

FOCUS

Bond's Broadcast
By Hank Bond

Maybe you can go home again

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to go back in time 20 maybe 30 years as I attended a high school round-up spanning 70 years. Russell High School opened its doors and graduated its first class in 1918, and somewhere during that 70 years, 1969 I believe, I walked the stage at good-old RHS.

The reunion was unique in many ways, since it actually included six members of the 1918 graduating class, and teachers that began teaching as early as 1924 in the system.

More apparent to me, though, was the vibrance of a town, which has nearly died in the past two decades.

As a child as many as seven passenger trains a day passed stopped at the Russell Depot and breathed life into the tiny river town.

Now, of course, the trains don't run, except freight trains, and the town, is nearly without a life.

The town sported four grocery stores, two drug stores, and much more when I was a child, but now it has a hardware and a couple video stores, plus some specialty shops.

But on this weekend, the streets were filled, the parade filled the air with music, and there was laughter and happiness long since absent.

The reunion itself covered several days, but I was only able to take in two days of the events.

A reception at the "old high school" was first, where members of nearly every class signed up for the overall event.

Friday night, there was of course a football game, at the "new high school" and members of the decades of graduates were honored during the football game.

I had the chance to play the school song once again, and yelled along with everyone else, as Russell managed to beat Lexington Lafayette.

This brings me to a point about crowds. Nearly 5,000 fans packed the home side of the field. Noise was never absent.

The new band director at the high school, asked to not play in the end zone while Lafayette was on offense, obliged. He took the band down the sideline in front of the stands and played the school song non-stop for nearly 20 minutes.

The team rallied behind this type of support and went on to win.

The cheerleaders, went along with the band, and it was non-stop excitement.

Dr. David Royce the new band director believes the band is the 12th player on the field.

He was right. It made the difference... all night long.

Saturday night was another of those infamous dinners, with food direct from the cafeteria.

I met a lot of people, saw a lot of faces I hadn't seen in many years, and enjoyed the social event. I have an advantage, except for some gray hair and several pounds, I haven't changed a great deal since high school, so most people who knew me then... know me now. I can't say the same for everyone.

Thank goodness for name badges.

After the dinner the biggest gathering of the event assembled in the gymnasium.

There many people were honored, including those who toiled in the classrooms for many years.

One such person, my aunt, was talked about in praising terms, and as her escort I watched as two generations of students passed by, speaking with her, and talking about days gone by.

Watching the people at the reunion made me proud of my high school, and the people it has produced, and of Auntie, who has had... and continues to have... a great influence on people.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

week-- our drum major, our section leader, our drum instructor.

Then we got to college and contacted each other on holidays. Suddenly one name came up, all the time. Suddenly, they were engaged. Suddenly, it was May and not only did we graduate from college, one of us was going to get married in September.

And suddenly, the wedding director was plopping me into my maid of honor spot while I was still trying to put everything in order in my mind. The groom was gulping and refusing food. Leslie was nonchalantly moving chairs around.

Then this fuff for 25 minutes? I thought. All I realized, it isn't for 25 minutes, or neither of us remember what the teacher was saying. I do remember her heart was beating so fast her necklace was moving up and down.

Leslie and I have always had science classes together, which is why she was a business major and I was a journalism major.

We were in band together, too. We had myriads of crushes that changed every

Julie's Jive
By Julie Pfeiffer

Leslie Bryant. I may never get used to saying that name. My oldest friend was married about two weeks ago. Her wedding was a nice time to reminisce.

Mostly about the time we got in trouble for writing notes in 7th grade biology. That event seems to have tied our lives together permanently.

We called our teacher a b-u-t-t. I remember standing there and I looked at Leslie. Neither of us remember what the teacher was saying. I do remember her heart was beating so fast her necklace was moving up and down.

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Guest Editorials

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The much-publicized test results from some Somerset and Pulaski County classrooms should be a challenge to every parent, teacher and citizen to do whatever it takes to make sure our children get a good education.

If it means higher taxes, let's gladly pay the cost. The money would not necessarily be earmarked for higher teachers' salaries, although a good teacher certainly deserves more than he or she gets paid. The money should ensure that classrooms in every school are equipped with the most effective teaching aides and devices to assist the learning process.

Of course, KEST tests are subject to questioning. The recent General Assembly junked KEST in favor of the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills.

We're not familiar with the new test, but let's hope it's a better gauge of student comprehension than KEST. For example, an independent school district in Kentucky improved its ranking from near the bottom to near the top simply by drilling the students on how to take the test.

Sure, these enterprising school officials can pat themselves on the back for the new and improved ranking. But are their kids any smarter? We doubt it.

We should do everything possible to improve our educational process. Our kids are our future. Please don't shortchange them.

Letters

Editor:

On behalf of the Nicholas County Babe Ruth, I would like to say a big "Thank" to the parents and others for the great success the Babe Ruth League, Kentucky Textiles organization would like also to thank the following business and merchants for their donations to the state, east area, and district tournaments held at the Nicholas County High School field.

These making donations and/or contributions were: Jackey International, Dr. Hanson, Kentucky Textiles, Garrett's Restaurant, Sounds Unlimited, Sheriff Charles King, Judge Reese, Sally Watkins, Rose Scott, Fred Bunch, Forward Grocery, the First National Bank, the Deposit Bank, Joseph Conley, Hickens Drug, Four Seasons, Larry Willis, Pie Per, Footdown, Buckle & Bobby Lutz, Carlisle Five & Ten, Herald's Menwear, Hall's Working Shop, Southern States, N.A.P.A., Dee Jay's, Carlisle Drug, CBC Landscaping, Cliff Voss, Farm Credit Services, Dairy Queen, and the League in Nicholas County.

Thanks go to all those parents and other persons for their support at the gate, concessions, and scores booth. To the boys who helped work on the field.

These boys playing Babe Ruth ball this year are to be praised, they are a great group of boys and should make their parents proud in years to come.

Thanks to the Carlisle Mercury for their coverage of the games and tournaments.

We will look forward to working with most of these boys next year.

Nicholas County Babe Ruth League Helen M. Langue Secretary

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