye of Director Miss Josephine Weber. Most likely the play was based on the poplar radio series of that year, which traced the exploits and adventures of a detective who sets out to right the wrongs committed by corrupt people.

Many wonderful traditions were started that year. The class had a motto: "They who think they can". They also had an official class flower, the red rose. The first Pow Wow was also held in 1954 with a student written script and a variety show format.

End of the year festivities were special events for the graduating seniors. The official schedule for the 1954 Junior- Senior Prom made it evident that prom was a truly memorable night.

Baccalaureate was held at Armstrong Chapel. Local ministers participated in the Commencement. The Reverend Paul Vandergriff gave the Invocation, and The Reverend Luther Tucker gave the Benediction.

Though many years have passed, the Class of 1954 started customs which continue today. The excellent standards for which the Indian Hill Exempted Village School is currently revered were established by the students, faculty and Board members of those early years. They were guided by the philosophy that schools must be an integral part of the community, and that belief still exists today.

Indian Hill Prom Schedule - 1954

- 9:00 p.m. Indian Hill Auditorium transformed into a Ship Passing a South Sea Island ~ Music by Gene Hessler Orchestra
- 1:00 a.m. Cruise of the Ohio River on the Johnson Party Boat
- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Locke