



THE ALUMNI MENTOR

Volume 2 Spring 2007 Numer 1

President's Message



We are happy to report that the Indian Mosaic restoration project has been completed by MHS graduate Rick

Weisbender ('77) and installed on the wall in the main foyer of the high school as a centerpiece for the Manhattan Alumni Wall of Fame display. MHS Principal, Terry McCarty, sees the project "as a way of bringing together students and alumni to help preserve history and tradition for our high school".

We currently have over 450 members in our Manhattan High School Alumni Association with members spanning 80 years, from the class of 1925 through the class of 2005. Our congratulations to the class of 1957 who leads the way with 30 members followed closely by the class of 1955 with 29 members and the class of 1958 with 27 members.

Manhattan, while growing, still maintains the great quality of life and education that each graduate enjoyed while attending Manhattan High School. We welcome all MHS graduates across the country and around the world to consider coming home to Manhattan to work or retire. Manhattan was recently selected as a top ten community nationwide for young retirees. If you currently live in Manhattan invite a fellow grad to return home.

In closing, let me remind each of you to mark September 18, 2007 as the date of Manhattan High School Alumni Association Annual meeting and election of officers and directors.

Dave Fiser, MHSAA President

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Indian Restoration:



Left, MHSAA President Dave Fiser shakes hands with Rick Weisbender MHS grad and craftsman who restored the Indian Mosaic Pat Berry, Rick's Partner who helped with the work, looks on.

MHS Grad Rick Weisbender, Class of 1977, knew exactly what it took to restore the Indian Mosaic to its once-great glory. He's found the right material, cut new patterns and has seen the work to completion. The Indian Mosaic is again in a place of honor at the MHS West Campus, thanks to Rick and his friend and helper, Pat Barry. Be sure to stop when you are in town for a class reunion this summer - or just stop by and see it!

The proud chief, who once graced floor and gym wall, will now anchor our new MHSAA Wall of Fame. Made from carefully cut floor tiles, as is the original, Rick and Pat searched to find matching colors, which wasn't easy 50 years after the original creation. They have done a remarkable job. Where the new colors differ will serve to remind us of this patient and painstaking work.

continued on page 2, bottom

Fall Meeting Tues, Sept 18 Elections, Indian mosaic and Wall of Fame dedication

We will elect our first full slate of officers under our new by laws at this Sept 18 meeting, according to plans laid by the MHSAA Board of Directors. The Sept 18 meeting will be held at the MHS West Campus, with a reception and dedication ceremony for the restored Indian Mosaic and Wall of Fame from 6-7pm, followed by the General Meeting and Election of Officers at 7:00pm. Please turn to page 10 for the proposed slate of officers for 2008-2010, along with the details of the election and the composition of the Nominating Committee.

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Manhattan High School Alumni Association

"Enhancing Manhattan High School and its graduates through life-long involvement."

Board of Directors

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The Alumni Mentor:

Janet (Krider) Duncan '58

Webmaster: Stuart Parsons '70,

MHSAA Web site:
www.mhsalumniassociation.org

Postal Mailing Address:

MHSAA
P.O. Box 1102
Manhattan, KS 66502 -1102

Change Of Information?

If you've had a change of:

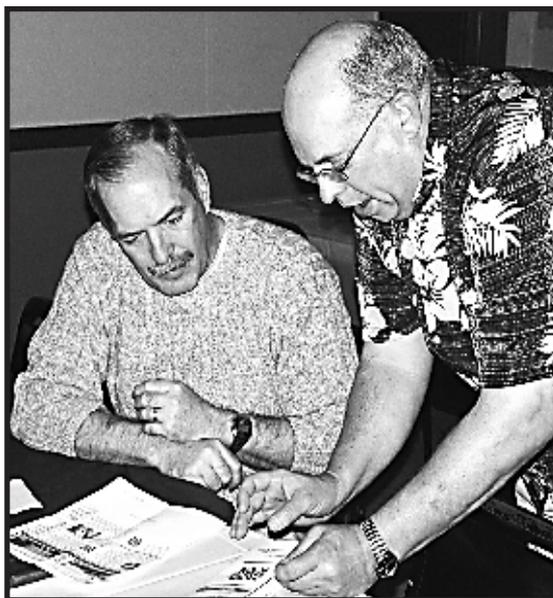
Mailing Address
Phone number
Email address

or would like to send us a donation (read further for specific projects,) please send this information to the MHSAA Treasurer, Pat Duncan '59 at either the above MHSAA mailing address or to PatDuncan@aol.com

You have already noticed our new format for The Alumni Mentor. Thanks to a suggestion by MHSAA Director Ned Seaton, we are now having your Association newsletter printed by the Manhattan Mercury at a considerable printing savings over our previous format. We would like to thank the crew at Copy Kats, who were more than helpful with our first issues. But with what we hope will be a growth in the number of issues we print, we want to make the best use of our members money.

MHSAA also owes a big thank you to the USD 383 Foundation for their generous gift of \$500 to help defray printing costs for The Alumni Mentor. In order to use this new format, we have had to buy new software, so this gift immediately came in handy. A learning curve, coupled with the organizing necessary for our still-new Association to prepare for its first general election, has delayed the publication of this issue of The Alumni Mentor beyond the date we would have preferred, and for that we trust you will be understanding.

Other changes will be coming in the Information area of MHSAA, as we thank John King '57 for all the work he's put into our MHSAA web site. We wouldn't have a web site without John King! John has regretfully resigned his duties as Webmaster as well as his seat on the Board, but we are very pleased to welcome our new MHSAA Webmaster, Stuart Parsons '70. Welcome Stuart! Stuart is pictured below, together with outgoing Membership Chair Tim Duncan '66. Stuart has nice things planned for the web site, so tune in over the summer. Tim, too, has done a superb Membership job, including designing new brochures to promote MHSAA at reunions, Tim will continue to work with the Membership committee.



From left: Stuart Parsons '70, new MHSAA Webmaster and Tim Duncan '66 Membership

From the Editor



We are extremely pleased to welcome new writers to The Alumni Mentor. Pat Dougherty '57 has provided two stories for this issue, and Jodie (Morrison) Kaus '87, will give The Alumni Mentor's coverage and background stories of USD 383 Foundation activities. Barbara (MacFarlane) Howe '58 has compiled the column from current MHS Mentors to keep you abreast of activities and attitudes at MHS. And a huge thank you to Pat Duncan, '59, Barb (MacFarlane) Howe '58, Monty Williamson '58, and Karen Williamson for their painstaking proofreading help.

Now, if there are any aspiring photographers, editors, writers, etc in our membership who'd like to give a hand - please call me: Janet (Krider) Duncan '58 785-776-8101, or email bullbox@aol.com

A correction is in order to a front page caption in our last issue: Roger Reitz '51, MHSAA Wall of Fame 2006, IS from the MHS Class of 1951, The Class of '52, as I incorrectly tagged him, would happily claim him but I know the Class of 1951 will not give him up.

And while I'm on the subject of the Wall of Fame, now is the time for each of you to think about who you want to nominate for this honor for 2007. I overheard a comment that Manhattan isn't all about athletics and politics, even while the speaker wasn't denying that our first four Wall of Famers are very deserving. I know we have actors and authors, scientists and scholars, musicians and military strategists in our MHS family; write them up and send them in!

Janet (Krider) Duncan '58

Restoration Continued from page 1

of restoration. When you see it, look to see which feathers Rick patterned, cut new and inserted and which are the originals. (A photo of the original Indian in the floor can be seen on class of '69's website; you can find a link to it on our MHSAA website.)

Wall of Fame 2006

Off And Running

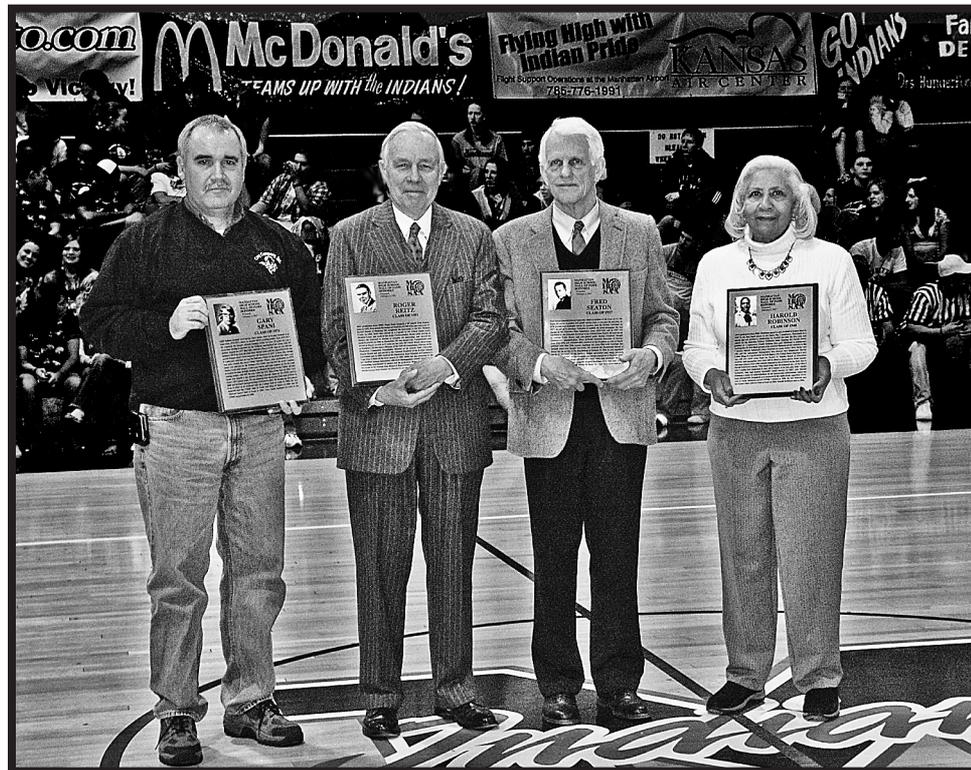
By Dan Hall, Committee Chairman.

As a group of mature accomplished individuals, what can we do to help motivate and inspire the future members of our organization? The MHSAA Wall of Fame! Not only will the Wall of Fame honor and publicly recognize MHS Alumni who have "made a name" for themselves, this permanent display at the MHS West Campus will hopefully provide some direction for our current and future Manhattan High School students. Something that they can aspire to.

Do you know of someone worthy of this honor? Please complete a Wall of Fame Nomination Form (a blank copy is on the last page in this newsletter) and forward it to MHSAA on or before August 1st!

Don't know all the requested information? Complete what you know, and together we can fill in the blanks. Obviously the individuals "distinguished service" is the key element that must be provided with the initial nomination form.

Remember, all significant accomplishments and contributions in all areas of life are eligible for recognition. The butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker are all included - not to mention a myriad other talents for which MHS students are and have become known. The MHSAA Wall of Fame Committee will review all applications and recommend nominations for the Wall of Fame to the Board of Directors. The Board will make the final decisions. Applications from one year which are not selected may be held over to be reviewed again the following year at the discretion of the Board and Committee. Please turn to page 11 and nominate a friend or family member, someone from your class, someone you know, someone you are proud to say is an MHS Graduate!



From right to left, accepting the Wall of Fame plaques for the MHSAA Class of 2006 Honorees, on the floor of the MHS gym: Mrs Ann Robinson, wife of Harold Robinson; Richard Seaton, nephew of Fred Seaton; Roger Reitz; Mike Motely; class of 1974, accepting for Gary Spani.

Reception and ceremony at MHS West Campus by Dan Hall '70

The first annual MHSAA Wall of Fame ceremony was held at Manhattan High School on Friday, February 2, 2007. A public reception for the Wall of Fame Honorees was held in the cafeteria before the induction ceremony. The formal presentation took place

on the floor of the North Gym at half time of the MHS Girls varsity basketball game, where our 4 inaugural selections were recognized: Fred Seaton, MHS 1927; Harold Robinson, MHS 1948; Roger Reitz, MHS 1951; and Gary Spani, MHS 1974.



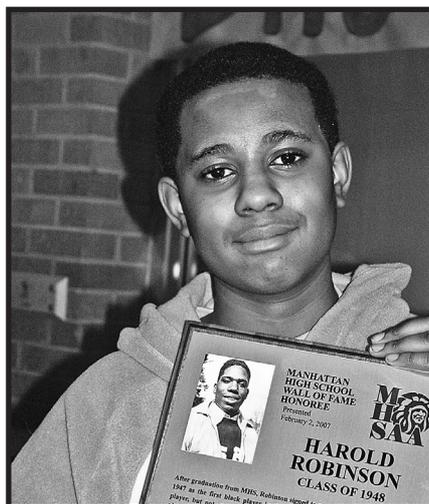
Above: welcome Alums to the north gym



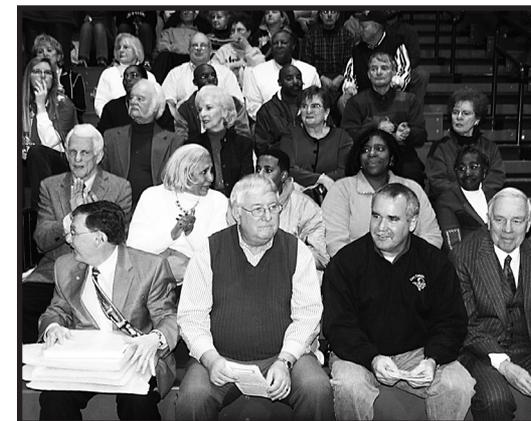
Above: Supt Shannon, rt and MHSAA member Gerry Walton welcome the family of Harold Robinson.

Please Donate
Please Donate
Please Donate
Please Donate

We are still in need of DONATIONS to the RESTORE THE INDIAN FUND! Please contribute to your Alumni Association's successful effort to keep this piece of MHS tradition as a part of our high school, please send your donations to:
MHSAA RESTORE THE INDIAN
P.O. BOX 1102
Manhattan, KS 66505-1102



Above: Jonathan Robinson with his grandfather's plaque.



Above MHSAA crowd awaits game 1/2 time.

AGNES BANE CHARTIER

by Pat Dougherty '57

Agnes Mertina was born to DeWitt and Emily Louisa (Wells) Bane in Stevens County, Kansas, September 8, 1907. She was the last and latest addition to her seven older brothers and sisters, born six years after the next youngest, Ralph and just in time for the marriage of her oldest sister, Eva Pearl, her senior by 22 years. Agnes will be 100 years old, and is, so far as is known, the oldest living graduate of Manhattan High.

DeWitt Bane, called "Witt" by friends, placed great importance on ownership of land and education. He moved the family to Manhattan in 1921 for the sake of better educating his children; for the same reason. Agnes graduated from MHS four years later in the spring of 1925. The Banes' moved into a big new house at 1223 Bluemont where Witt would live out the rest of his life, dying in 1961 at the age of 102.

Agnes, now living in a retirement home in Leawood, near her son Larry, remains of sound mind and strong constitution. She has always been a strong person even though she was on the "wiry" side during her high school days weighing not much more than 65 pounds when she arrived in Manhattan. Along with the mastery of English, Latin and mathematics in high school, at KSAC she would excel in field hockey and running the hurdles in track.

Although social life was constrained in those days, one social highlight does stand out, the Junior-Senior banquet, her senior year. The Banquet was just that, a banquet, no dancing, just banquet. Her date was Vernon Barlow, and everyone had a wonderful time. They did have senior sneaks back then, and Agnes and the seniors skipped out of class one day for fun and a picnic at Pillsbury Crossing. Again there was no dancing, just picnic. The gym class was a little different story that year, though. It seems the limitations on the social life of the students did not fully apply to the male and female gym teachers. "Complications," shall we say, prevented their continuation as role models and mentors for the students. That year, gym classes were canceled without further explanation.

Her school day often started with a real bang. The family of some of Agnes's best friends, the Kimball's owned a 1920, Page Touring Car. It was big, black and beautiful, and usually open, like a boat with the top down. Agnes and the Kimball girls, Ruth, Patty, Helen, and Alice, called "Babe," loved the excitement of the morning ride, wind in the face, trees and houses flying by, all the way down Poyntz Avenue to Manhattan



Agnes Bane 1925 Blue M



Mrs Agnes Chartier at home in Kansas City in autumn of 2006

High. The High School was then located between 9th and 10th streets on Poyntz, now MHS East Campus. The school had a very good cafeteria with many good choices of things to eat and drink. Agnes remembers they offered substantial food, meat, potatoes and vegetables. No fast food. No soda-pop, not your hot dogs and hamburgers kind of fare. You could get four items for 15 cents or two for a dime. Agnes, like a lot of her classmates, found there was merit in going for the two item deal, as that would leave her with a nickel to spend on candy and sweets after school at the "Head Light," Hervey's 9th Street Grocery, located across from the

99 karat gold alum

school at the corner of 9th and Poyntz (where the carpark is now.) The school circus and parade was fun too, though Agnes was a little uncomfortable appearing fully costumed as a mouse, complete with long squiggly tale, and riding, for the whole world to see and mock, on the back of a flatbed truck along the town's main street. Her favorite teacher was probably Josie Griffith, who taught English, though she did like very much Mr. Chestnut, the history teacher. School was a little more business-like in those days she recalls. Not nearly as much fooling around as you hear about now-a-days, if you don't count gym teachers.

After graduating with her class members in 1925, Agnes went on, as expected to Kansas State Agriculture College, now Kansas State University, and graduated with a degree in Home Economics in 1929. While at K- State she became a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority, Mortar Board, and helped establish the first pep club at the college. They were known as the Purple Pepsters.

On March 23, 1928 Agnes first made the acquaintance of an interesting and handsome young pharmacist that just happened to be passing through town on his way to visit his mother in Miltonvale, Kansas. It seemed Emmett Chartier's sister, living in Manhattan, had some how arranged that Agnes might run into him right out in front of her home at 1223 Bluemont. Emmett went to work at the Palace Drug in Aggieville and after a proper courtship, on June 10 1930, they were married at her family home on Bluemont.

Emmett started his own pharmacy business, one of the first in Kansas specializing solely in the compounding and sale of prescription drugs. After Emmett's retirement, Agnes had many wonderful travel adventures with him. Emmett passed away at Manhattan in 1990.

Agnes, in addition to raising their son, Larry, kept up her involvement in education as an active member of P.E.O. and substitute taught for many years at the Junior and Senior High. She maintains her interest and very active support of Alpha Xi Delta sorority. In 1972 she was awarded the "Edna Epperson Brinkman Award for devotion and services to Alpha Xi Delta as a member of Alpha Kappa chapter."

She and her family loyally supported the Manhattan Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Elected to the Board of Directors of the church she also took on responsibilities

continued on page 5

MHS WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUES

by Pat Dougherty '57

Stop and have a look at the plaques at the high school memorializing graduates of MHS killed in the Wars. They display the honored names of each man and boy killed in the service of our nation during those hostilities. These plaques and the names on them well deserve a place of permanent honor and display not only as simple memorials, but also as reminders to this and future generations of Manhattan youth of the high sacrifices made by young men with histories, experiences, hopes and dreams for the future, much the same as they themselves possess and hold dear.

When these plaques were freshly cast the names thereon were the names of students personally known to their teachers when they glanced at them on their hurried way to class. They were fathers, husbands, sons, brothers, sweethearts, and neighbors whose presence, stature, and personality were as real as yesterday's walk down Poyntz to school. They flew paper airplanes from the balcony or back row at church on Sunday. They built forts and jumped from the high dirt bank at horseshoe bend into the brown water of Wildcat Creek. Some worked for their dads on the family farm. Some clerked at the A&P or delivered groceries for one of the neighborhood grocery stores. They soda jerked at the Palace Drug, unloaded box cars down at the station, and suffered burnt fingers from fireworks on the 4th. They held hands with their first love at the State, or Wareham, or Sosna Theater. Some were teachers' pets, some weren't. Some played basketball or football for MJHS or MHS. Some had started college. They all breathed the sweet aroma of the glorious elm trees that shaded the red brick streets of old Manhattan, and they all walked the crowded and friendly hallways of Manhattan High. When their young lives ended they left jagged painful gaps in the lives of their families, friends, and the fabric of our hometown that have not healed to this day.

Someday these plaques will be just memorials like the ones in France that mark the great battlefields of the Somme or the Argonne Forest, or the monuments of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, but not yet. In the memories and hearts of those still living, the names mark an individual existence and the gap that remains. In time, the plaques will become true memorials to young men of long ago and the great wars and sacrifices of the past. But they should never be hidden from sight or poorly displayed away from view. When they finally become just memorials, they will still memorialize the duty, high courage and sacrifice of a time past, the Manhattan High School student body, and our nation. The honor so properly displayed for our past will truly and accurately foretell the honor and courage answering the call of duty when it comes again in the future.

Memorial Plaques hang in the ticket alcove near the Principal's Office at the MHS West Campus and are for World War I, World War II, and Viet Nam.

Gold Alum from page 4

as an officer in Kansas and National Church Woman's Work, and became national president of Kappa Beta, an organization for Christian Church college girls.

Agnes gets great joy from the companionship of her extended family living near her and in their successes and many accomplishments and, not to mention a very real pride in founding three generations of

Chartiers who have graduated from good old MHS. She says she is working on Julie to return to Manhattan so there can be a fourth generation to add to the previous three. She is a very strong woman. Don't be surprised if one these days a great grandchild of hers doesn't again march across a stage to receive his or her Manhattan High diploma, just as Agnes did in 1925, Larry did in 1957, Julie in 1988, Ryan in 1991, and Richie in 1993.

Superintendent's Advisory Council

by Janet Duncan, MHSAA Liaison

The November topic for Superintendent Shannon's Council was single-gender classes. New Federal regulations relax past Education Department rules that barred most single sex programs; they may now be considered if they are improving student achievement, providing diversity, or meeting the needs of particular students (providing boys and girls are treated even-handedly.) The advantages of single- vs coeducational classes did not lead the Council to believe MHS needed to consider such classes immediately, but they would be open if this seemed the right course.

The MHS Optional Seven Period Day generated a lively discussion in January. The Report to the Board of Education, comparing a seven period day and Six Period + Zero Hour day were discussed, along with various block scheduling plans. The Board of Education was seeking ways to balance student electives and to provide Professional Learning Time for teachers, while being aware of rising costs and student population growth. Understanding the need for the latter balance, the Advisory Council generally felt that elective courses for MHS should not be cut.

The phenomenon known as "Senior Slump" was briefly discussed; yes, it exists for some students, and the attitude of parents' is the paramount factor.

Wellness and Nutrition was the February topic. The pop machines are gone from the cafeteria (under Federal law.) MHS has an ala carte lunch and approximately 28% of the student body eats breakfast or lunch at school. Donuts are out and the pizza and snacks are as nutritious as possible.

The School Holiday Calendar was discussed in March, specifically to add the Wednesday before Thanksgiving into the calendar (requested by many teachers.) There are many absentees on Wednesday. The Council agreed, due to the family nature of Thanksgiving (the day would be taken from the Christmas holidays,) The School Board decided against it at a later meeting.

May concerned the MHS Virtual Academy. MHS has moved from purchasing courses to a new partnership with IQKansas, a large commercial educational institution. (The "Virtual Academy is a two-way interactive learning situation, for any student, anytime, anywhere" to quote the District's website, and is taught over the internet.) IQKansas will permit MHS to enroll virtual students from anywhere in Kansas. This will also offer great flexibility to students unable to attend class in the usual way, students who have scheduling conflicts, transcript deficiencies due to a move, etc.

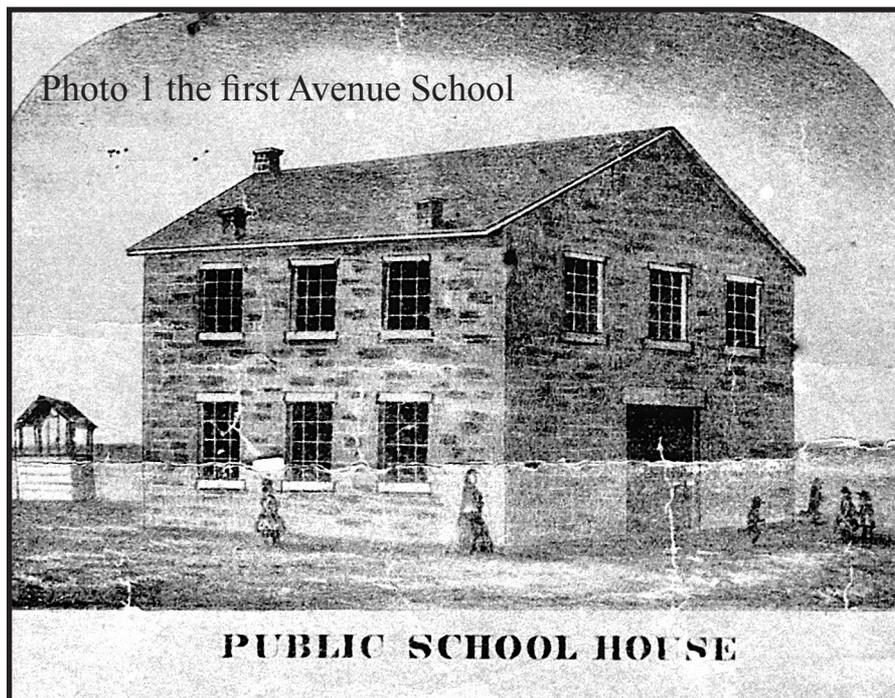
The History

Part 1: The Early Years

By Janet (Krider) Duncan '58

Manhattan has had a school at 9th and Poyntz for 150 years. That's as long as Manhattan has been incorporated as a city. Much of that time the school has included a high school, although there was apparently a time when Manhattan High School might have disappeared altogether.

The Manhattan Town Company acquired three lots on Poyntz and in 1857 the City Council built a two story building there for the new school. (Photo 1) It was said to be "the best public school building west of Topeka," and as it was referred to in the newspaper as the "City School", it must have been the only public school in town. There were two rooms on each floor, but initially



The Avenue School, built in 1857 at 9th and Poyntz. This image taken from an 1867 calendar. Photo courtesy Riley County Historical Society

the classroom was upstairs and a family lived downstairs until all the space was needed for the school. One teacher taught grades 1 – 8, as well as any students who continued into the next two years that were considered to be a high school education.

The new building, which became known as the "Avenue School," cost \$2,500 to build and the people of Manhattan had to hold suppers and benefits to help raise the money (taxes were to come later.) The teacher began her year with no books and no supplies. "Best" or not, the 9th & Poyntz location was not popular with all the parents. Complaints were recorded that this school was "too far away" and that the road for the children was either "too dusty" or "too muddy."

Manhattan soon had a second source for high school education, when Blue Mont Central College opened in January of 1860. Not originally a college level institution, it began with an enrollment of 53 elementary and preparatory students. How many of these students were in the high school years is not known, but only 15 total students remained for the following fall term. (Blue Mont College charged a fee for admission - \$4.00 per term for the Common Branches, \$5.00 for the Higher Branches, plus extras for music. Blue Mont College was also quite a bit farther away

from town than 9th and Poyntz and would add boarding facilities.)

In 1863, Blue Mont Central College reorganized under the Morrill Act to become Kansas State Agricultural College with a free education to all, other than room, board and supplies. They also continued their prep school program. So during those years, Manhattan had two places to take high school courses: the City (or Avenue) School or going up to the College Preparatory program.

Manhattan grew rapidly during those early years; there were constant references to "Immigration" in the Local News pages of the newspapers. The pressing need for a new school became obvious. In 1864, Manhattan's City Council voted to turn their public school property over to Riley County's newly organized County School District, "provided they levy a tax to be spent on school purposes." The title to the land of the 'public squares' which were given, however, was to revert to the City if the buildings that were ultimately to be built upon them were ever to be used for anything other than a school.

When the next term (of what was then being called "our District School") ended, the local paper, The Manhattan Independent, carried an item praising the school's one teacher, Miss Wagner, for an excellent end of term exhibition and for her students' "remarkably good state of discipline": she had "more than 80 scholars embracing every stage of advancement from alphabet to algebra." (The Board hired Miss Wagner an assistant, Miss S.P. Kimball.) At the end of that term, Miss Wagner was referred to as the Principal of the City School; a Miss E. Knopp was listed as her assistant. It was also reported, sadly, that Miss Wagner had chosen to retire from her profession.

These must have been very full years in Manhattan education. The first KSAC catalog in 1865 listed 94 students in their Prep Department, with only 14 in the College. An Omnibus system between KSAC and town was discussed.

By 1866 the last buffalo in the area had been killed, General George A. Custer was passing through Ft. Riley, as well as were the famed Buffalo Soldiers. In June of that year, the newspaper was reporting up to 90 scholars at the District School and that "the exhibition of the High School was a complete success."

Between 1868 and 1878, the populations of both the city and the county doubled (roughly from 1000 to 2000 in the city.) By 1873, with Manhattan's population around 1400, Riley County had formed a new Joint School District together with Pottawatomie County. The School Board voted on a bond to build a second school, but this bond was not to pass for several more years.

The High School classes were busy in 1873. Academic leaders were reported in the papers weekly. The Town School had a baseball team. According to the newspaper, the "first nine of the Town School Club" answered the challenge issued by the "Blue Mont Nine Baseball Club" to "any other Riley County Nine" to a "match game." The game was played on March 13, 1873 – and the School Team won, 38 to 19! This may be the first recorded instance of a Manhattan High School sports team in competition, according to Cheryl Collins at the Riley County Historical Society.

Students at the High School also started their own

Of Manhattan High

paper in 1873, the 'Manhattan High School Monitor'. Whether this was a school activity or extra curricular is not known, nor if there are copies still in existence, but this seems to be the earliest fore-runner of The Mentor.

By 1877, Manhattan was ready for another school, even a private one. A July issue of The Nationalist advised that the "Manhattan Preparatory School", with principal James H. Lee, would begin in August. Professor Lee, formerly with Kansas State Agricultural College, was starting this new school in rooms in the 2nd story of Purcell's Bank building (the SW corner of 3rd and Poyntz, more lately know as Burger King or Schlotsky's.) Tuition was charged by the week, with classes ranging between 30 and 40 cents each for a wide variety of subjects.

Then in 1878, the School District's bond issue, for \$10,000, passed and the Central School was built in the 600 block of Leavenworth (where Woodrow Wilson Elementary School is now.) A stone building facing south (Photo 2) it provided for Manhattan's first dedicated public high school, with two years for the English curriculum and three years for the Classical curriculum (with Latin, Greek and philosophy as basic courses.) During it's lifetime, it also housed four primary grades (1-4) and four grammar years (grades 5-8) and east and west wings were added in 1909. Manhattan's public High School must have moved over to Central School at this time, leaving the Avenue School at 9th and Poyntz to the lower grades.

The preparatory school at KSAC, now 20 years old, was still available (provided their entrance requirements were met) and the estimate for the funds necessary for room, board and incidental supplies, for four years of education in



*The new Avenue School, at 9th and Poyntz, 1882
Photo Courtesy Riley County Historical Society*

to "exclude all unvaccinated children from school."

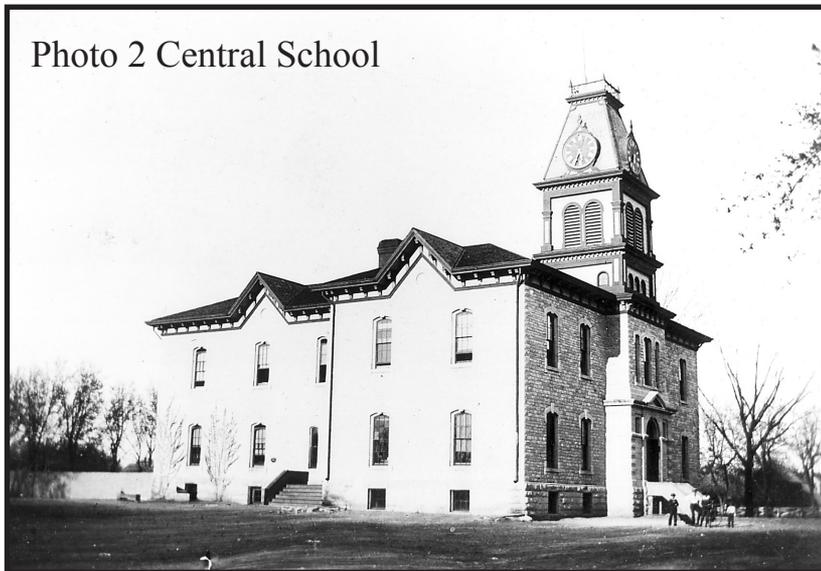
And the Avenue School, the "best public school building west of Topeka," was no longer adequate. By February 1882, the School Board had made the decision to raze it. They got another \$10,000 bond passed, which included \$2,000 for adding steam heat to the Central School and built the second school to occupy the land at 9th and Poyntz (photo 3). Also known as the Avenue School, it opened when the term began on October 2, 1882, with only two rooms of its four rooms ready (students sat two to a desk.) It may have become the Grammar School (grades 5-8) but more research here is needed. (Please stay tuned.)

The student estimate for Manhattan High School for the fall term of 1883 was 40-45 students, not counting non-residents. In December of 1883, KSAC reported 324 students, with 110 women, but how many were prep school students is not available.

Moving ahead, 1892 marks the year of the first Manhattan High School Graduation ceremony, according to a History of Manhattan written for the 1927 Blue M. That was still graduation from a two year high school course, this tells us, as it was "impossible to maintain a four year course prior to 1915 because of the low requirements of the College." The story on the front page of the May 27, 1892 paper carried this headline: "Diplomas conferred, a credit to all concerned." But apparently this Commencement almost didn't happen. The first sentence of their story read: "One year ago the Board talked very seriously of doing away with the High School."

What happened? More research is needed. Our history leaves Manhattan High School cutting its teeth at 9th and Poyntz, then moving over to 6th and Leavenworth in 1878 to develop. Watch the next issue of The Alumni Mentor to get us back to 9th and Poyntz. There are still surprises.

Photo 2 Central School



Central School 1878 Ivy would later cover the walls, the clock tower would come down, and East and West Wings would be added. Photo courtesy of The Riley County Historical Society.

1877, was \$50.00. Professor Lee, of the private Manhattan Preparatory School, became the Riley County Superintendent of Schools in 1880, so it is likely that his school was short-lived.

Manhattan became a City of the Second Class in 1880, and the citizens elected their first Board of Education. The early 80s also saw the Riley County Bank fail. A Small Pox scare in the area caused the Board of Education to vote

MHSAA Events

The Spring Dance

by Carita (Clark) Ottis '55, Committee Chair

The Events Committee was busy once again, planning winter and spring activities for our MHSAA members. Committee members assisted with the Wall of Fame reception in February (see photos on page 3.) And several MHSAA members took part in the March 17 Aggieville St. Patrick's Day Parade. The weather cooperated and everyone joined in the fun, either riding in one of the vintage automobiles, walking, and wearing wild and wacky St. Paddy's hats, shirts, and other green gear.

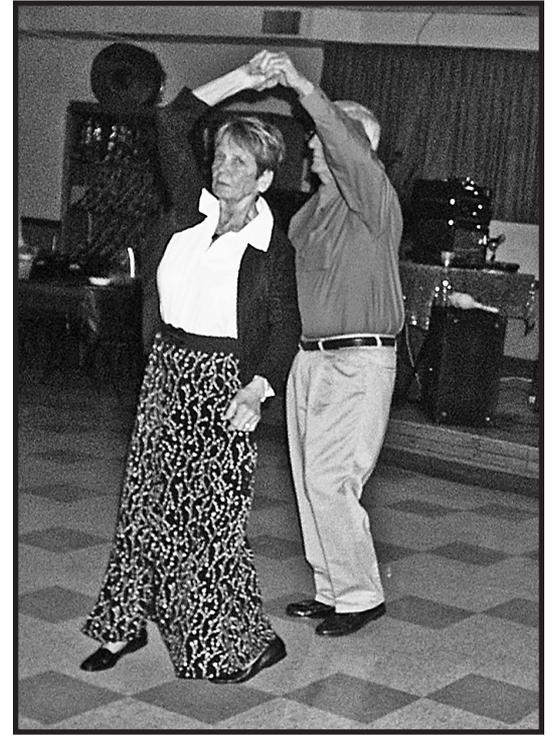
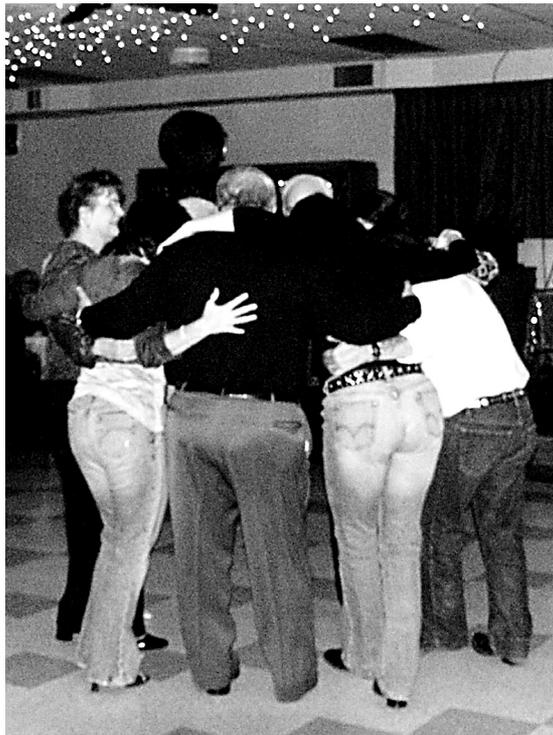
Our main event was a Spring Dance held on Saturday, April 14 at the Manhattan American Legion. "Michael B" provided some great music and everyone danced the night away. This event was opened up to all MHS grads. Many comments were heard about what a wonderful time it was and that we should make this an annual event.

We are working on plans for fall which we hope will include group attendance at an MHS football game (possibly homecoming), with a parking lot tailgate party beforehand.



The Events Committee, pictured above as they worked on decorations for the April dance, are from left to right: Carita (Clark) Ottis, '55 Ceil Sexton, Tim O'Hara '62, Sue (Seaton) Hunt '51, Ron Sowell '56, Walt Hardin '52, Paula (Hannagan) Hardin '54, and Pat (Prockish) Petty '55. Also helping on this committee are John Roberts '43, Delores Carter '70, Doug Stigge '73, Becky (Mosier) Wassom '70, Maridell (Smith) Berroth '54, Jerry (Thrash) Ince '59, and Dale Staatz '59. We've had an active and fun committee. We encourage any Alums to join us or to suggest activities that will bring Alumni together to support and enhance our MHS community.

A Good time was had by all!



Friends & Families

Reunions

*Dean Taylor '52,
Chairman*

Plan visits to MHSAA Museum

The Reunion Season is in full swing and a number of MHS Class Reunions have either visited the MHSAA Alumni Center already (see photos below) or will do so during their reunions this summer.



MHS Class of 1972 reunion visits Alumni Center and Museum in May

Other Reunions Scheduled:

June 7-10, the Class of 1938 and **Class of 1957** held their reunions at the Fairfield Inn and the Holiday Inn, respectively.

July 6-7, the Class of 1987 is having their reunion. Friday evening's get-together is at Kite's, Saturday morning, a tour of MHS, Saturday afternoon at the Zoo. The Banquet and Dance Saturday evening is at the Clarion. See class website for information. .

Retire to the Flinthills

*by Ned Seaton,
MHSAA Chamber of Commerce Liaison*

Money Magazine has named Manhattan one of the best places to retire young. The magazine's website, cnnmoney.com, in April released its top 10 list, which ranked Manhattan ninth. The top spot went to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. Also of note from the region, Ames, Iowa, was No. 10. The list was compiled for the magazine with Bert Sperling of the website Bestplaces.net, and considers "young retired" people's "needs" for travel and recreation, as well as their desire to live away from "crowds of commuters." The presence of a major college or university was considered important. So was low unemployment, good job growth, a reasonable cost of living, population growth. Arts and cultural opportunities were factors. The other members of the top 10, aside from those already named:

Charlottesville, Va.
Logan, Utah
Blacksburg, Va.
Burlington, Vt.
Anacortes, Wash.
Sarasota, Fla.
Hanover, NH

To see the rankings and story:

http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2007/moneymag/0703/gallery.bp_retireyoung_new.moneymag/9.html

For more information on Manhattan as a retirement destination: www.retiretotheflinthills.com

Is This a reunion record?

This must be the record! The MHS Class of 1938 held their 69th reunion in June. Several years ago they decided to meet every two years, and many of them brought their children along to help them with their travel. This was the third reunion some of this second generation had attended. They invited any MHS Grad to meet them and join with them in singing our MHS school song during their Friday get together. On the Saturday of the Reunion, it is their tradition to have an auction in order to add monies to the fund they have established (through the USD 383 Foundation) for yearly scholarships for MHS graduates. What a great tradition.

Congratulations to the MHS Class of 1938!

July 20-21, the Class of 1962

August 3-4, the Class of 1952

August 4, the Class of 1997. The contact is Meghanne (Estes) Wetta, Meghanneandjeff@yahoo.com

August 10-11, the Class of 1967. Friday night will be a buffet dinner at Rusty's Next Door in Aggieville. Saturday night will be at the KSU Alumni Center., 17th and Anderson Ave. Class contact is Linda (Hadley) Thomason, ksu1971@yahoo.com

Sept 1-2, the Class of 1982

Sept 21-22, the Class of 1977

The Class of 1970 is planning to get together every year to stay in touch. See their website for details: www.MHS70.org

Planning Ahead - **2008 REUNIONS**

The Class of 1958 April 25-27 at the Clarion

The Class of 1978 August 2-3 at the Holiday Inn (old Ramada)



MHS Class of 1947, Reunion visit, Ed the MHSAA Museum in April

ATTENTION VO-TECH ALUMNI

Manhattan Area Technical College is trying to reconnect with our former students. If you attended the "vo-tech" and would like to receive our newsletter, we want to hear from you. There are many great things happening here. Please contact Mark Claussen at markclaussen@matc.net or just drop us a short line at Manhattan Area Technical College, Attn: Mark Claussen, 3136 Dickens Ave., Manhattan, KS 66503. We look forward to re-connecting with you.

Dr. Rob Edleston, President/CEO
Manhattan Area Technical College
785-587-2800 ex. 4100

MHSAA Alumni Center

Don Slater '57 new committee chair

Don Slater '57 has been appointed to head the Committee for the Alumni Center, which includes the operation of the MHSAA Museum. He is taking over from Jan Freeby, '47. and Robert Dickens '54, who have served MHSAA well and for which we thank them both.

"Donations and visitors, that's what I'd like to see," Don said when asked by The Alumni Mentor for comments. Groups who would like to visit the The Alumni Center, which is at the MHS East Campus (the old Jr High or Middle School building, depending on when you graduated) can contact Don to arrange to see the museum any time that the building will be open. Special arrangements are made for weekends by the principal, who has been more than accommodating. "We've got a computer, thanks to a donation from USD #383," Slater said, "but we really need a TV and VCR so we can show videos of past reunions that people have brought in." He also noted that there are large gaps in the Blue M file, and that any photos or programs from MHS events always draw visitors interest. We have a few Mentors, but more of those would be a terrific asset.

Another pet project that Don and his committee have talked about is filling a bookshelf space with books written by MHS grads. We had some great English teachers. If you are an author - or you have a book to donate - we want to hear from you!

Thanks go to Bill Johnston '55 and Beulah (Woodcock) Arnold '33 for their Blue M donations. Also to Toy Teas '63 for basketball photographs and to Mary (Gourley) Larson '70 for Indian bleacher seat cushions. Thank you also, to the Riley County Historical Society for the donation of the Book *150 Years of Education* (Manhattan, KS.)

Don Slater can be reached at SlaterDon@hotmail.com, or 785-776-0244

MHSAA Apparel for sale

\$10.00 - MHSAA Logo T-shirts, in Royal Blue or White, available in many sizes.

\$10.00 - MHSAA Logo ball-style caps.

\$20.00 - Manhattan Alumni Association, white polo shirts, with logo.

Tips Jar available for those who don't see an item they want to buy but still would like to contribute something.

MHS Alumni Association Slate of Officers and Directors for 2008-2010

Every two years, at the Fall Annual Meeting, new Officers and Directors of the Association shall be elected by the attending Alumni Members. Newly elected Officers and Directors shall assume office on January 1 of the following year.

Officers:

President: Dave Fiser '57
Vice-President: Carita (Clark) Otts '55
Secretary: Sally (Baril) Landsdowne '65
Treasurer: Pat Duncan '59
Events Officer: Keith Eyestone '80
Communications Officer: Janet (Krider) Duncan '58

Directors:

Tom Addair '94
Mike Buchanan '78
Marlene (Moyer) Glasscock '65
Pete Paukstelis '88
Ned Seaton '86
Don Slater '57

The Members of the Board of Directors, except the immediate Past President, shall be elected at the Fall Annual Meeting every two years and shall each serve for a term of two years.

Nominations may be made from the floor. Where there is only one candidate for an office, election may be by voice vote.

Together with the immediate past president, the Officers and Directors comprise the Board of Directors of the Association. The Officers make up the Executive Committee, which is empowered to act on matters requiring action when the board is not in session and to transact all necessary and essential business of the Association not otherwise provided for in the BYLAWS or Charter. The Executive Committee shall report any actions taken to the Board of Directors.

Terms of office shall be from January 1st following their election to December 31st two years hence. Officers shall serve until their successors take office. A candidate for the Board of Directors may not simultaneously run for more than one office.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Charles Hostetler, Chairman
Janet (Krider) Duncan '58
Jodi (Morrison) Kaus '87
Mark Taussig '71
Dean Taylor '52
Linda (Hadley) Thomason '67

Publicity Committee

by Deanna Hall

MHSAA says thank you to Little Apple Toyota Honda for it's sponsorship of a series of television ads promoting activities at Manhattan High School. This Manhattan owned dealership has been sponsoring this public service campaign for the past several years to bring more attention to the good things that are happening at our high school. It is a great way for alumni to learn about current activities AND on occasion the tv commercials mention our alumni association and how to join. Thank you Little Apple Toyota Honda. www.littleapplecars.com

Indian plaque to be installed

A Plaque will be installed on the wall near the Wall of Fame and the newly restored Mosaic Indian, which will read as follows: "This Indian Head mosaic was originally displayed on the floor in front of the gymnasium when MHS was built in 1957, where it remained until 1974 when it was mounted on the wall in the North Gym.. It was subsequently taken down and stored and when found, it had lost a number of tile pieces. It was restored and mounted by Rick Weisbender, MHS Class of of 1977, and Pat Berry in 2007, under the auspices of the Manhattan High School Alumni Association as a source of pride in our MHS Indian tradition."

RCCHS Needs Blue Ms

The Riley County Historical Society has nearly all of the Blue Ms, but they are missing a few years. MHSAA is trying to help them complete their collection. They need the following years:

1940, 1964, 1971, 1972, 1973,
1976 and 1999 - 2006.

If you can help, please contact Cheryl Collins,
CCollins@rileycountyks.gov

The MHS Foundation

By Jodi (Morrison) Kaus '87

All of the USD 383 school buildings have solid substructures beneath them creating a foundation upon which they can be strongly supported. This underlying basis or foundation is critical to the viable existence of each school building we know. But there is another "Foundation" providing just as critical underlying support to the schools. It is the Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation. Founded in 1989, this non-profit charitable entity manages and administers monies given for permanent support of the USD 383 school district. A variety of individuals with different backgrounds and interests have already chosen to utilize the Foundation to benefit the district and to leave a legacy of themselves or their families.

Norma Morrison has utilized the Foundation to provide an endowment to give scholarships to future teachers. She first taught one year at a one room school a mile east and south of Woodston, Kansas after high school and before college. Norma graduated with a teaching degree from Kansas State University in 1952 and first taught at Green, Kansas, before going on to teach home economics at Manhattan High School from 1957 until 1961. She established the Norma Morrison Educational Scholarship Fund in 1998 to provide annual scholarships to a MHS graduate going to any Kansas university in the field of education. Norma's husband, Ray, was a teacher as was her mother, and Norma wanted to be there to help other teachers succeed. This level of support from individuals such as Norma Morrison and her family are just as critical as the masonry foundations of each of our school buildings.

If you are interested in being a supporter, more information about the Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools Foundation can be found at:

www.usd383.org/Info/Foundation.aspx

MHS Today

Compiled from
the mentor
spring issues 2007

Theater The winter play was "Salute to Broadway," showcased on Feb. 15-17. All of the scenes that will be featured won, or were nominated for, Tony Awards since 1948. Other Winter Activities included the Winter Homecoming and Sub-Deb.

Sports MHS Boys Baseball finished second in State, losing the title game to Blue Valley West. Both the final and semifinal games were marred by ugly weather. MHS baseball has been in the state tournament for the last five years.

The bowling team competed at the regional tournament, but no MHS bowler advanced to State.

The MHS swim team placed 12th in the state swimming championships, out of the more than 40 teams competing.

The MHS girls track team won their first regional title since 2003. The girls went on to place eighth at State championships.

The MHS boys track team placed sixth at the regional track meet. The boys also took eighth place at State.

MHS Wrestlers took second in League, then went on to win the State Title. "We peaked at the right time. That's what championship teams do. Without a doubt, this is the best team I've ever coached," Coach Robert Gonzales said.

Mr. MHS Pageant tryouts were held in Feb. Twelve applied and nine moved on in the competition. Senior Jonathan Rivers is crowned Mr. MHS.

Journalism students qualified for State competition.

Seniors: Nora Simon received first

place in Newswriting, Ray Spencer received 3rd place in Sportswriting, Lauren Harms earned Honorable Mention in Advertising.

Juniors: Sam El-Hamoudeh placed second in cartoons and Wendy Snyder received second in Editing.

State KSPA (Kansas Scholastic Press Association) competition was won by senior, Nora Simon, who placed First in Newswriting and Junior Wendy Snyder, who placed First in Editing.

Spring Break trips were about helping others....A group of 14 students went to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Another group went to Reynosa, Mexico for a five-day mission trip with Faith Evangelical Free Church. About 8 MHS students from the University Christian Church went to Pascagoula, MS to help rebuild the area devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Another mission trip also helped rebuild a town from hurricane damage by about 10 students from the First Christian Church youth group who went to Beaumont, TX

Mascot After many years in storage due to vandalism and school renovations, the Indian mosaic is again proudly displayed in MHS. It now hangs in the commons.

Commencement

Ceremonies for Manhattan High School's Class of 2007 were held on May 20th at Bramlage Coliseum. The speaker was State Sen. Roger Reitz, an MHS alum and one of the school's Wall of Fame. The graduation was broadcast live to troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the parents of seven members of the Class of 2007 are serving. .

Thank you! from MHSAA

to: **The USD 383 Foundation**
The Foundation has donated to MHSAA \$500 to help defray printing costs of The Alumni Mentor.

to: **Donald Seaton**
Donald Seaton, the son of Wall of Fame Honoree Fred Seaton, for his donation of \$500, given in support of the MHSAA Wall of Fame project.

to: **MHS Class of 1986**
The Class of 1986 gave the balance remaining of their reunion money of \$138.45 as a donation.

to: **The family of Bob Fritzen**
Bob was a member from the class of 1961 who passed away. The Fritzens' established a memorial in his name. To date, we have received \$115, allocated to the Restore the Indian Project.

Help Wanted

Alumni Mentor:
Assistant Editor, layout
Mailing manager
Writers Welcome!

Contact Janet Duncan:
bullbox@aol.com

MANHATTAN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MHSAA WALL OF FAME NOMINATION

To be nominated, a candidate must be an MHS graduate with Distinguished Service after life at Manhattan High School. When considering "Distinguished Service" in nominating candidates, the significant accomplishment(s) and/or contribution to mankind shall have recognition beyond the local level (at state, national or worldwide level). The field for Distinguished Service is wide open - academics, athletics, business/professional, military service, volunteer activities, personal, etc. Age is not a consideration. Award can be presented posthumously.

Nomination forms will be reviewed by the Manhattan High School Alumni Wall of Fame Committee, who will forward recommendations for selection of Wall of Fame Honorees to the MHS Alumni Association Board for approval. Public recognition will be held at the MHS Winter Basketball Homecoming in February 2008.

Please send this completed form to:

MHSAA Wall of Fame Committee,
c/o Manhattan High School Alumni Association
PO Box 1102
Manhattan, Kansas 66505-1102.

Completed forms, with references and supporting documentation to verify information, must be received on or before August 1, 2007. Extra pages may be included as needed.

COMPLETE NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE, if known: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

MHS GRADUATION YEAR: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

SPECIFIC REASONS FOR NOMINATION: **(Please Print or Type)**

NAME OF MHSAA Member completing form _____ MHS Yr _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____