



St. Matthews, Kentucky Area History



“Old” Ballard School

This is one of many sections that contain information, photos, newspaper articles, internet items, etc. of the St. Matthews area. Many of the items came from Al Ring's personal collections but many people have helped and I have tried to give credit where I can.

The purpose of this “collection” was to create the history of St. Matthews, Kentucky. Being retired I now have time to do many of the things I have always wanted, this project is just one of them.

All graphics have been improved to make the resolution as good as possible, but the reader should remember that many came from copies of old newspaper articles and photos. Credit to the source of the photos, etc. is provided whenever it was available. We realize that many items are not identified and regret that we weren't able to provide this information. As far as the newspaper articles that are not identified, 99% of them would have to be from one of three possible sources. *The Courier-Journal*, *The Louisville Times* or one of the *Voice* publications. Books that we have used for some information include, *Randy*, *Cactus*, *Uncle*, *Ed and the Golden age of Louisville Television*, *Waggener High School Alumni Directory 1996*, *Waggener Traditional High School Alumni Directory 2007*, *Memories of Fontaine Ferry Park*, *St. Matthews The Crossroads of Beargrass* by Samuel W. Thomas, *St. Matthews, 25 Years a City Two Centuries a Community*, *St. Matthews 1960-1995*, *Waggener Lair's 1958 to 1962*, *The Holy Warrior*, *Muhammad Ali*, *Louisville's Own (An Illustrated Encyclopedia Of Louisville Area Recorded Pop Music From 1953 to 1983)*.

A very special thanks to Mary Margaret Bell, Coordinator, Archives and Retrieval Systems, Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, KY, and Lawrence “Larry” Richard Myers (60), who did all the hard work copying and gathering the material from the Archives. Also *The Voice Of St. Matthews*.

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Ballard School:

BALLARD SCHOOLS DAYS

Memories: 1945 - 1950



by

Donald E. Janzen

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Ballard School:

Introduction

I had not intended to write a personal account of my five years at Ballard School (1945-1950), but in the process of writing an autobiography I found that one of the largest chapters was on Ballard School. In doing some background research I was disappointed to find that the Filson Historical Society and Jefferson County School Archives had little material on Ballard. To my knowledge there is only one published history of the school and that appeared in the Filson Club History Quarterly in 1970 (no. 2, pages 133-139). This brief history was written by Mary Norris Burge Helm. It documents important dates in Ballard's history, mentions some of the major personnel, outlines the school's philosophy of education, and describes special events like the Ballard Fair.

A second history of Ballard School is an unpublished set of eleven pamphlets written by Ninde Wilder, principal from 1934 to 1950. They date from 1940 to 1950 and copies of the 1941-1946 pamphlets are at the Chance School. Attached to these is a hand-written note signed by Mr. Wilder's secretary, Verna Monheimer;

"These pamphlets were written by Principal Ninde S. Wilder and were sent out with the reports each January from 1941 through 1946."

I have pamphlets from 1947, 1948, and 1950 and a footnote at the bottom of the 1950 pamphlet says:

"This is the last of a series of eleven pamphlets dealing with education, particularly education pertaining to Ballard School."

The 1946 pamphlet is titled, "A Brief History", and as the title suggests, is a short history of the school. The other pamphlets, although not written as histories, fifty years later now serve as an historical insight into the school. The titles of the nine pamphlets that I have been able to find are:

- 1941 Untitled, general information about Ballard
- 1942 Educational Principles
- 1943 The Elementary School in War Time
- 1944 "What Do You Mean - 'Progressive' ?"

- 1945 Compulsory Military Training?
- 1946 A Brief History
- 1947 The Plight of the Teacher
- 1948 Vocational Aptitudes
- 1950 Untitled (answers questions parents ask)

Another account of Ballard School is an unpublished, six page manuscript, "An Old Girl's Memory of Ballard School" (1942-1949), written by Elizabeth Smith Tucker. Elizabeth writes about her personal experiences at Ballard and this is the human touch that brings history alive. I wish to thank Elizabeth for providing me with a copy of the manuscript since it jogged my memory of several things that I had forgotten.

I decided to extract the chapter on Ballard School from my autobiography, make some additions, and pass it on to the Filson Historical Society, Jefferson County School Archives, and the Chance School. What I have written is more of an ethnography than a history. It is a five-year snapshot of Ballard and what life was like at the school. As an anthropologist I am interested in cultural behavior, and this is probably reflected in how I approached writing about Ballard.

I have drawn on my own collection of material from Ballard which consists of; twelve photographs, thirteen copies of the school newspaper (The Ballard News), my Safety Patrol badge, an original program and script of the Robin Hood operetta performed in 1948, my basketball uniform from 1950 (when the eighth grade won the Country championship), my school letter (the Ballard "B"), several reports that I wrote for classes, and three pamphlet by Ninde Wilder. When I was in the fourth grade I had the measles and each of my classmates wrote me a "Get Well" note, Yes, I still have them. For the past fifty-five years I have hauled this "collection" around the country, and on numerous occasions have been called a "Pack Rat". Now that this material is being used to write a history I believe the word "Archivist" is more fitting.

Reading copies of the Ballard News helped me relive many experiences, but there were places where I hit a dead end. After struggling for several months to remember the music and words to the

Ballard School:

Ballard School song, Diane Cobb Cashman got me started and Chris Davenport supplied me with all the lyrics. Virginia Kemp Stites knew the title of the song we sang at the May Day Festival, "Country Gardens" and again, Chris provided me with the lyrics. A special thanks to Diane, Chris and Virginia for their help.

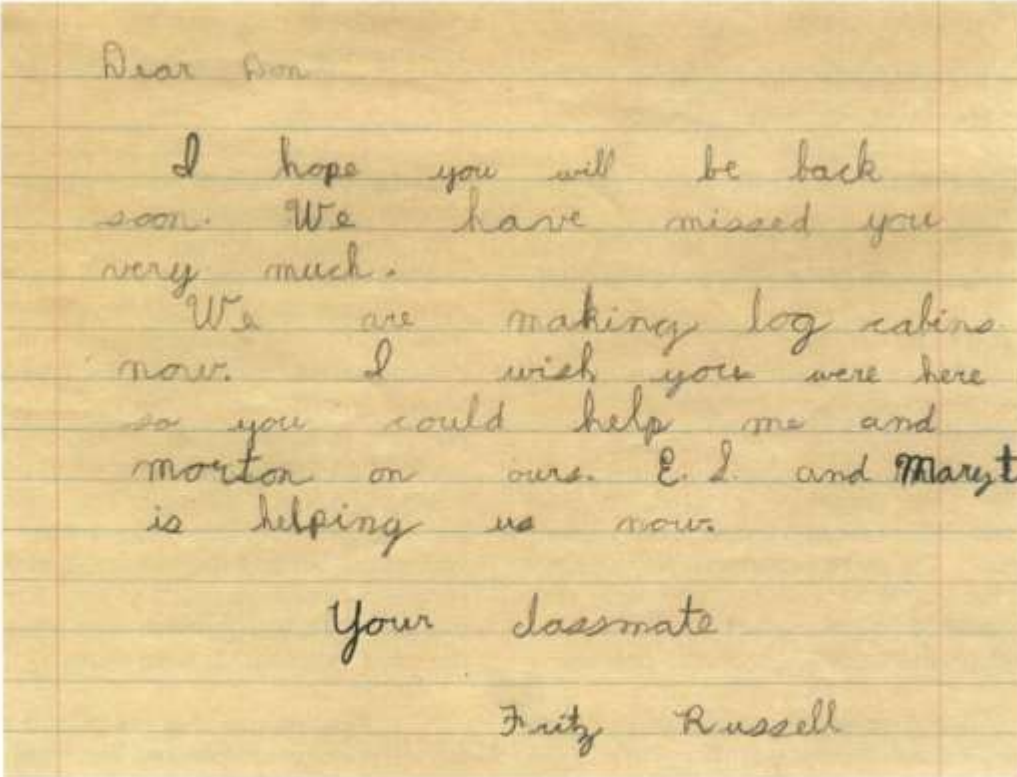
I have contacted people at The Chance School and they have a small archives of materials from the Ballard days. These include photographs (the majority before 1945), a box of lantern slides used in assemblies, some pamphlets written by Mr. Wilder for parents, a few copies of the Ballard News, and a large collection of newspaper articles written about Ballard. I wish to thank Debbie McCoy for making these files available to me and to everyone at Chance School for their hospitality.

I contacted several of my Ballard friends and hounded them for photographs and memorabilia. I discovered that the Pack Rat gene is rarer than I thought, but a few of my friends share this trait with me. I would like to thank Louise Helm Bessire,

Diane Cobb Cashman, Shelley Forbes, Sally Bonnycastle Hardy, Sarah Roy, Judy Semonin, Paul Semonin, Nancy Offutt Stablin, Mary Clowes Taylor and Elizabeth Smith Tucker, for providing me with photographs and other memorabilia. Also, thanks to Sharon Bidwell at the Louisville Courier-Journal for her assistance, and to the paper for permission to use their photographs.

I would also like to thank Stewart Ogden for reminding me of the ballet that he and several of his classmates performed at the Harvest Supper. It was a classic. I was also given a detailed description of part of the school that I never personally participated in, and thanks to Hugh Shwab, Bob Martin, and Bill Wells for providing me with first-hand accounts of going to the furnace room. Thanks to those who confessed that they has shared this experience.

It has been a wonderful experience tracking down former Ballard students for their address and talking to friends I haven't seen in over 50 years. It seems like we all loved Ballard and still carry precious memories from the years we were there.



Dear Son

I hope you will be back soon. We have missed you very much.

We are making log cabins now. I wish you were here so you could help me and Morton on ours. E. L. and Maryt is helping us now.

Your classmate

Fritz Russell

Get Well note I got from Fritz Russell in the Fourth grade

Ballard School:



The Rogers Clark Ballard Memorial School (photograph from Chance School)

Dedicated to the faculty and staff at Ballard School who left me with these happy memories, and to all Ballardites who shared them with me.

Ballard School:

BALLARD SCHOOL DAYS

1945 - 1950

At the end of the third grade, my parents started thinking about transferring me to Ballard School. They were satisfied with the education I was receiving at Greathouse School, but Ballard seemed to offer so much more. Although Ballard was a public school, I often heard it described as semi-private. Besides county funding, there was also financial support from the parents, and this is why there was instruction in art and music, and ballet for girls. These may have been available at public schools in the county, but not to the extent they were at Ballard.

I remember that my mother and I had to go to Ballard for an interview with the principal, Ninde Wilder. I know that Mr. Wilder was amused when I told him that I had already been recruited to play on the Ballard softball team that summer. I don't recall any details about our interview except that Mr. Wilder said I could come to Ballard. At that time there were approximately 300, certainly less than 400 students, in the entire school and by Christmas I probably knew the names of eighty percent of them.

Ballard was located on a hillside above the flood plain of the Ohio River. This setting drew children from socio-economic backgrounds that represented the extremes. Some of Louisville's wealthier families lived on the bluffs above the flood plain, while poor families lived along the river. During the spring if there was flooding it was not unusual for the Coast Guard to bring the river children to school. As I recall, there was no fixed charge for going to Ballard and the wealthier families bore most of the costs, while the poorer families paid nothing. I forget what my parents paid, but I believe it was about one hundred dollars a year. Our dress at school was very casual and I was told that the faculty encouraged this so the economic differences among the students would be less noticeable.

Ballard School was unique since it combined a lot of personal freedom for the students with a high degree of structure. These may sound like conflicting attributes, but Ballard was able to do it.



Ninde Wilder

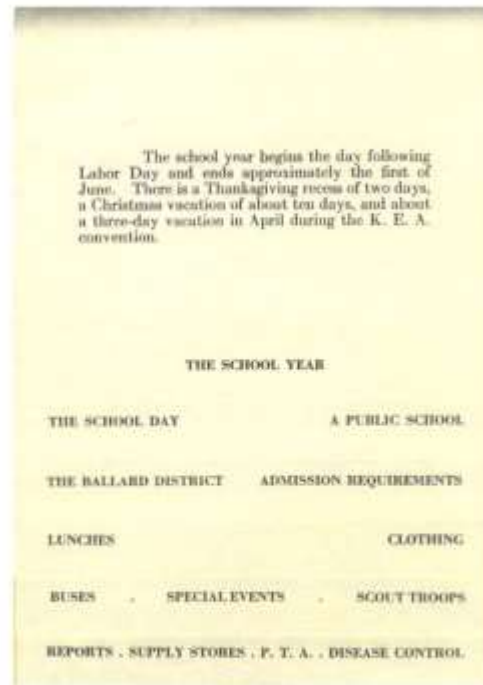
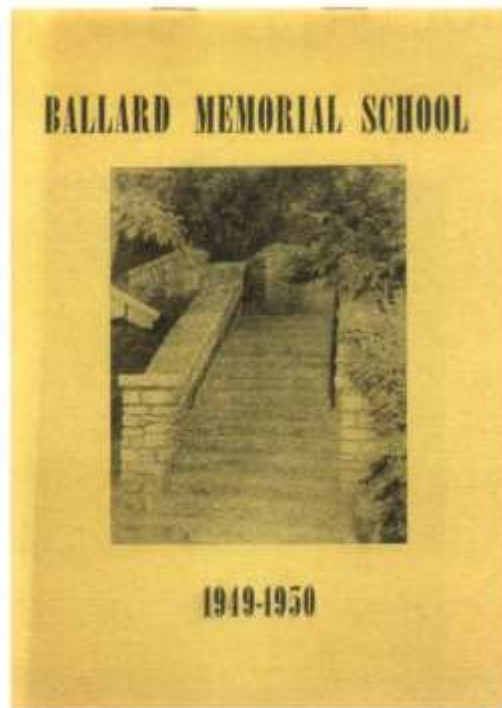
© The Courier-Journal

It was my understanding that Mr. Wilder, unlike many male principals who had made their way into administration through sports and coaching, had come through the ranks of teaching. I would call him a scholar and definitely an educator. I still have some of the pamphlets that Mr. Wilder wrote on education and from time to time I'll quote from them.

... we spoon out information in books and tell students to swallow hard. Then, periodically we ask them to regurgitate. We spend our time teaching subjects instead of teaching students.

Ninde Wilder, 1950

Ballard School:



Booklet prepared for parents on Ballard school (left). The contents (right) covered everything from The School Day to Disease Control and how children should be quarantined if they have various diseases. The photograph on the cover is the stone steps leading to the school. Ballard students went up and down these steps a thousand times.

A lot of the educational philosophy at Ballard was considered progressive and I often heard it described as a "Progressive School". In those days many people considered this to be an inferior kind of education and there was the impression that it was associated with a lack of discipline in the classroom. As my description of the "Furnace Room" will demonstrate, there was discipline. My mother went to the first P.T.A. meeting and still had some reservations if Ballard was the right place for me. She took notes on the meeting and was very impressed with Mr. Wilder's philosophy of education. The goal was to start by making children like school, and if this could be achieved they would learn. I remember that when my mother got home she woke me up and said that I could stay at Ballard. I suspect that part of the learning environment was to put us at ease with school. My mother said that on my first report card from Ballard the teacher wrote that I was too conscientious. I must have improved because on the second report card the teacher commented that I was not longer as conscientious. This was good.

As I mentioned, Ballard was located on a hill above the flood plain of the Ohio River and there was a long series of stone steps leading from the bus stop at the bottom of the hill to the main building. The school was actually composed of a cluster of several buildings. As I recall the main building consisted of an entrance room with the bookstore located in the middle. On either side was a classroom, cloakroom, and restroom. On the second floor were the office, four class rooms, and two cloak rooms. A driveway encircled this building. Off to the west was a small building that seemed to be of a similar vintage and architecture as the main building. On the first floor was a classroom and shop and the entire second floor housed the school library. At one time the upper class boys took shop, but this was discontinued by the time I was in the seventh grade. The library was an interesting room and as I recall they had all the OZ books. It was here that we were given our shots. I believe there was a closet on this floor that contained costumes that had been used in plays, and from time to time we would get some to use in a skit.

Ballard School:

Behind the main building was another hill and a second building had been constructed here. It housed two classrooms, the kitchen, lunchroom, and gymnasium with locker rooms and restrooms. An enclosed hall, or ramp, connected this addition to the main building. Next to the gym a small frame building had recently been constructed for additional classroom space. To my knowledge this building was always used by the fourth grade.

I have mentioned that there was a high degree of structure at Ballard and this centered around a daily, weekly, and yearly routine, coupled with responsibilities assigned to each class starting in the fourth grade. These routines and responsibilities had become a tradition at Ballard and they were part of the glue that bound the school together in such a way that it was almost an extended family.

The daily routine consisted of playing games before school and then at 8:45 AM assembling on the driveway in front of the school for the raising of the flag and the pledge of allegiance. Everyone lined up by class and the flag was raised by a color guard made up of four sixth grade boys. After school the flag was lowered and folded in the traditional triangle shape.

The weekly calendar centered around a one hour or longer assembly in the gymnasium every Tuesday and Friday morning at 9:50 AM. Two-seat, collapsible chairs were stored against the wall of the gym and quickly set up before each assembly. I recall this was one of the jobs of the eighth grade boys. The seating arrangement was by class with the lower grades in the front rows and the higher grades at the rear. Assembly started with Mr. Wilder making some announcements and then there was singing. The lyrics to the songs were on glass slides that were projected onto a screen with a lantern-type projector. Mrs. Katherine Rollins played the piano and Mr. Julian Dorsey led the singing. After the singing we saw a movie, or one of the classes put on a play or skit. As I recall, the movies were usually documentaries and often related to the war. I believe we saw the entire Victory at Sea series. I suspect that some time during the year each class, even first graders, did a presentation during assembly. These could range from a skit on how to tell time to a show-and-tell by several people who had taken an interesting trip. I recall that one year my class did a spelling bee during assembly, and I had the misfortune of standing before the entire school and misspelling a very simple word. Since I stuttered at the time I probably added an extra "t".



Glass slide shown in Ballard School assembly
(from The Chance School collection)

PLAYS

On April 4, Mrs. Straub's first grade gave a play about how to tell time with the rabbit. It was very well done.

Then on the seventh, we had the Easter Egg Hunt. The Bunny brought us a total of 2,200 eggs.

On the eleventh of April, the seventh grade girls gave a play called "Boys Will Be Boys, But We Can Dream Can't We?" It was very good.

Two volley balley games were played in assembly on the fourteenth. One was between the upper school girls, and some sixth grade boys played, too. Lucas's team won. Then the eighth grade boys played a game. Boyd's team beat Coy's.

On the twenty-first of April the fourth grade gave a play about the cold germ and how it spreads. It was very funny and interesting, too.

On the twenty-fifth the seventh grade boys' spelling class gave a play on word derivation.

Miss Reed and a group of children who went to Niagra Falls during K.E.A. told us about their trip on the twenty-eighth. They brought things back and showed them to us.

On the second of May the Manual Glee Club came out to Ballard. They sang nice songs.

On the fifth of May Mrs. Salyers second grade gave a play on our town. It was very cute.

A review of assembly programs from April 4 to May 5, 1950
Ballard News, May 15, 1950

Ballard School:

Wednesday morning was the Safety Patrol court. The Safety Patrol had a number of duties to perform and one was to see that certain rules were obeyed. Naturally there were some who broke these rules, but before any punishment was given, Mr. Wilder held a court so each student could plead his or her case. A detailed description of the Safety Patrol and court will be given later.

The only regular monthly routine that I can recall was the publishing of the student newspaper, The Ballard News. It was usually four, sometimes six, mimeographed pages with a construction paper front and rear cover. It was held together with staples and was considered to hold the essence of school news.

There were a number of special events that occurred on a regular schedule year after year. The first was the Harvest Supper, followed in December by an evening of Christmas music. On the last day of school before the Christmas holidays there was a daytime Santa Claus party. The first event of the new year was a Valentine Party, and in the spring there was an Easter Egg hunt. In early May there was a May Day Festival and a week after school ended was the Ballard Fair.

The first event, the Harvest Supper, was open to all students and parents and was one of the most popular events of the year. It was held in November during the evening and consisted of a turkey dinner followed by a program of skits in the

SHOTS

On Wednesday, March 15, most of the students at Ballard were shaking with horror. Shots! That horrible smell! Would they use a square needle? However, many pupils took the shots. Although many people don't like the shots, anything is better than having typhoid fever.

An event that students would like to forget
(Ballard News, April 3, 1950)



The Ballard News for January, 1949



Jane Morton Norton serves Mr. Ninde Wilder his turkey dinner at the Harvest Supper
© The Courier-Journal 12/3/44

gymnasium (auditorium). I don't recall the date, but later the turkey dinner was discontinued and the event was called the Harvest Festival. The entertainment was actually a kind of vaudeville show and the skits could be done by an individual, several students, or a class. On the stage, off to the side, was a easel with poster cards announcing the name of the skit. I remember that Teddy Isaacs did a skit titled, Napoleon's Farewell Address to His Grandmother. He came out on stage dressed as Napoleon and opened a scroll. After studying it for a long time he said, "Bye Granny".

One of the classic performances was a ballet performed by Stewart Ogden, Johnny Lord, Ron Baquie, Billy Martin and I believe the fifth person was Billy Schaaf. They approached Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, who taught ballet, and asked her to give them instruction so they could perform at the Festival. According to Stewart they were taught a routine to the music "Voices of Spring" and took their lessons seriously. I remember when the curtain went up there were five boys wearing black, high-topped tennis shoes dressed in t-shirts with gym-shorts under their tutus. The idea of five seventh or eighth

Ballard School:

grade boys doing ballet was unheard of and the audience roared with laughter. Their performance was so outstanding that many still remember it more than fifty years later.

The grand finale of the evening was a pantomime skit performed by the faculty and staring a character called Terrible Tim, played by Mr. Wilder. Mr. Wilder was a tall, slender man with thinning hair and one eye that squinted. He was actually an excellent character actor and was associated with the Little Theater of Louisville where he had performed. As Terrible Tim he played a timid, shy individual, and regardless of the situation, all the students knew that it would end the same way . . . with Mr. Wilder in the middle of the stage in his long underwear. We all loved it. I can remember only three of the skits and they are worth describing.

During the war women started doing some jobs that had traditionally been done only by men, and in one skit Terrible Tim goes to a lady barber for a shave. I believe Mrs. Hattie Glenn (third grade teacher) was the barber. To get him prepared a pan of steaming water (probably just dry ice) is brought out and the barber starts to pick a hot towel out of the pan. There is much to-do about how hot the towel must be, and finally she just flings it onto his face. Naturally Mr. Wilder waves his arms and goes through all the appropriate gyrations. I forget what was used for soap to lather his face, but it was extremely foamy and naturally gets in his eyes. Again this results in arm waving and other gyrations. Finally, the barber produces a huge straight-edge razor which scares Mr. Wilder, and she has to throw her leg over him to keep him in the chair. All this time the students were going wild with laughter and when the ordeal is over and the barber removes the cloth from around him, there is Mr. Wilder in his long underwear. The place erupts with laughter.

Another year, Terrible Tim is to be shot out of a cannon. Mr. Wilder is dressed in tights with a cape, and I believe an aviator hat and goggles. The cannon is not on stage, but only a ladder (which supposedly leads to the canon) and a net suspended several feet about the floor of the stage. Mr. Wilder has a terrible time climbing the ladder. His foot constantly slips between the rungs and on several occasions he almost falls. He finally gets to the top and disappeared from view. Next there is a loud

explosion and Mr. Wilder falls into the net in his long underwear.

The Terrible Tim episode that produced the most excitement was one that took place in a graveyard. The scene opens with the stage set up as a cemetery with headstones. I'm sure there must have been some appropriate background music. Members of the faculty, dressed in skeleton suits, begin to rise from the graves, and dance. Suddenly the lights go off and the skeleton suits are made so the bones glow in the dark. This had the little kids screaming but there was still more to come. Above the top of the stage, toward the front, ropes are lowered (these could not be seen) and the skeletons start swinging out over the audience. The kids go berserk! When the lights finally come back on, there, alone in the middle of the stage is Mr. Wilder . . . in his long underwear. Is it any wonder that both students and parents looked forward to the Harvest Festival?

The next two major events were an evening program of Christmas music followed by a daytime Christmas party the last day of school before the holidays. The party was held in the gym and instead of using the stage, chairs were placed around the side walls and activities took place in the center of the gym. Several older boys carried in a decorated Yule Log with some of the younger students riding on it. We started the program by singing Christmas carols and it was an established tradition that during the singing of Jingle Bells there would be a loud banging on the side door. Every year Mr. Wilder looked confused when this occurred, as though it was a big surprise, and would go to the door and open it. There was Santa Claus! Santa was always one of the eighth or ninth grade boys and Mr. Wilder escorted him to a large decorated chair. The younger children got to sit on Santa's lap.

When a ninth grade boy, beneath the bewhiskered countenance of St. Nick, takes first and second graders on his knee and talks to them, it is a far cry from the paid Santa exploited by department stores.

Ninde Wilder, 1947

BALLARD NEWS

Published by the Eighth Grade

Louisville, Kentucky

December 21, 1949

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Thursday night, December 22, our Christmas program will be given. It is based on the traditional nativity story. It will begin at eight o'clock and will last about forty-five minutes. This program is not intended for children in the first three grades.

STAFF

Editor -----Paul Semanin
Ballard News Page -----Helen Tinsell
The Christmas Tree -----Delois Sheshan
Sports -----Don Cooke
From Santa's Pack -----Rodney Wells
Puzzle Package -----Albert Woody
Art Editor -----Douglas Roy

SANTA CLAUS PARTY

The annual Christmas Party for the small children is to be held on Friday morning, December 23, at 10:50. Santa Claus has promised to be present.

Younger brothers and sisters of Ballard pupils, as well as Ballard alumni, are invited.

Please do not ask for candy to take home to family or friends.

TOYS

The third grade has been collecting old toys that are still in good condition. They have received a lot of nice things, which will be given to families whose Christmas will be brighter because our boys and girls were thoughtful.

NO PRESENTS!

Please do not bring any presents to school either for friends or teachers. The office has sent out to every family a list of teachers Christmas addresses for your convenience if you want to send a card or gift, and you may buy from the office a list of all school families and their addresses for a quarter.

DANCE

On Friday night, December 9, we had an Upper School --Alumni Dance. It was held from eight to eleven. The decorations were very pretty, especially the big "B" for Ballard. For refreshments we had doughnuts and orange crush. We all had a swell time.

CANNED GOODS

Each year children at Ballard bring canned food for the janitors and cooks. Be sure you bring some too. The fifth grade is collecting these.

ASSEMBLIES

On Tuesday, December 6, Mrs. Fayton's Sixth Grade gave some skits. The dancing was good, especially the tap dancing.

On Tuesday, December 13, Mrs. Cobb's Fifth Grade pretended to present a fairy tale on the air. The broadcasting station was B.N.S., for Ballard Memorial School. It was very well done.

On Tuesday, November 29, the Eighth Grade History Class gave a play. It was about how transportation and communication had improved. We hope that you enjoyed it. A certain party in a lower grade said, "They act like that even in the classroom!"

VACATION DATES

Christmas vacation this year is shorter than usual. School will be dismissed Friday, December 23, at 11:30. School will resume Monday morning, January 2nd.

CLOTHES

If you have any old clothes that are still in good condition please bring them to school. The school will distribute them according to need.



First page of the Ballard News Christmas issue - December, 1949

Ballard School:

After Santa Claus arrived the program would continue with various classes performing skits in the center of the gym. This was one of the times when students from the upper grades would mix with students from the lower grades. As I recall, in the eighth grade we did a skit with the first grade and it was based on the song, "Oh You Beautiful Doll". We formed a circle in the middle of the gym, alternating a first grader and an eighth grader, and in the middle of the circle was a large decorated box at least six feet high. As we sang, Mr. Winder came in the circle and cautiously eyed the box, walked around it several times and then started unwrapping it. Inside was Albert Woody dressed as a doll. He had a blond wig, lipstick and rouge, and a short skirt over his gym pants. He was a sight to behold. Mr. Winder looked amazed, and finally picked up Albert, put him over his shoulder, and walked out.

I should expand on this mixing of the older and younger students. We did this all the time and it was one of Ballard's traditions. The philosophy behind this was eloquently stated by Mr. Wilder.

Did you ever attend one of the Santa Claus parties at Ballard School? Or a Valentine Party? If you have, then you saw junior high students dancing with children of the primary grades, the fifteen-year-olds with six-year-olds.

But the dances would have been much more artistically done if, say, eighth graders had danced with eighth graders. You can't expect second graders to have the same technique as eighth graders have.

It isn't dancing techniques the school is after in such cases. Instead, it is a wholesome, family relationship between older and younger children which, when coupled with the spirit of the occasion, does more to build the right kind of esprit de corps than would daily lectures on the subject.

Ninde Wilder, 1947

The school Valentine Party was in February and the Social Committee had a Valentine's Dance for the upper grades. Each class also celebrated Valentine's Day in their room and I remember that we decorated a corrugated box with crape paper, and I suspect red hearts, and this is where we deposited our cards. The teacher would draw them out, one at a time, and call off the name of the person it was for. I never kept track of the number of cards I got, compared to my classmates, but there were probably some kids who got fewer cards than others. After the cards were distributed we had refreshments.

The next big event was the yearly Easter Egg Hunt that took place on the playground during school hours. I believe it was actually jelly beans that were hidden, but there may have been some chocolate or marshmallow eggs as well. Again, this was something that paired the older and younger students. About a week before the event, the first, second and third graders were expected to team up with someone from the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades as their partner for the hunt. Usually it was the older students who approached someone about being partners, but the younger children could select their partner. There was a strict rule that the older students couldn't pickup any eggs, although they could point out where they were hidden. Actually none were really that concealed since they were hidden in grass on the playground.

I remember that the Easter Egg Hunt started with everyone lined up on at the edge of the playground, and when a signal was given everyone ran onto the field. According to the Ballard News (May, 1950) a total of 2,200 eggs (jellybeans) were hidden. Since there were less than one hundred students in the first three grades, even the slowest first-grader was assured of finding plenty of eggs. The event usually lasted about an hour, then everyone returned to the auditorium where the eggs were counted. The person from each class with the most jelly beans received a prize.

Although not associated with a seasonal celebration, toward the end of school one assembly was devoted to an auction of all unclaimed items in the Lost & Found. We always found this exciting and you could usually hear someone shout, "That's mine!" when an article of clothing they had lost came up for auction. As I recall, seldom did any item sell for over fifty cents.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Every year Ballard has an Easter Egg Hunt. The upper school students choose students from the lower school. Everyone goes to the field to hunt eggs. Then everyone comes back to the gym to count up the eggs. The couple from each grade who has the most eggs wins a prize. This year the hunt will be held on Tuesday, April 7. We hope that day will be a pretty one. If it is not, the Hunt will be put off until we do have a pretty day.

This is always a very exciting event for the little children. They make their own baskets to use in the Hunt, and these baskets are always very colorful and attractive.



Item from the Ballard News - April, 1950

Ballard School:

Spring was always in full bloom in early May and this was the time for the May Day Festival. There was a special clearing in a wooded area on the west side of the school where the event was held, and it also served as a playground for the first and second grades. There were wooden bleachers around the clearing with a pole in the center. Naturally this was the May Pole. Like the Christmas program, May Day attracted many parents and younger brothers and sisters who weren't in school.

An important part of the festival was selecting the May Queen and this was done at an assembly about a week before the event. All of the girls in the highest grade were eligible and the Queen was chosen by drawing a name out of a bowl. I remember my first year at Ballard (the fourth grade), when the name was announced all the ninth grade boys yelled and applauded. It occurred the following year as well, and I learned that it was a tradition, regardless of who won, the ninth (later eighth) grade boys yelled and applauded for the Queen. I believe Regina Lucas was Queen when I was in the eighth grade and we certainly kept the tradition alive.

The May day celebration was held after lunch and the Queen and her court paraded in. The piano had been brought outside and Mrs. Rollins played and we sang songs, one of which was always Country Gardens. Some of the classes gave special performances and I believe it was the members of the Queen's court who took the blue and yellow crape paper ribbons that hung from the May Pole and danced and inter-twined them.

The last event of the year was the Ballard Fair and it was held after school was over. As I recall, it was held on the last Saturday in May and was very well attended. It lasted all day and was on the playground so there was lots of room and ample parking. There were pony rides, puppet shows, booths where prizes could be won, and a pet show where the breed was not important. For the older boys the highlight of the Fair was the Father-Son softball game. I vividly recall the game when I was in the eighth grade. We usually only played for a portion of the game so everyone could participate and I had played the first four or five innings. The game was tied and it was the ninth inning. We were at bat, had several people on base, and Mr. Cobb called me in as a pitch-hitter. I swung and missed the first pitch and fowled off the second pitch. I

remember the frown on Mr. Cobb's face. On the next pitch I hit a hard grounder over second base into center field and the winning run scored. It's strange how I still remember this like it was yesterday.

There were some annual events that were restricted to only certain grades or groups. Every year, just before the Christmas break, Mr. Wilder would read Dicken's Christmas Carol to the upper grades, and once a year, as a thank you for their service, the Safety Patrol was dismissed from class and taken to Louisville to see a movie.

One thing that was done at Ballard was to assign a duty to every class, starting with the fourth grade. I don't know how long this had been going on, but it was certainly one of Ballard's established traditions, and we all took these duties seriously.

The fourth grade was responsible for organizing fire drills and hiding the eggs for the Easter egg hunt. About an hour before the hunt was to begin the fourth grade went to the playground and hid jellybeans. After the hunt was over, and the prizes had been awarded, the fourth grade got to go to the playground and hunt for any eggs that hadn't been found. When I was in the fifth grade, the fourth grade was on a field trip the day of the Easter Egg hunt so we got to hide them again. Since we were somewhat wiser than the year before, several of us buried caches of jelly beans so we could retrieve them when the hunt was over. We thought this was clever, but as I recall, we could never find where we buried them.

Although we all recognized the importance of fire drills, they seldom went smoothly. Our teacher would inform us that there would be a fire drill sometime during the day, and we were given instructions. As I recall, these instructions usually involved telling us not to talk and to move in an orderly manner. They were usually not followed. I suspect that once we were outside we associated fresh air with recess and our spirits were naturally raised.

The Ballard News would always have a report on the fire drill, and in an attempt to correct inappropriate behavior, the names of people who had misbehaved were listed. It seems that it was almost always boys who were delinquent, and most were not first-time offenders.

Ballard School:



The May Day Queen and her court - 1948 (photograph from Diane Cobb Cashman)
(The young man sitting on the steps is probably an attendant)

COUNTRY GARDENS

Come 'tis the May time, let us be dancing
Beneath the skies so bright and clear.
Come Lads and Lassies, join us in making,
The May Day best of all the year.
Garlands bright we're bringing, happy songs we're singing,
Joyous as birds are we today.
While the sunlight is shining, myrtle we're entwining,
To make a crown for the Queen of May.
Choose now some fair maid, from all of the rest,
And we'll hail her as our Queen today.
Come, let's all join hands, and make a ring,
As we dance for the lovely Queen of May.

Ballard School:

FIRE DRILL

Fire drill is a very useful cause. It saves hundreds of peoples lives every year. So far fire drills at Ballard have not been so good. The people who have not been cooperative are Hugh Shwab and Hewett Brown. Please help the fourth grade in fire drill.

--Paul Embry, Grade 4

Item in the October, 1949 Ballard News that surprised no one. This famous duo is mentioned once again in the January, 1950 Ballard News for delinquent behavior during a fire drill.

The job of the fifth grade was to run the Lost & Found. I forget where lost items were kept, but there were usually three or four large boxes of unclaimed things by springtime. Sometime around early May there was a special assembly where all the unclaimed items were auctioned. I believe the year my class ran the auction either Morton Boyd or Fritz Russell was the auctioneer. Any clothes in the Lost and Found at the end of the year were sent to the Salvation Army or Goodwill Industries. Ballard encouraged parents to send clothing that their children had outgrown to the school and it was distributed to needy children.

The job of the sixth grade was to provide the Color Guard for the raising of the flag in the morning. This was done in military fashion with four people, numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Number 4 position was in charge. I believe the Color Guard changed every week, or maybe two, and we took turns being one of the numbers. I say "we", actually it was only the boys who were on the Color Guard. Sixth grade girls were permitted to take the flag down after school and fold it. As progressive as Ballard was, it hadn't reached sexual equality.

Ballard was located at the top of a hill and a driveway went completely around the building. Before classes started everyone would line up by class in front of the building. The Color Guard was assembled about fifty feet from the flag pole and at a signal from Mr. Wilder the lead guard would say, "Color Guard, attention, forward march." When the Color Guard reached the pole the lead guard would say, "Halt", and then, "About face". The No.1 person

would unwind the rope from the flag pole and separate the ropes so they weren't twisted. When this was done the No. 4 guard would say, "Two" and the next person would let one of the ropes slide through his hand while the No. 1 guard pulled down the rope. Next, "Three" would be called. This was the guard who held the flag, which was folded military style in a triangle. The No. 3 guard held the flag while the No. 1 guard put the fasteners through the holes in the flag. The No.4 guard would pull the rope and raise the flag and this was the signal for everyone to say the pledge. After the flag was raised the Color Guard marched back up the driveway and the ceremony ended.

While this sounds like a simple ceremony, grade-school children can make it complicated. One time the noise of people talking reached a point where the Safety Patrol put everyone "On Silence". That meant no one could talk.

Since the members of the Color Guard changed so frequently no one got that much practice and often there were problems. Not everyone would march in step, and at the command, "Halt" one person would take one step and stop while other members of the Color Guard would take two, or maybe three. The command "About face" had people turning in different directions, or starting to turn one way and then changing their mind and turning the other. When I was in the seventh grade the Color Guard messed up so many times that for a brief period the Safety Patrol took over the job. Whenever there were problems it was sure to bring a scathing letter to The Ballard News.

FLAG-RAISING

Dear Colorguard:

You claim to practice every morning on raising the flag. I have never in my eight years at Ballard seen such poor raising of the flag. In the three months you have raised the flag upside down twice. Most every morning you come to flag raising laughing. I think you should try to improve raising the flag.

Sincerely yours,
Merton Boyd

The Color Guard gets a tongue lashing
Ballard News, November, 1949

One afternoon Paul Semonin, Dougie Roy and I were playing and we decided to form a secret club (yes, this does relate to flag raising). I have no idea what this club was supposed to do and I think we were just intrigued with it being secret. Anyway, this club had to have a name and finally we decided on the Brother Zombies of America, or B.Z.A. for short. I am at a total loss as to why we chose this name and attribute it to the creative Ballard mind going astray. Now with any club there has to be symbolism and we decided that we would end the pledge of allegiance every morning by taking our index finger and running it across our throat . . . like the slitting the throat gesture. Again, do not ask me to explain the "Why" of this. Every morning at flag raising we faithfully ended the pledge this way until Mr. Wilder questioned us about it. We were not about to reveal that it was related to a secret club, or that zombies were involved, and I suspect that we just looked at the ground, shuffled our feet around, occasionally putting one foot on top of the other (as children are known to do) and muttered "I don't know", or "It just happens". In any event, it quickly dissolved our secret club. I have always thought that had we been able to continue, our club would have evolved, and as we matured and it would have become a respectable organization . . . most likely with the name changed to Beta Zeta Alpha.

The seventh grade acted as the social committee for the upper grades and was responsible

for putting on dances in the gym. These were held four or five times a year and I remember when I was chairman of the Social Committee we had a pajama party where everyone wore pajamas to the dance. At least once a year the Social Committee held an Alumni Dance and there was usually a good turnout. As I recall the dances were well attended and 78 rpm records provided the music.

The biggest job of all was assigned to the eighth grade, running the school newspaper, the Ballard News. I believe at one time there were months when there were two issues, but by the time I was in the eighth grade it had evolved into a monthly newspaper. Various members of the class took turn being Editor and writing the various columns. Any student could write an article for the paper and the day before the paper came out the staff stayed after school to get it finished. I believe Mr. Wilder's secretary, did most of the typing and helped us run the mimeograph machine.

One column that was very popular was called Snooper, and it reflected the awakening of hormones in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades. This column gave the latest gossip on who was infatuated with whom. The writer of this column was always kept a secret, and in an attempt to conceal the identities of the various parties, initials were used instead of names. Since the school was so small everyone knew who was involved.

Ballard School:

SNOOPER

Reliable sources have informed us that D.R. has been flying kites in MAG's back yard. PS needs no kite to fly high with her. Why was MB absent on the day that LH (alumnus) left for Florida? DC and KM had a good time at the GGG dance. How about that EE? Several weeks ago at a private dance DB was looking at SG (alumnus), but when IE came back to school, SG was playing second fiddle. It seems that RW is also looking at IE in a big way.

---Me

Snooper tells all - Ballard News, April, 1950

I believe it is time that the true identity of those mentioned in this Snooper article are identified, and yes, I was the "reliable source".

DR	Doug Roy
MAG	Mary Ann Groves
PS	Paul Semonin
MB	Morton Boyd
LH	Louise Helm
DC	Don Cooke
KM	Kay McCurdy
EE	Eric Everbach
DB	Doug Blackburn
SG	Sherley Goodwin
IE	Iva Embry
RW	Rodney Wells

Snooper refers to the GGG dance and this should be explained. When I was in the eighth grade a group of seventh grade girls (Mary Ann Groves, Kay McCurdy, Nancy Norris, and several others) formed a club called the Gay Gitty Girls. The club was referred to as the GGG, and its function was to have parties. Actually these were dances and as I recall there were at least two parties a month. Up to this time we had selected our "girl friends" from the

girls in our class, but now we were starting to look at younger women.

Besides Snooper, other regular columns included a Ballard News page which announced such things as the Lost and Found auction, a review of what had occurred in assemblies, and a listing of new students. There was a Grade News page where activities in the various classes and field trips were reported. Sports was an important part of Ballard and there was always a Sports page. The upper three grades played touch football, basketball, volleyball, and softball (depending on the season), and the standings of the boys and girls teams were always given, as well as sport activities of the other grades.

As I recall, the Ballard News was very popular and in the eighth grade it was one of those "fun" things we enjoyed doing. No one ever told us that by writing articles for the paper we were honing our writing skills, or that putting out a newspaper was good organizational training.

It was a tradition that the last Ballard News of the year have the Last Will and Testament of the graduating class. This was always a popular item and the bequests were often revealing.

Ballard School:



My classmate, Morton Boyd
Rodney Wells is behind Morton, goofing off, as usual

Ballard School:

I, Hugh Shwab, being in sound and otherwise healthy body will my special seat in the office to Tommy Shwab with hopes that it will not be vacant long.

Last Will and Testament shows brotherly love
Ballard News, May, 1950

I am convinced that during his years at Ballard, Hugh logged so many hours in this chair that by some kind of "Squatter's Rights" he could have taken it with him when he graduated.

I started Ballard in the fourth grade and was in the small frame building next to the gym. In the winter it was heated with a pot-bellied stove and for a while my desk was next to the stove. I know my mother couldn't understand why I wanted to wear lighter weight clothes that winter. Since I sat next to the stove I had the job, with another classmate, of getting a bucket of coal from the coal pile. Later my desk was moved to the rear corner of the room which was ideal. I could look out on the woods behind the building and generally be out of the direct view of the teacher. Sallie Bingham sat in front of me and all I remember Sallie doing was reading Little Colonel books.

I believe in the fourth grade we studied the pioneers and made log cabins, but nothing academically about the fourth grade sticks in my memory. I did learn to print. Going to Ballard meant that you learned to print instead of doing cursive writing. I was never told why we did this but I did hear a comment that publishers would accept a hand-printed manuscript instead of a typed one. I know that we put on lots of plays and posters were always printed. When I went to high school the teachers could always tell the Ballard students because we printed. The other thing that I remember about the fourth grade was having the measles, and each of my classmates writing me a get-well note. Naturally I still have them. This was my first year at Ballard and I just recall how much fun I had and how many good friends I made.

In the fifth grade we studied explorers and I learned the names of all of them, like Balboa, Cortez and Coronado. The way I learned them was

typical of Ballard's educational system . . . we wrote and performed plays. The teacher would assign a different explorer to three or four groups, and we would go outside and write a short skit about this person. When everyone returned to class we made our presentation.

Explorer 1 - We have come a long way Balboa.

Explorer 2 - What is that in the distance?

Balboa - It is a large ocean

Explorer 3 - Hark Balboa, you have discovered the Pacific Ocean!

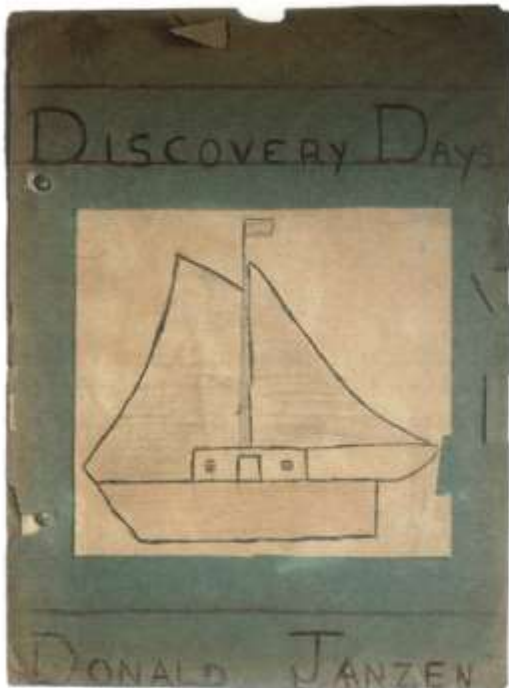
Class applause and the actors/actresses bow.

This is a shortened version of the kind of skits we presented. We studied history like this all through the fifth grade and my mother tells the story of being at Ballard for something and seeing me and several others outside. When she asked me what we were doing I said we were writing a play and I was Sir Walter Raleigh. I still remember leaving class on a beautiful fall day and sitting on one of the large bread boxes (where bread was left for the lunchroom) and writing a play with several of my classmates. It was a wonderful experience and I still carry with me the names of all those explorers, and what they did.

Ability and willingness to cooperate, combined with bold creativeness, is the stuff of which education is made.

Ninde Wilder, 1948

Ballard School:



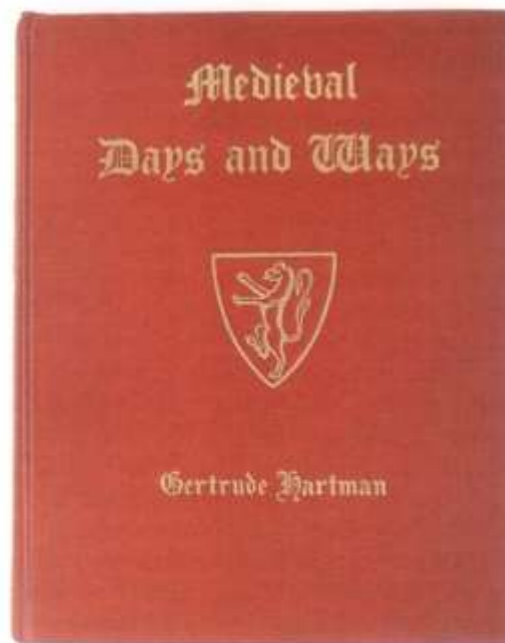
The paper I wrote on explorers

The sixth grade may have been my most memorable year in school, and that includes grade school, high school, and college. The sixth grade teacher at Ballard was Miss Alice Kennedy. She was the most feared teacher in the school, and there was always a rumor floating around among the fifth graders that this was her last year. I was certain she would retire before I got to the sixth grade, but I was mistaken. For all I know she may still be teaching somewhere. She was a tall woman, always stood erect, had short, curly white hair and wore steel-framed glasses. I remember the first day of class she told us she had eyes in the back of her head so not to misbehave when her back was turned. Somehow we believed her because she could always tell if you were passing a note or making a face at someone. I later learned that above the blackboard was a large framed photograph of an eagle and when she wrote on the blackboard she could look up and see the class reflected in the glass.

I guess if you ask the average person to describe precisely what they did in the sixth grade they couldn't do it. For me it is easy, we studied the Middle Ages, wrote an operetta based on Robin

Hood, learned to square dance, started an Audubon Bird club, and had a little math and spelling thrown in on the side. Of these Robin Hood occupied most of our time.

The first part of the year we studied medieval Europe and on one of her summer vacations Miss Kennedy had toured Europe. I remember that as we studied the Middle Ages and some place was mentioned, like a famous castle, Miss Kennedy would say, "I've been there." She must have said this frequently because Paul Semonin and I would say it whenever we could. If Paul told me that he had been to the Vogue to see a movie, I would say, "I've been there." We had the option of purchasing a book titled *Medieval Days and Ways*. It was terribly expensive, \$2.90, but I bought a copy and it was excellent. I found learning about castles, knights, jousting, and minstrels very exciting and I still have my copy of the book. We had to write a paper for the class and I did mine on communication. I remember that we also wrote and put on a play in assembly on the Middle Ages and it included the scene of St. George slaying the dragon. Albert Woody played the part of the dragon and his mother made him a wonderful costume with a large paper-mache dragon head.



The book I bought on the Middle Ages

Ballard School:

We also had to read a book, any book, on Robin Hood. The purpose of this assignment was to prepare us for a large project that lay ahead, writing an operetta on Robin Hood. For a school of our size this was a mammoth project.

This year the Children's Theater of Louisville invited Ballard School to give a production of its own choosing, and Robin Hood was selected. There are a dozen commercial operatic versions of Robin Hood on the market, but the children would have none of them. They are writing their own, using a few old English ballads as a basis for their work. It means work on the part of the pupil - delving into history and fiction for the threads of a narrative that can be woven together into a fabric that will wear. There is lasting beauty in homespun cloth.

Ninde Wilder, 1948

It was the job of the sixth grade to write the operetta and the performers would be taken from the fifth through ninth grades. There would be two performances in late April so I suspect that we started writing in October. Miss Kennedy guided us in the writing by explaining what the scene was about and who the main characters should be. Naturally there was Robin Hood, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Little John, and Maid Marian, but Miss Kennedy asked us to invent some new ones. I remember that Elizabeth Smith suggested Jack the Potter and we used it. We did not write this individually but sat in our chairs and if we had an idea we yelled it out. Well, no one yelled in Miss Kennedy's class, we just spoke up. It went something like this;

Miss Kennedy: What will Little John say to Robin Hood?

Response: When is King Richard returning from the crusades?

It went on like this for weeks and we all busily read our book on Robin Hood so we would be prepared to make a contribution.

We learned something else in the sixth



The book I read on Robin Hood

grade besides medieval history and Robin Hood . . . we learned to square dance. Miss Kennedy had spent the previous summer somewhere in the west, I believe at a "Dude Ranch", and had learned to square dance. This had made an impression on her so we had to learn. I suspect that it also provided us with a diversion from Robin Hood. Miss Kennedy would take us to the gym (during class period, not recess) and give us lessons. There is folk dancing that can be done in a circle, but we learned square dancing where four couples form a square. Miss Kennedy had a record player, a record (with appropriate fiddle-playing country music) and she did the calling. Each couple has a number from 1 to 4 and the first dance we learned went like this:

"First couple out to the right"

(this means the first couple joins hands and skips to the couple on their right)

"Round that couple take a little peek"

Ballard School:



Some of the girls in my class that I do-si-doed with. Left to right: Jane Williamson, Ann Shelly Sherley Goodwin, Elizabeth Smith, Louise Helm, and Judy Herr (photograph from Elizabeth Smith Tucker)

(Still holding hands the first couple stands in front of the second couple, then peeks at each other behind them.)

"Back to the center and swing your sweet"

(The first couple would go the center of the square and holding hands circle around a few times)

"Round that couple peek once more"

(Peek at each other again around the second couple)

"Back to the center and circle four"

(Form hands with the second couple, and dance in a circle)

"And on to the next"

(This means that the second couple goes back to their place and the first couple goes to the third couple.) The call would then be repeated. There were calls where we "Do-si-doed" and we even learned some intricate steps that I can't begin to

describe. We must have square danced at least twice a week and were able to make the transition back and forth from medieval England to western sage brush without serious damage to our psyche.

We started writing the Robin Hood operetta in the fall of 1947, and when the script was done it was twenty-five pages. There were three acts with Acts 1 and 2 each having two scenes. Since there were a lot of songs it probably took over an hour to perform. Because of the magnitude of this production, it deserves a detailed description since it reflects how at Ballard activities of this sort were fused with learning. The cast was made up of students from the fifth through ninth grades and in all, 24 boys and 55 girls had roles in the play. We started rehearsals in the gym and it is easy to imagine the chaos that was present in getting us organized. We also had a lot of songs to learn and I remember staying after school to practice singing "Brown October Ale" with the others who were Robin Hood's men.

My mother was the chairman of the Costume

Ballard School:

Committee and I found some notes she had written about this experience. First she had to go to the library and do research, and then Paul Semonin's mother, Virginia, drew pictures of all the costumes. Mrs. Semonin was an artist and my mother said the results were truly professional. To appreciate the magnitude of this job, there were 17 people in the main cast that required their own costume, and the supporting cast consisted of the following:

- 7 archers
- 2 beggars
- 2 children of nobility
- 3 flower girls
- 16 foresters (Robin Hood's men)
- 4 knights
- 5 maidens
- 9 monks
- 23 peasants (both male and female)
- 4 servants (both male and female)

There were also dancers that included:

- 5 bluebirds
- 5 redbirds
- 6 fawns
- 8 pages
- 6 sprites

In all it looks like 122 costumes had to be made. I remember that there were a variety of peasant costumes and mine was a bright yellow and was kind of like a jester. Paul Semonin was a baker and Fritz Russell a knight. As I recall, my mother got the costumes for the foresters (Robin Hood's men) at an Army Surplus store. She purchased the tops and bottoms of winter underwear and dyed them green. Over the tops we wore a brown tunic that someone made. Naturally we wore the traditional Robin Hood style of hat.

In her notes my mother mentions many trips to a professional dressmaker, measuring all the cast, fitting them, and then trying everything on. She concludes, "But when we finished it really was a professional piece of work."

I am sure that a tremendous amount of work went into researching English ballads and music that would be appropriate. Elizabeth Smith's mother directed the dances and I know that the girls spent a lot of time learning the routines. There was scenery to make and makeup for 79 people. I know that most of us had at least one costume change and some people had three. I don't know how all of this was done but it must have been organized confusion.

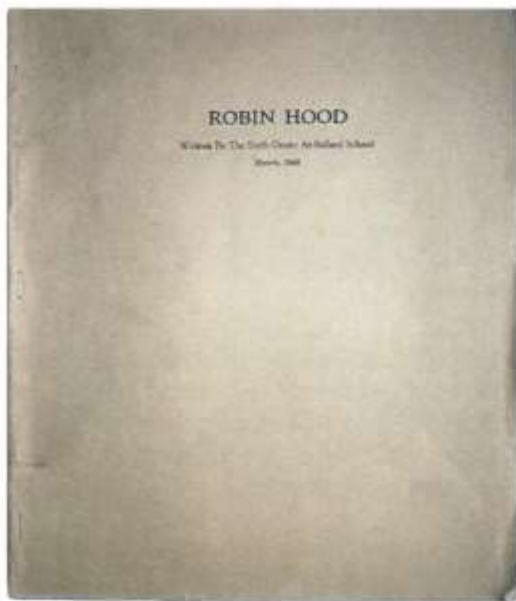


Me in my peasant costume



Fritz Russell as a knight

Ballard School:



An original Robin Hood script

The play was presented on April 23rd and 24th, 1948, at Halleck Hall, and since I was backstage I was not aware that for the first performance the programs were late. My mother refers to this in her notes and says:

The day of the first performance the programs failed to arrive until the middle of the first act. There was a loud knock at the side door opening on to the stage. A Ballard student shouted out, "Santa Claus".

I note on the program that under the credits Mr. Lyndon Everbach (Eric and Gretchen's father) is listed for Properties. I am not sure what properties Mr. Everbach was responsible for except the one that involved me. The operetta opens with a street scene where almost everyone is on stage. I play one of the peasants in this scene and someone decided that as a touch of realism I should be carrying a live duck. The Everbach's had ducks on their property, so backstage Mr. Everbach had a duck in a cage. At first I thought it was great that I would be carrying a live duck, until someone described in detail

what this duck might do if it became excited. With all these people on stage, and the commotion of the first scene, I imagined the worst. I know that I held that duck tightly as I walked back and forth across the stage, and was eager to get it back in its cage.

I'm sure to the academic purist, writing an operetta is not the prescribed curriculum for the sixth grade. Fortunately, at Ballard it was and it was a great learning experience for the students.

Before I begin discussing what I did in the seventh and eighth grades, I should mention some of the other facets of Ballard . . . especially the Safety Patrol. Although Ballard prided itself on its egalitarian philosophy, there was one way a student could achieve status, by being on the Safety Patrol. Even at a "progressive school", there were things we couldn't do, and the Safety Patrol played an important function in enforcing rules on the school grounds and on the bus.

The primary role of the Safety Patrol was to maintain order on the school bus. Without supervision, a bus with eighty to one hundred exuberant pre-teenagers would be chaos. Even at the time, the Ballard School bus was unusual and I have never seen one like it. I don't know who made the bus but the interior was unique. It was much longer than today's school bus and instead of the seats being on the sides, a single row ran down the middle. Along both sides of the bus was a bench with a padded back and seat. The bus driver was Mr. C. L. Paxton, fondly known to all us a Packy. Mr. Paxton got this name because as the bus got full he would yell, "Tighten up!", and those sitting on the benches would squeeze together and scoot toward the rear of the bus. I know I heard him say this a thousand times. Usually the bus was so full that Packy would take little kids and seat them next to him on top of the housing that covered the engine. His nickname "Packy" was well deserved.

When I first started going to Ballard the school bus went through Rolling Fields and Indian Hills and then picked us up on Chippawa, several hundred yards south of Brownsboro Road (US 42). At that time there was a side road that ran west back to Brownsboro Road. From here it went down Blankenbaker Lane to River Road. Every day we passed a dilapidated brick farmhouse, with chickens in the front yard and a hand-painted sign that said "EGGS". Today that is Locust Grove, the restored

Ballard School:



The office at Ballard School. Left to right - Ninde Wilder, Verna Rupp Monheimer, Roy Cobb, Alice Kennedy, and Margaret Elrod (photograph from Diane Cobb Cashman)

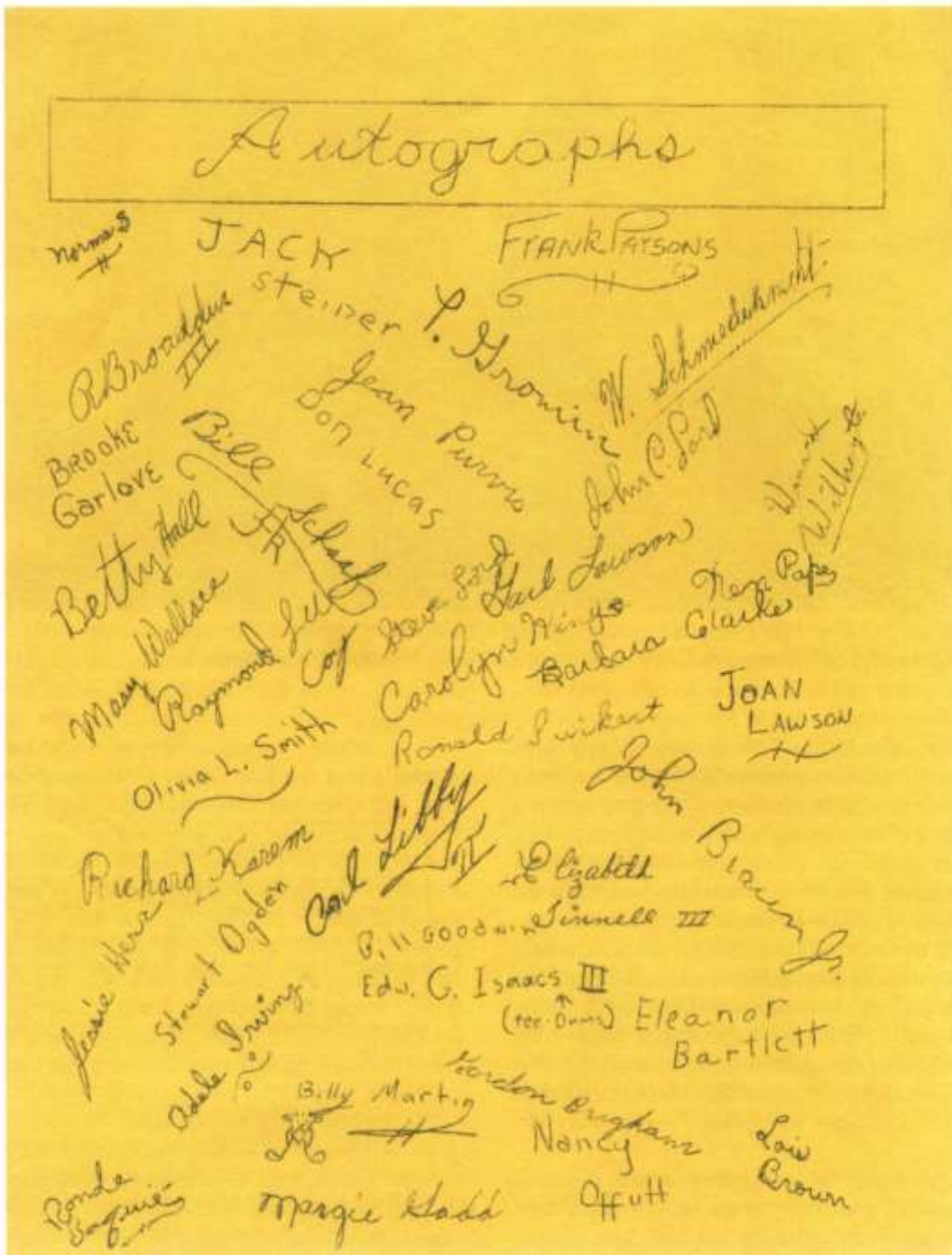
home of George Rogers Clark (actually it was George's brother-in-law's house.) By the time I was in the seventh grade the bus went down Brownsboro Road to Lime Kiln Lane and then to Ballard. Both routes went through rural country side and there were few houses, and no subdivisions. I had to walk about a third of a mile to the bus stop, but people like Hewett Brown lived almost a half mile away. Hewett was usually late and it was not unusual, as the bus was pulling away, for someone to yell, "Here comes Hewett!" He would be running, waving his arms in the air, his shoes untied, his shirttail out, and his coat falling off of one shoulder. He was a sight to behold!

I remember the spring that I was in the sixth grade Mr. Wilder asked me to be on the Safety Patrol. I was stunned. Usually only seventh, eighth, and ninth graders were given this responsibility, so asking a sixth grader was unusual. Naturally I said yes. I think I was asked because at our bus stop the only people on the Safety Patrol were ninth graders, who would be graduating, and this would be a training period for me. As I recall, I didn't give anyone a citation while I was a sixth grader.

When I was in the seventh and eighth grades I was the last Safety Patrol member on the bus, and since the bus was so full I usually had to stand on the lower platform next to the door. I was therefore the first one off the bus and it was my job to count the students as they got off. I would go to the principal's office and record this on a sheet of paper. I don't know why this information was needed because by today's standards our bus would have violated most existing laws. It was not unusual for there to be 100 kids on the bus, and when we went to concerts in Louisville I suspect the number would be over 125.

There was usually not much trouble on the bus, although this is a relative evaluation. It is difficult, no impossible, to have 100 school children on a bus without creating a degree of chaos. There were a number of rules that had to be followed; no one was allowed to chew gum, throw anything, or change seats. The main rule was no loud talking, although by nature Hewett Brown's voice was several decibels above anyone else. I do not wish to be unfair to Hewett in making this statement, however, there is data to back it up.

Ballard School:



Autographs of the Class of 1949. This was the last year Ballard went through the ninth grade so these are from the eighth and ninth grades.
Ballard News, May, 1949

Ballard School:

I, Hewett Brown, leave my loud mouth
to my faithful brother, Peter.

A bequeath never received. Last Will and Testament of Hewett Brown
Ballard News, May, 1950

At school, the Safety Patrol monitored running in the halls and no one was allowed to play on the hillsides around the school. There was also no snow ball throwing around the school (I guess because a window might be broken). I remember when I was in the fifth grade it had been snowing and on the way to the library we started making snow balls and throwing them at each other. Right above us was the eight grade room and a member of the Safety Patrol sat back in his chair and recorded all of our names. We all got citations.

Inside the school the main rule was that we could not run in the ramp that connected the two main classroom areas. For some reason this ramp, which had a slight downward slope, invited running, and in spite of our teacher yelling, "Don't run!" someone always did. Actually, the teachers were in charge of behavior inside the school and anyone who was excessively rowdy (a certain level of rowdiness was acceptable) would be sent to the office to sit in a chair . . . unless it was already occupied by Hugh Shwab.

Lime Kiln Lane ran past the school and one of our playgrounds was on the other side of the road. Although there wasn't much traffic, before and after school a Safety Patrol member was always on guard at the road and you had to ask permission to cross. This was usually done by running up to the edge of the road and yelling "Cross?" If anyone was in violation of one of these rules they were told, "You are going up." These were dreaded words to hear because it meant you had to appear in court and "Go up" before Mr. Wilder.

Safety Patrol Court was held one morning a week in the lunchroom and Mr. Wilder served as the judge. As I recall, court was held at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning and if you were on the Safety Patrol you were excused from class around 9:30 so you could deliver your citations. Each member of the Safety Patrol had a small pad (about four by four inches) of citations. The teachers all knew about this

and you could walk in a class and give someone a citation. In most cases, especially for the little kids, "Going Up" was a traumatic experience. When I was in the eighth grade Morton Boyd was the Captain of the Safety Patrol and Llew Spears was the Lieutenant. I was the secretary and recorded each case and its outcome. As everyone filed into the lunchroom they gave their citation to Mr. Wilder and he placed them in a stack in front of him. The court started with Mr. Wilder calling out the name on the first citation. The person on the Safety Patrol who issued the citation would say something like, "I got him Mr. Wilder, he was chewing gum on the bus." There was usually an immediate denial and Mr. Wilder had to calm down the accused party. Both sides got to present their case and then Mr. Wilder would give the verdict. Not all cases resulted in a guilty verdict and sometimes Mr. Wilder would just tell someone to be careful. I know that when I was in the fourth or fifth grade I "went up" for something I did after I got off the school bus in the afternoon. I argued that this happened after school was out and I was not on school property. Mr. Wilder dropped the charges.



My Safety Patrol Badge

Ballard School:

SAFETY PATROL

There was a record made at the meeting February 8th. The meeting was the largest that there has been this year. There were twenty-four people being taken up. Among them were five of the Safety Patrolmen.

Ballard News exposes misconduct among the Safety Patrol
Ballard News, March, 1950

The one case that I remember involved a third or fourth grade boy hitting a fifth or sixth grade girl. Both of these were kids from poor families and the boy's defense was that the girl had spit on his new shoes. I think there is an old tradition of spitting on new shoes and that is what happened in this case. I remember that regardless of what was said, the boy just kept repeating, in a drawl, "She spat on my shoes", as though this justified his actions. Finally, Mr. Wilder told the boy not to hit anyone again and dismissed the case.

The first time you were found guilty of a violation you were given a "Warning". I believe that subsequent violations resulted in a second and third "Warning", but after this you were given a "Charge". You were now approaching serious trouble. If you got three "Charges" the penalties started. First, you were asked to write something a hundred times, but after that you could be put "On Silence" which meant you couldn't talk on the bus. For people like Hewett Brown this had to be a living hell. It may seem generous to allow so many mistakes before any real punishment is administered, but you gathered up "Warnings" and "Charges" for the entire school year. There were many talented kids at Ballard who had no trouble messing up six or more times a year. If you continued to appear in Safety Patrol court it could mean a trip to the furnace room.

"The Furnace Room" was the most feared place at Ballard and was in the basement just off the main entry room, and behind the glass cases where school supplies, candy and novelties were sold. Often the door was open and we would peer into it with a combination of fear and curiosity. The only

light was a single, bare light bulb that hung from a cord and it was able to illuminate just a portion of the room. No telling what was back in those dark corners. Since the furnace was coal-fired, the room was dirty and cobwebs were the calling cards of its only residents. The furnace seemed immense (from the perspective of someone in grade school) with heating ducts going in every direction. The furnace room was particularly menacing because it was here that Mr. Wilder took people to be spanked. I seriously doubt if anyone was spanked (actually paddled) that hard. The real punishment was having to go down those steps into that dirty, dark room. Every now and then a rumor would spread that someone had been taken to "The Furnace Room" so we knew this person had really been bad.

As a reward for being on the Safety Patrol, we were allowed to miss school for a day and the school bus took us to Louisville to see a movie. The first time I went we saw Phantom of the Opera with Claude Rains. It was so exciting that I had to see the phantom unmasked and missed the bus back to school.

I still have my Safety Patrol badge and many of my friends who were on the Safety Patrol at other schools said that there was a firm rule that your badge had to be turned in at the end of the year. The year I graduated from Ballard, 1950, was the last year that there was to be a seventh and eighth grade and I guess the end of the Safety Patrol. I was never told to turn in my badge.

I mentioned that adjacent to the door leading to the furnace room where glass cases where we could buy school supplies, candy and novelties.

Ballard School:

These enterprises were run by the students and each student had the opportunity to buy stock, and get a dividend at the end of the year. The thing that I recall about the bookstore was our notebook paper. It was made by Top Flight and each pack of paper had a blue band around it with a picture of an airplane. It was possible to save these bands and send them to the paper company for a prize. I remember that for 1,000 bands you could get a radio. Wow! Having your own radio to listen to the Lone Ranger had to be the ultimate in luxury. One of my classmates, Fritz Russell, worked in the bookstore and when someone purchased notebook paper he asked them for the band. I believe he got 1,000 of them and received a radio. Fritz then started collecting them for me and when I got 800 I sent them in and got a tennis racket.

Ballard actively supported scouting and there was a Cub Scout Pack, and Boy, Girl and Brownie Scout Troops. When St. Francis in the Field Church was started the Cub Scout Pack and Girl Scouts met there. The Boy Scout troop was number 109 and it met in the gym one evening a week. It was an active troop and we participated in all the local camporees. One feature of the Ballard

troop that might be considered unusual, was our mode of transportation to scout camping events. While I was in the troop we went to at least three camporees and each time we piled in the back of a large whiskey truck. I believe Lee Brown's father provided it for us, and we could get the entire troop and all our gear in one. I recall that there were usually comments when we left, or arrived, in a truck with a large picture of an Old Forester bottle on the side.

No discussion of Ballard would be complete without mentioning the lunchroom. As I recall, there was always an "interesting" aroma in the building where the kitchen and lunchroom were located. I suspect that it emitted years of cooking odors had been absorbed into the walls. I know that we could always tell when we were having spinach because of the pungent smell, and this is probably why today there are Ex-Ballardites who refuse to eat spinach.

Our lunches at Ballard differed from most public schools, and instead of being cafeteria style we all had the same thing. The handout leaflet for parents states that, "No child is permitted to bring



Ballard's Boy Scout Troop 109 - 1948 (left to right: Coleman Groves, Don Janzen, Dougie Roy, Paul Semonin, Bobby Butler, Don Cooke, Bill Martin, Bill Schaaf, Fritz Russell, Paul Wilder, Jim Drautman, and Bill Goodwin)

Ballard School:

his own lunch." I remember we didn't have to pay for these each day, but our parents payed a fixed amount each month. I believe it was four or five dollars, and my parents gave me a check to deliver to someone in the kitchen. The poor children paid nothing since the school participated in the government school lunch program (statement in leaflet for parents, 1949-1950).

The lunchroom had at one time been a classroom, and even though we ate in shifts it was too small to hold everyone. Two tables had been put in the hall across from the seventh and eighth grade classrooms to accommodate the overflow. As I recall, we considered the hall the preferred place to sit since teachers sat in the main lunchroom and we were more or less on our own.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth ate last, right after recess, and after a stirring game of football or basketball we were usually starved. I remember that the food was already on the tables in large, white serving bowls, and if there was still food in the kitchen we could get second and third helpings. I

usually sat in the hall and we would pile our plates until they overflowed, and rush the empty bowl back to the kitchen to insure that we would get second helpings. I can remember a few of the things that we were served; sauerkraut and mashed potatoes, Shepherd's Pie, peas, fish on Friday, and yes, that wonderful spinach.

One of the main characteristics of the students who went to Ballard was their comradery. Besides having the grades intermingle in events, like the Easter Egg hunt, Ballard students interacted when they were not at school. My classmates were always having parties and many kids from Ballard took dancing lessons at the Louisville Country Club. Many Ballard families went to St. Francis in the Fields church and the St. Francis softball team, The Outfielders, was made up entirely of Ballard students. One summer a group of us went to Camp Piomingo together for two weeks, and during spring break we went to Washington D.C. and Williamsburg on trips sponsored by the Crescent Hill Women's Club. There were memorable parties and I remember the party given by Mary Clowes. Her



Playing softball at Louise Helm's. Back row, standing left to right, Nancy Helm, Lee Brown, Don Cooke, Don Janzen; on ground left to right, Bruce Haldeman, Elizabeth Smith, Lawrence Smith; umpire, Clay Morton, catching, Paul Semonin, batter, Sherley Goodwin. (photograph from Louise Helm Bessire)

Ballard School:

parents were in the process of moving and she had a dance in the house before the furniture arrived.

I remember the Halloween party that my classmate Eric Everbach had at his house when I was in the sixth grade. Eric lived on the southeast corner of Blankenbaker Road and River Road and the property had several buildings on it. The main residence was a large two story brick structure that was at least 100 years old. The house had been empty for years and was perfect for this kind of party. It was dark and spooky and we could go into various rooms where adults had things for us to do. Naturally we bobbed for apples in one room. We were led blindfolded into another room and told that there had been a terrible car accident and the remains of people had been saved. Bowls were passed around and you were supposed to feel what was in them. In one there were peeled grapes and they were supposed to be eyeballs, and there was a bowl of warm thick liquid that we were made to believe was blood. The bowl of cold, wet spaghetti was intestines. To a sixth grader this makes a lasting impression. I recently talked to Paul Semonin and mentioned that I was writing about Ballard.

He said not to forget to tell about Eric's party and the bowls of things we had to feel. That was over fifty years ago and I'm sure that many others who attended that party also remember it.

The seventh grade meant several big changes. In class we no longer had just one teacher, but a different teacher for each subject. The day was divided into periods and a bell rang announcing when they were over. In the seventh grade we had English, math, science, history, geography, and music. Mr. Julian Dorsey was our music teacher and he was the one teacher that we had every year. He was a very gentle person and I don't remember him ever raising his voice, although occasionally we deserved it. Our assignments were now more challenging, but the teachers had a way of making learning fun.

I still remember in seventh grade science we studied the solar system, and to appreciate its size we reconstructed it on the playground. I forget what we used for the sun (a large ball or balloon), but from this we calculated the relative size of the planets. We converted miles into fractions of an



Mr. Julian Dorsey
Eastern High School Yearbook, 1951

Ballard School:

inch and then went to the playground, and with a measuring tape laid out the solar system. At the location of each planet was a student holding a marble, or ball bearing, that represented the relative size of that planet to the sun. As I recall, someone got as far as Smock's Pond, which was outside the playground, and we finally realized that we didn't have enough room for all the planets.

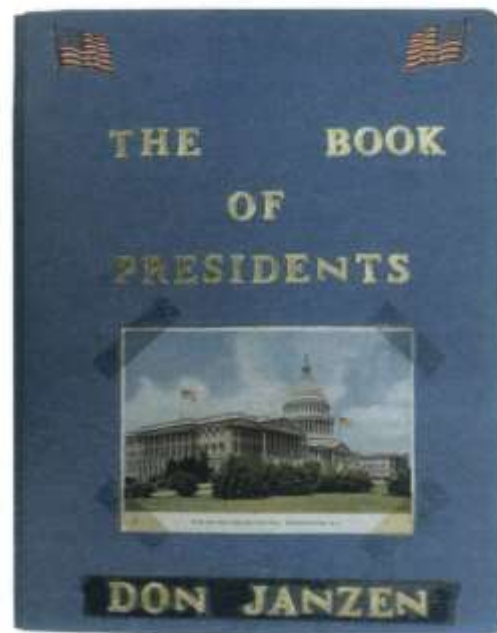
One of the "educational tools" that we got in the seventh grade (and maybe in the sixth) was a publication called the Weekly Reader. This was a small newspaper put out for school children, and I suspect its purpose was to get us in the habit of reading the newspaper. We would spend class time discussing the articles, but things like pasturized milk did not spark my interest. Anyway, I already read the newspaper. Every morning I scanned the Sports Page to see if the Louisville Colonels had won and followed this by faithfully reading Buzz Sawyer and Dick Tracy. I believe my classmate, Lee Brown, expressed my opinion of the Weekly Reader when he took his and wadded it into a ball.

I don't recall having any major projects in the seventh and eighth grades, like Robin Hood in the sixth grade, but our assignments were getting harder. I remember in the eighth grade we were expected to hand in a theme every Monday morning. This was a painful assignment and on Sunday evening I struggled to get it completed. I remember that one of the more innovative themes I wrote was on wastebaskets, and I described and analyzed the contents of all the wastebaskets in our house.

Mr. Roy Cobb was our history teacher, and as I have mentioned, he was a World War II veteran and had been stationed in the Pacific. I remember that he devoted several weeks of class to relating his experiences. He described in detail how the ships would line up in preparation for invading an island, and the procedure that was followed in establishing a beachhead. He described how Kamikaze pilots would attack their ships and what happened if they were successful. We always had a lot of questions and enjoyed learning history this way.

Our most massive assignment was in history and we had to write a one-page biography of each U.S. president. Fortunately at that time there were only thirty-two presidents, but that translated into a thirty-two page report. We were given the assignment months in advance, but almost everyone

postponed starting on it until several days before it was due. Several of my classmates had to stay up all night to get it finished. I had at least gotten as far as Andrew Johnson, but I also had to stay up late (but not all night) for several nights to get it done. I remember that my parents were very upset with me and I received several long lectures on the consequences of procrastination.



My report on the presidents

Sports were a very important part of Ballard and for a school our size we had excellent facilities. There were large playground areas on the flood plain of the Ohio River where there was enough room for us to play three or four games of touch football at a time. Besides being a teacher, Mr. Roy Cobb was also the athletic director. He did an excellent job and was one of the most respected members of the faculty. In the fourth grade he taught us a version of soccer. The only variation was that to score the ball had to cross a goal line instead of going in a netted cage. It was still very competitive because a team could have four or five goalies lined up along the goal line. Almost everyone in my class had athletic ability and we learned the game quickly. I remember that one day Mr. Cobb came into our class while we were in the middle of some lesson and told our teacher, Mrs. Payton, that he was teaching the eighth grade boys to play soccer. He

Ballard School:

told them he thought the fourth grade could beat them, and asked her permission for us to be excused so we could play the eighth grade. She readily agreed. We were really excited and had no doubt that we (a bunch of ten-year olds) could beat teen age eighth graders. It was a bright, sunny fall day and when it was over we had beaten the eighth grade.

Until the seventh grade, boys and girls had recess together and we played soccer, kickball, volleyball, and softball. I remember while we were in the sixth grade Mr. Cobb got the boys out of class and told us we should stop being rough with the girls. I guess we did treat them like "boys", but then people like Doris Horton could beat up any of us. I still remember how hard she could hit you. Naturally if Mr. Cobb told us to do something we did it. He was like our father away from home and we all highly respected him. He finished by saying, all right, let's choose up teams and play volleyball. It was the first time just the boys had played.

In the seventh grade recess became much more organized and the seventh, eighth and ninth grades had recess together. We all eagerly awaited it and I guess we must have dashed from the classroom when the bell rang for recess. One of the younger children explained it to one of our mother's this way, "When the bell rings the door opens and they all fall out."

We played touch football in the fall, basketball from late November through February, volleyball until warm weather, and then softball. We started each sport the same way. Mr. Cobb would announce the captains and they would alternate in selecting who would be on their team. There were four football teams, six basketball teams, and I forget how many volleyball and softball teams. After the teams had been chosen each captain got to select a color for their team. The next day we would each bring in one of our father's sleeveless undershirts and Mr. Cobb would have pots with boiling dye in them. We would put our shirt in the pot with our team color. It gave a very impressive appearance when everyone was outside playing. We each had a locker where we kept our shirt, shorts, and a pair of tennis shoes. As I recall, we played the entire season without washing our shirts. Mr. Cobb posted the schedule of games in the gym, along with the standings, and naturally they were always listed in the Ballard News.

The highest sporting achievement you could get at Ballard was a school letter. We called it a "Ballard B", and it was gold since Ballard's colors were blue and gold. You had to be in at least the seventh grade to get a Ballard B, and when there was a ninth grade it was unusual for seventh graders to get them. At the last assembly of the year Mr. Cobb awarded these to both boys and girls who had demonstrated outstanding (perhaps a better word is "good") athletic ability. As I have mentioned, there were a lot of good athletes in my class and in the seventh grade almost all of us got our "B". I wasn't expecting it and it was a great thrill. My "B" had a star on it which meant you had been a team captain. A number of us got them because Mr. Cobb knew we would be captains the next year. After assembly I photographed all my classmates with their "B".



A Ballard B

There was always a high degree of sportsmanship when we played, although we did get into vehement arguments about someone being off-sides, or catching the ball out of bounds. We never taunted the other team if we beat them and I'm sure Mr. Cobb would have never allowed this kind of behavior.

I remember when I was in the seventh grade Mr. Cobb told us that the floor of the gym needed to be varnished and the lines repainted. I believe it was over Christmas vacation that we all spent several

Ballard School:

days working in the gym and when classes resumed the job was done.

When I was in the eighth grade the county grade schools decided to have a basketball tournament. To my knowledge it was the first time it had ever been done and Mr. Cobb called the eighth grade boys together for a serious meeting. He told us that he had signed us up for the tournament and we were going to start having practices. Our brand of basketball was based on intuition and we never had any plays. Mr. Cobb decided to change this and he taught us two basic plays. We were not too comfortable with this disciplined approach to the game but it looked good on paper and we learned how to do them.

Our uniforms for this tournament were unusual. One of my classmates was Don Cooke and his father owned a Nash automobile dealership. One of their latest models was called the Air-Flyte. On our own we were putting together a team with this name, and even had uniforms made. Mr. Cobb decided that since we had these uniforms we should wear them in the tournament.



My Air Flyte uniform

In the eighth grade I was five feet, seven inches, but this made me the second tallest. Fritz Russell was six feet, and obviously the first string Center. The guards were Paul Semonin and Lawrence Smith, and Llew Spears and Morton Boyd were forwards. The tournament was held at the Kentucky Children's Home gym on LaGrange Road, February 20-22, 1950.

There were fifteen teams in the tournament and they were separated into an Eastern and Western division. Ballard was in the Eastern Division and our first game was against Middletown. We started trying to use the plays we had learned, but were just not comfortable with this brand of basketball. I remember that the score was either tied, or we were behind, and Mr. Cobb called a time out. He told us we were to forget the plays and go back to our old way of playing. We ended up winning that game 40 to 13. We won our next two games by margins of 24 and 19 points, and faced Prestonia in the finals. In the Western Division the games had all been close with seven points being the highest winning margin. We beat Prestonia 43 to 18.

After the game there were a lot of photographers taking our picture and I recall I was standing next to Mr. Cobb. He leaned over and told me to remember the moment because I may never again have so many photographers taking my picture at once. He was right . . . and I do remember.

As long as I was at Ballard the side doors to the gymnasium (where Santa Claus entered) were never locked and you could go in at any time, turn on the lights, and play basketball. The classrooms and office were locked, but our main interest was playing in the gym.

Our social life escalated in the seventh grade and we could now participate in the dances sponsored by the Social Committee. I have already mentioned the Pajama Party where everyone came dressed in pajamas. There were lots of other parties as well. My classmates had dances at their homes, there were the G.G.G. parties. We also became aware of games like "Spin the Bottle." I recall that there were two kinds of parties, those that went from 8:00 o'clock to 11:00 PM and others from 8:30 to 11:30 PM. Naturally the later the party the more I liked it. At most of these parties the livingroom rug would be rolled up so we could dance and

Ballard School:



Ballard's eighth grade county champions. Front row left to right, Paul Semonin, Doug Blackburn, Don Cooke, Lawrence Smith, Larry Leis; back row left to right, Morton Boyd, Raymond Coy, Llew Spears, Mr. Roy Cobb, Bruce Haldeman, Norman Wheatley, Fritz Russell, Don Janzen

Jefferson County Grade School Tournament February 20-23, 1950

Game 1	Ballard 40 - Middletown 13
Game 2	Ballard 37 - Masonic Home 13
Game 3	Ballard 25 - Kentucky Children's Home 6
Game 4	Ballard 43 - Prestonia 18 (Championship)

Ballard School:

a record player provided music by artists like Jo Stafford singing about "pyramids along the Nile". Soon we discovered that it was easier to dance with the lights off. This led to "dancing close", and we immediately learned that this was much better than "Round that couple, take a little peek". I doubt if these discoveries can be attributed to "Ballard creativity" but instead were probably hormonally inspired. I remember the first time I danced close I was dancing with Sherley Goodwin the way I had been taught at dancing class. She informed me that I was doing it wrong and pulled me closer. From this I gained an appreciation of aggressive women.

While I was at Ballard there were a number of fads that swept the school and I guess these should be mentioned. There was a Yo-Yo craze during which time everyone brought a Yo-Yo to school, Before and after school, at lunchtime, and at recess, there were kids playing with their Yo-Yo. For the true Yo-Yo enthusiast not just any kind would do, it had to be the Genuine Tournament one made by Duncan. There was a correct way to make the loop that went around your finger and the loop had to go on the end of your middle finger, never on your index finger. The Yo-Yo had to be thrown by having your palm up and flipping it over the end of your finger. There were also special methods of



A yo-yo I had at Ballard

rewinding the string besides holding the Yo-Yo in one hand and winding the string with the other. Only beginners did this. There were a number of maneuvers that you had to learn, like "Walking the Dog", "Around the World", "Sleeping Beauty" and "Rocking the Baby". Playing with a yo-yo was not always safe, particularly if the string broke while doing "Around the World". This would send it careening in an unpredictable direction and possibly land the operator in Hugh Shwab's chair.



Mary Clowes and Fritz Russell dancing at a Ballard social function
(photograph from Mary Clowes Taylor)

Ballard School:

There was a brief fad where everyone had a bean shooter, and while we all loved them, they were not popular with the teachers. Bean shooters were brightly colored plastic tubes, about a foot long, three-eighths of an inch in diameter, and the ammunition consisted of dried, white navy beans. A mouthful could be expelled at a rapid rate of speed. As I recall they were soon outlawed.

A more benign fad started when I was in the sixth or seventh grade and that was collecting playing cards. The attraction was the picture on the back of the card. Cards pictures were classified into such categories as; horses, dogs, ships, people, and flowers. We kept our cards sorted with rubber bands around the various categories. I remember that Man of War was a particularly valuable horse card and The Blue Boy and Pinky were two sought after people. Everyday we brought our cards to school and traded them. I believe the Safety Patrol even allowed us to trade them on the bus. It was not unusual for someone to have a hundred cards. This was the only fad that I can remember where girls and boys of all ages participated as equals. In fact, as I recall, girls had some of the best collections. It was also the only fad that I remember where teachers didn't have some kind of rule that worked to our disadvantage.

I have tried to convey that at Ballard creativity was encouraged, and while I believe the teachers were successful in doing this, at times Dr. Jekyll turns into the Mr. Hyde. I guess what happened in the eighth grade is an excellent example of creativity run amuck. Poor Miss Purdy, she was one of our eighth grade teachers and this was her first teaching job. After her experience with us I wonder why she didn't quit teaching and go to work in a factory. It would have been easier. The trick that we played on her (The Buzzer in the Wall Incident) has got to be an all time classic. Actually Albert Woody was the instigator and it was an elaborate plan. First, I should explain that the room was laid out with blackboards wall-to-wall on the front and side walls. The back of the class was all windows that looked out onto a woods that went down to the area where the May Day Festival was held. The desks were arranged facing the front of the room, except those next to the side wall blackboards, and these faced in toward the middle of the room. The classroom had high ceilings and there was a transom above the door that was covered with a metal grate. The scene is now set. Albert was the mechanical and electrical genius of the class and one day when school was over, and everyone was gone, he and Buddy Kenney took several of the blackboards out of their frames.



Ballard teachers (left to right: Marion Prentiss, Martha Purdy ("Poor Miss Purdy), Elizabeth Libby

Ballard School:

Albert removed the grate from the transom and hid a buzzer in the wall. A wire from the buzzer was run on top of the framing over the door, then across the front of the room and down one of the side walls. The blackboards were replaced thus hiding the wire. Albert's desk was against one of the side walls and he mounted a button under the chalk board railing. With the back of his desk against the railing all he had to do was lean back in his seat, press against the chalk railing and the buzzer would go off. As I said, poor Miss Purdy. The next day after class had started, the first time Miss Purdy opened the door Albert leaned back in his seat and the buzzer went off. Miss Purdy jumped back with surprise and the buzzer kept going until she closed the door, at which time Albert leaned forward and the buzzer went off. She was obviously aware that closing the door stopped the noise so she opened the door again and off went the buzzer. She repeatedly opened and closed the door, always with the same results. By this time, those of us in the class who knew what was happening were rolling in the aisles. Finally, totally confused by what was creating this strange noise, Miss Purdy went to the office and brought Mr. Wilder to the class. She explained in detail what had happened and opened and closed the door a number of times. Nothing happened! I can still see them looking up at the transom and Miss Purdy pointing to the source of the noise. No doubt Mr. Wilder thought Miss Purdy had gone over the edge, because he finally left. Bewildered by the incident Miss Purdy once again opened the door and Albert sounded the buzzer. The class erupted in laughter.

It is interesting to note what wasn't at Ballard, and in retrospect I remember that there were no clubs. I don't count scouting since this was something open to everyone. When I got to high school there were two honor societies, a club for students who had earned a school letter, a science club, and many others. There was none of this at Ballard. At Ballard I don't recall any emphasis ever being placed on grades. In fact, we didn't get traditional report cards with letter grades, but the teacher did a written evaluation of each student. I believe in this evaluation we were ranked in "Quartiles". We all knew that some members of our class excelled in certain things, and there were some who learned faster than others. People like Elizabeth Smith had musical abilities, Eric Everbach had an excellent singing voice, and Paul Semonin was the best artist in our class. There was not an

Assembly program that honored the top academic student, the top art student, or the student who did the best writing. I believe this was intentional and insightful. Not all students develop at the same rate, and aptitudes that may appear to be absent will blossom later. Giving awards was not consistent with the feeling at Ballard that we all had potential.

Education is not instruction in subject matter. It is the unfolding of all the latent potentialities in human nature.

Ninde Wilder, 1950

In retrospect I appreciate the way that I was educated at Ballard. We were certainly taught to express ourselves in writing and be creative. The Ballard News was an outlet for our writing and having us learn history by writing plays was an excellent way for us to hone these skills. We thought it was fun. We were certainly well prepared for high school and when I went to Eastern, each year our class president was one of my Ballard classmates.

Those of us who attended Ballard School considered it a jewel. My account reflects only one of the many facets . . . the perspective of an enthusiastic young boy. There is also the Ballard School as experienced by girls, and the memories of the younger students looking for Easter eggs with their partner, and dancing with one of the older boys or girls at the Christmas Party. I am sure that everyone has a "Buzzer in the Wall" story to tell and a memory that is special for them.

The last assembly of the year was always very important. A class was graduating and the school letter (The Ballard B) was presented to seventh, eighth, and ninth graders. Every year the girls cried, but 1950 was a very special year because it signaled an end to many aspects of the school. In the future, Ballard would only go through the sixth grade. Many of the traditions, like the eighth and ninth graders performing with first and second graders, would be lost. What would happen to the Ballard News and how could a sixth grader be Santa Claus at the Christmas Party? It really was the end of an era. Singing the school song that year was very meaningful.

Ballard School:

Ballard School Song

(Washington and Lee fight song tune)

Let's give a lasting cheer for Ballard School
To her we pledge our loyalty

With colors waving high of gold and blue
We love her everyone ,we do, we do, we do

At basketball and baseball we are fine
Against our foes we keep a steady line

So let's fight, fight, fight, for our dear school
The gold and blue, Ballard School

Ballard School:



More Memories

Classmates of mine while I was at Ballard
1945 - 1950

BOYS


Gary Bailey
Joe Bell
Doug Blackburn
Morton Boyd
Lee Brown
Don Cooke
Raymond Coy
Earl Crabtree
Jamie Davis
Eric Everbach
Bruce Haldeman
Freddy Head
Jack Hunt
Marcus Kinsloe
Buddy Keeney
Larry Leis
Clay Morton
Doug Roy
Fritz Russell
Fulton Satterley
Paul Semonin
Lawrence Smith
Llew Spears
Larry Sweeney
Ross Todd
Rodney Wells
Norman Wheatley
Albert Woody

GIRLS

Sallie Bingham
Mary Clowes
Betty Jean Golff
Sherley Goodman
Marion Head
Louise Helm
Judy Herr
Doris Horton
Regina Lucus
Naomi Moore
Helen Murry
Martha Norman
Linda Rogers
Deloris Sheehan
Ann Shelley
Elizabeth Smith
Helen Tinnell
Jane Williamson

Note: I remembered most of these people, but referred to my copies of the Ballard News, and the Robin Hood program to refresh my memory. Some of the people listed above were my classmates for only a year or two, and there are several others who were in my class for only several months. If I have failed to list you please forgive me. Chalk it up to the aging process.

Ballard School:



NINTH
GRADE
WILL

I, Sarah Ann Hoick,
being of sound mind and
body, do hereby make this
my last will and testament.
I will my chassis to Teddy Dean (Deaner)
and my beautiful singing voice to Mr.
Dorsey, and my lovely blue eyes to Mr.
Cobb.

I, Beverly Gaines, do hereby will my
beautiful complexion to the person who
needs it most (I leave this to you to
decide) and my precisedioned brain to Judy
Rule.

I, Sherry Wells, do hereby make this
my last will and testament. To Mr. Wilder
my algebra "C & R's", to Mr. Cobb the
last chapter of the Lady of the Lake, and
my dancing ability (that's a joke, son)
to Bill Prentiss.

I, Donald Bell, do hereby bequeath my
special abilities to the following people:
To Mary Wright I will my ability to stir
up trouble, to Jon Dean I will my big
brown eyes and freckles.

I, Tom Helm, do hereby will my excel-
lent ability to remember and understand
history stories and dates to Jack Russell,
To Bill Rollins I leave my ability of
hair-splitting with Mrs. Prentiss, and
to Phillip Nowman I leave my popping-off-
in-class ability.

I, Dick Prentiss, do hereby will
nothing, for I am too stingy and want
everything for myself.

I, Jim Thompson, do hereby will my
study hall periods to anyone who wishes
them. (You can guess why I have so many.)
To Virginia King I leave my motor scooter
because she is so in love with it.

I, Mac Von Allmen, do hereby bequeath
my excellent abilities to the following
people: To Nancy Brigham I leave my scat-
ter-brain. To Julie Baquie I leave my
nicely combed hair.

I, Billy Calvert, do hereby will my
ability to stare at people to Anna Mae
Burgin and my tidy desk to Ballard Morton.

I, Jimmy Offutt do hereby will my
Saturday afternoons to Jack Russell to
take Virginia to the movies.

The Will of the Ninth Grade Class - 1946
Ballard News - May 17, 1946

Ballard School:

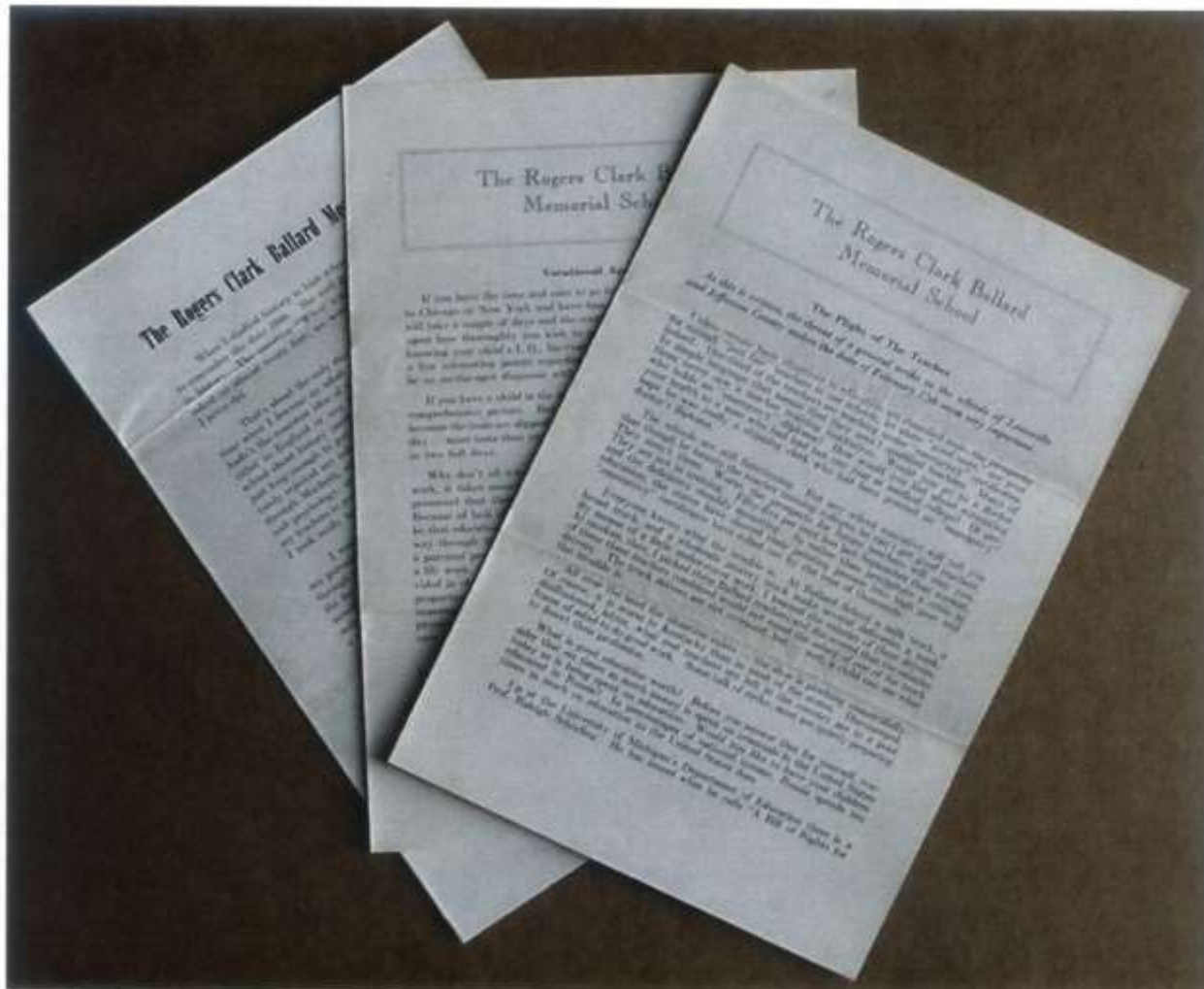
Another Ballard School Song

These lyrics were found in the files at The Chance School. Six glass lantern slides had been xeroxed onto a sheet of paper and these lyrics were on two of the slides. They were both untitled, but were numbered 1 and 2 (for the first and second verse). I don't remember ever singing this song, but I have probably forgotten many of the songs we sang.

We're the students of Ballard School,
You hear so much about.
The people stop and stare at us,
Whenever we go out.
We're not a bit stuck up,
About the clever things we do.
Most everybody likes us,
And we hope You'll like us too.

We come from the river,
From the hills and from the towns,
The cities and the vale,
And all the country round.
We like to come to Ballard School,
We never miss a day.
We do our work, and take our part,
At lessons or at play.

Ballard School:



Three of the pamphlets written by Ninde Wilder. (left - 1950, untitled, answers questions that parents might have; middle - 1948, Vocational Aptitudes; right - 1947, The Plight of the Teacher)

Ballard School:



The Furnace Room

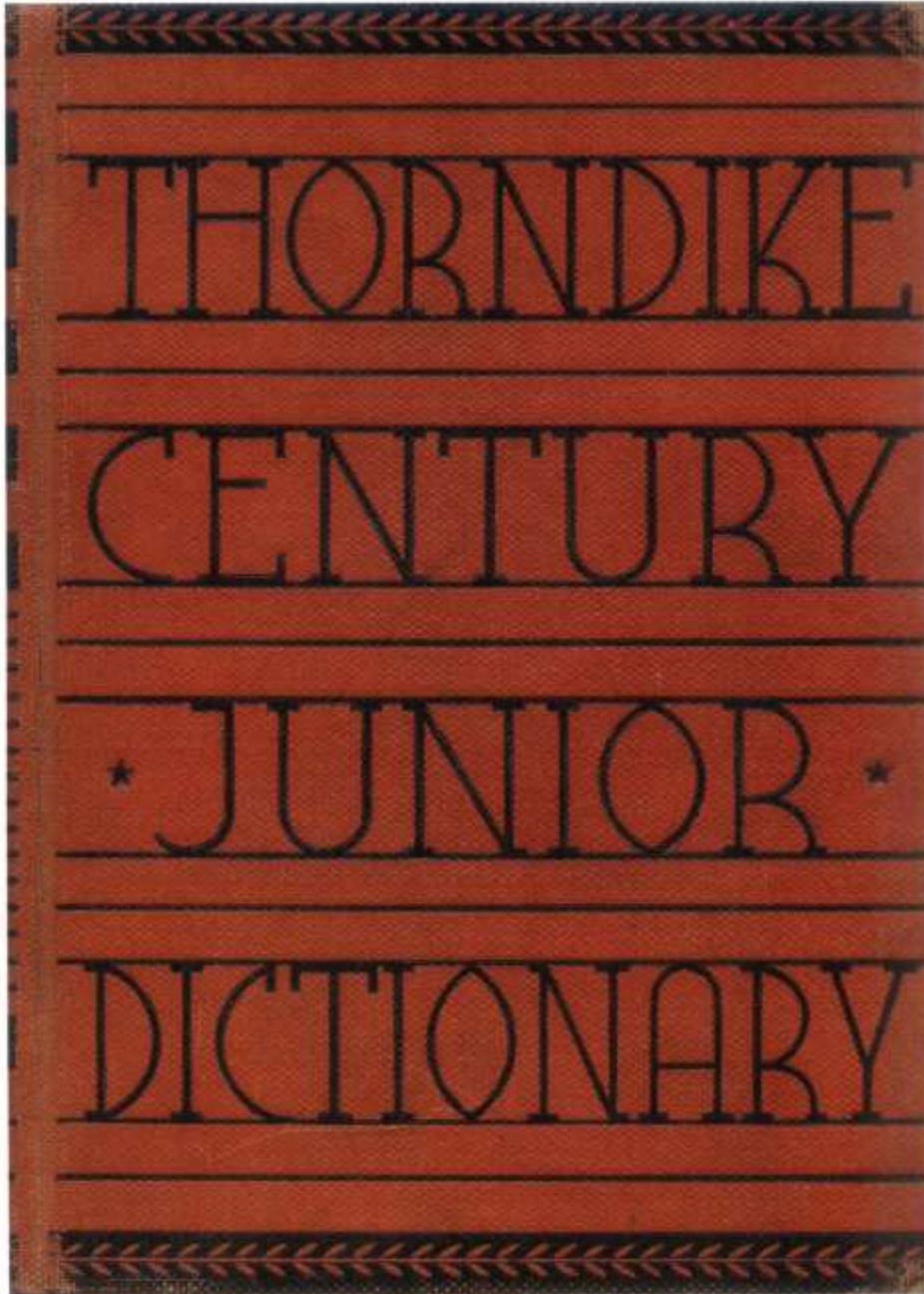
“Going to the furnace room” were words that sent fear through a Ballard student because it was here that spankings were administered by Mr. Wilder. There were a number of activities that could result in a trip to the furnace room. Jock Davenport and Alex Humphrey made the trip because they were caught having an eraser fight while the teacher was out of the room. Excessive appearances in Safety Patrol court might also result in a paddling. Now, over fifty years later, some first-hand accounts have surfaced that describe the ritual of going to the furnace room. I am sure that no one will be surprised that the main source of information comes from Hugh Shwab. It appears that sitting in the office chair was not always sufficient to rectify Hugh’s behavior. There were rumors that the paddle was a ping pong paddle, but our authority describes it more like a fraternity paddle . . . and to decrease wind resistance there were holes in it! This was verified by Bill Wells, who was also a member of what will be called The Order of the Paddle. According to our experts, Mr. Wilder liked to take several people at a time to the furnace room to heighten the experience as one witnessed others receiving the end of the paddle. In preparation for punishment you had to lean over a wooden bench so the target was in clear view. It seems that the blows were not “love pats” and about three could be expected. Alex and Jock got a dozen licks with a ruler. Bill Wells said that people often cried, but it was more from hurt feelings than pain.

It was long rumored that only boys went to the furnace room, but it has now been revealed that at least three girls made the trip down those stairs into this chamber. All are now respected members of the community and it would serve no useful purpose to identify them as Marg Spears Susan Creal and Missy Martain. In a personal interview with these parties it was discovered that although they were taken to the Furnace Room, no spanking was administered. It was probably what today we would call a “scare tactic”.

Known Members of The Order of the Paddle

Hugh Shwab (Grand Master)	Jack Hunt
Jimmy Bates	Rutledge Lilly
Donald Bell	Bobby Martin
Hewett Brown	Fulton Satterley
Jock (John) Davenport	David Simpson
David Etheridge	Bill Wells
Phil Faversham	Susan Creal (Honorary member)
Howard Hall	Marg Spears (Honorary member)
Alex Humphrey	Missy Martin (Honorary member)

Ballard School:



The Thorndike dictionary that was sold in the bookstore

Ballard School:



Burton Shelley - Wanted for questioning

© The Courier Journal - 11/25/45

WARRANT FOR ARREST

To Nov 16, 1949
Burton Shelley Grade 6

You are hereby notified to appear before the regular meeting of the Safety Patrol at 9:50 o'clock today.

Be sure to bring this ticket with you when you appear at the meeting.

Llew Spears
(Safety Patrolman)

DO NOT FOLD

Safety Patrol citation issued to Burton Shelley
(from the files of Shelley Forbes)

Ballard School:



Ballard teachers also had fun
Marion Prentiss (front) and Elizabeth Smith (rear)
(photograph from Elizabeth Smith Tucker)

LOST
In vicinity of Mars, one blue elephant.

An item obviously lost on a Ballard field trip
Ballard News - March, 1949

Ballard School:



Ballard Events

Ballard School:

ROBIN HOOD

Presented at the Louisville Children's Theatre
April 23 and 24, 1948
Halleck Hall

Written by the Sixth Grade, Ballard School

CAST OF CHARACTERS

BOYS (24)


Ron Baquie - Forester
Morton Boyd - Monk
Gordon Brigham - Knight, Monk, Forester
Lee Brown - Forester, Child of Nobility
Eric Everbach - Allan-a-Dale, Monk
Bill Goodman - Jack the Potter, Knight, Forester
Larry Grauman - Lord Fitzwalter
Teddy Isaacs - Will Stutely, Knight, Forester
Jackie Hunt - Monk, Forester
Donald Janzen - Forester, Peasant
Penny Kemp - Little John
Calvin Libby - Forester, Servant
Johnny Lord - Much the Miller, The Herald,
Forester
Billy Martin - Friar Tuck
Dougie Roy - Arthur Bland, Monk, Forester
Fritz Russell - Will Scarlett, Knight, Forester
Billy Schaaf - Forester, Servant
Joe Scheirich - Robin Hood
Wayne Schmeideknect - Peasant
Paul Semonin - Forester
David Simpson - Sheriff
Llew Spears - Forester, Peasant
Rodney Wells - Forester, Child of Nobility
Paul Wilder - King Richard

GIRLS (55)

Carlo Bristow - Peasant
Lois Brown - Peasant
Margaret Campbell - Bluebird
Barbara Clarke - sister of Lady Marian, Maiden,
Peasant
Mary Clowes - Monk, Sprite, Peasant
Diane Cobb - Page
Polly Cochran - Fawn
Nancy Creal - Archer, Maiden
Susan Creal - Page
Iva Embry - Fawn
Gretchen Everbach - Berngere, Archer
Marjorie Gadd - Peasant

Brooke Garlove - Archer, Bluebird
Barbara Goodwin - Page
Sherley Goodwin - Monk, Sprite, Peasant
Georgine Griswold - Maiden
Jane Haldeman - Page
Betty Lee Hall - Flower Girl
Jane Hamrick - Bluebird
Marian Head - Redbird
Louise Helm - Sprite, Peasant
Jesse Herr - Archer
Shirley Holmes - Maiden
Ann Humphrey - Fawn
Adele Irving - Servant
Peggy Karem - Bluebird
Sherry Keith - Page
Robin LaVeille - Bluebird
Regina Lucas - Peasant
Helen Murray - Redbird, Peasant
Martha Norman - Sprite, Peasant
Nancy Ann Norris - Fawn
Nancy Offutt - Archer, Fawn
Ina Jean Purvis - Peasant, Flower Girl
Lucille Reneau - Beggar
Linda Rogers - Redbird, Peasant
Jeanette Rowlette - Page
Judy Rule - Lady Marian
Judy Scheirich - Fawn
Vianne Seabolt - Page
Delois Sheehan - Peasant
Ann Shelley - Monk, Sprite, Peasant
Libby Skaggs - Peasant
Elizabeth Smith - Monk, Redbird, Peasant
Olivia Smith - Servant
Meredith Smythe - Messenger, Sprite, Peasant
Norma Stassel - Peasant
Peggy Steiner - Beggar
Elizabeth Tinnell - Archer
Helen Tinnell - Peasant, Flower Girl
Gayle Unterreiner - Archer
Mary Wallace - Maiden
Mary Wilder - Page
Juanita Wilhoite - Peasant
Jane Williamson - Redbird

Ballard School:



LOUISVILLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE
Presents
ROBIN HOOD
Presented by Ballard Memorial School
Written by the Sixth Grade—Miss Alice Kennedy, Teacher
APRIL 21 AND 22, 1942

(This operetta is based on the tradition that Robin Hood was once the Earl of Huntington, and was, for no good reason, deprived of his lands and title.)

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Lady Marian	Judy Kelly	Mark the Miller	Johnny Luff
Robin Hood	Joe Schellert	Will Scarlet	John Dwyer
Sherriff	Donald Simpson	Will Scarlet	John Dwyer
Isabella, sister of Lady Marian	Barbara Clarke	Jack the Piper	Bill Cuckoo
Felix, Tuck	Billy Martin	The Messenger	Marionette Smith
Lord Peverell	Larry Owens	The Herald	Johnny Luff
Little John	Patric Kemp	Sir Guy	Caroline Campbell
Alma-Turn	Kate Kucharski	Arthur Hood	Thelma Lee
King Richard	Paul White		

PALEYS—Miss Galt, Miss Cook, Barbara Clarke, Don Holloman, Steve Holt, Joseph Holloman, Victor Smith, Mary Dwyer

KNIGHTS—Lester Swanson, Bill Goodwin, Emily Davis, Fred Dwyer

ARCHERS—Harry Gray, Beulah Anderson, James Hall, Loretta Harrison, Marie O'Hara, Eliza and Thelma Kaye, Catherine

SHRUBS—Ade Lovelock, Jackie Reed, Steve Green, Douglas Kay, Sharon Kay, Elizabeth Smith, Anne Miller, Shirley Goodwin, Lucille Simpson

WITNESSES—Mary Walker, Betty Cook, Barbara Clarke, Georgia Connors, Thelma Holloman

REVEREND—Edward Smith, James Williamson, Helen Murray, Marjorie Reed, Lucille Simpson

BLIND MEN—Charles Anderson, Jack Penick, Peggy Kamm, Helen Lovelock, Margaret Connors

FARMS—Nancy O'Hara, Jack Schmitt, Joe Kober, Nancy Ann Davis, Ann Thompson, Polly Jackson

PEOPLE—Shirley Goodwin, Lucille Smith, Marjorie Murray, Mary Green, Ann Miller, Mary Ann Smith

FORESTERS—Harvey Reed, Lee Brown, Jackie Reed, Donald James, Thelma Davis, Douglas Kay, Felix Kamm, Bill Goodwin, Fred Swanson, John Swanson, Lucille Simpson, Beulah Simpson, Cecile Lyle, Jackie Lyle, Billy Schmitt, Barbara Smith

SERVANTS—Ade Lovelock, Olive Smith, Edith Schmitt, Cecile Lyle

PEASANTS—Mary Green, Donald James, Lucille Simpson, Elizabeth Smith, Sharon Smith, Loretta Swanson, Marjorie Goodwin, Shirley Lovelock, Jackie Murray, Thelma Simpson, Lee Swanson, Joe Ann Penick, Joseph Williamson, Elizabeth Smith, Lucille Davis, Marjorie Murray, Ann Miller, John Smith, Barbara Clarke, Carl Swanson, Peggy Schmitt, Thelma Simpson, Beulah Simpson, Lucille Simpson

BOGIES—Lucille Simpson, Peggy Swanson

CHILDREN OF MOBILITY—Edward Kelly, Lee Brown

FLOWER GIRLS—Dorothy Lee, Bill, Beulah Simpson, and Ann Penick

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES
Three—Third Grade

ACT I
Scene 1—Quitting the castle of the Earl of Huntington
Scene 2—On the journey before the castle of Lord Peverell, Fairlight Inn.

ACT II
Scene 1—Robin's Return to Sherwood Forest
Scene 2—Home at Home 1

ACT III
Scene 1—Quitting the castle of the Earl of Huntington, The new day

MUSICAL PROGRAM

As the folk music used within operetta is material familiar to children with which, in every instance, is a simple chordal and accompaniment. It would be difficult to give a simple listing of a distinctive list of music in Europe, which has not been recorded upon the scale of following. The following may definitely be distinguished from the composition of the individual nations. A listing in the hope not of one note, but of a title, a melody, a note. All that we know of the origin is that the composer usually has been in England, the general quality in folk music is that it is usually very simple, the melody and accompaniment of the people among whom it originated. It is interesting to note that early British folk songs in their greatest purity have been found among the primitive tribes in the mountains of the South. A large number of traditional songs have been recorded in England, however, they are believed to be genuine folk songs.

ACT I

1. The Archer's Song	"Robin Hood" by McKerr
2. Sheriff's Song	Alan Kennedy
3. Page at the Castle	Adapted from "Robin Hood" by McKerr
4. The Peasants' Song	"Robin Hood" by McKerr
5. Rural George's Song	English Ballad
6. Robin's Song	English Ballad

(Most of the more popular of all British songs have England as their origin. It was well-nigh impossible to list the songs of all the folk music of England and Wales. The melody and accompaniment are given in the appendix.)

1. Sheriff's Song—English by Schmitt	Miss Walker, Instrumental
2. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
3. Page's Song	English Folk Tune
4. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
5. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune

ACT II

1. Robin's Song	"Robin Hood" by McKerr
2. Sheriff's Song	Alan Kennedy
3. The King's Song	English Folk Tune
4. Working at Lord and Lady's Feet	Adapted
5. The Peasant's Song	"Robin Hood" by McKerr
6. Woodland Ballad	English Folk Tune

(Most of the more popular of all British songs have England as their origin. It was well-nigh impossible to list the songs of all the folk music of England and Wales. The melody and accompaniment are given in the appendix.)

1. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
2. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
3. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
4. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
5. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune

ACT III

1. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
2. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
3. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
4. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune
5. Peasant's Song	English Folk Tune

CREDITS

PRODUCTION	Miss Elizabeth Smith
LIBRETTIST	Miss Elizabeth Smith
MUSIC	Miss Elizabeth Smith
SCENERY	Miss Elizabeth Smith
PROPERTY	Miss Elizabeth Smith
CASTING	Miss Elizabeth Smith
STYLING	Miss Elizabeth Smith
PROPAGANDA	Miss Elizabeth Smith
PRODUCTION	Miss Elizabeth Smith

Robin Hood program

Ballard School:

The Harvest Supper - 1944



Harriet Quin (left) and Jane Smith (right) put on makeup to prepare for a dance © The Courier-Journal 12/3/44



Nancy Offutt (left) and Sherry Wells (right) peek through the curtain at the audience © The Courier-Journal 12/3/44



Bruce Smith (left) and Jimmy Offutt (right) prepare for a boxing match © The Courier-Journal 12/3/44

Ballard School:

The Harvest Supper - 1945



Mrs. Elizabeth Smith applies makeup to Brooke Garlove (seated) and Adele Irving for their Hansel and Gretel skit. © The Courier-Journal 11/25/45



Ballard students enjoy the show. Louise Helm, front; Jack Hunt and Ann Shelley, center row, Barbara Sinclair and Freddie Head rear © The Courier-Journal 11/25/45



Frank Thompson, left, and George Norton give a radio news satire © The Courier-Journal 11/25/45

Ballard School:

Terrible Tim Skit - 1945



Back to Civvies

Ninde Wilder, left, as Terrible Tim, is back from the army and goes to buy civilian clothes. Julian Dorsey plays the role of the tailor.

© The Courier-Journal 11/25/45

Ballard School:

May Day



The May Day tradition continues
May Day, 1951, Anne Clowes (sixth grade) is selected as May Queen
(photographs from Mary Clowes Taylor)

Ballard School:



1951 May Day celebration starts with princesses leading the procession from the school to the festival area. Left to right, Jenny Herr, Judy Semonin, Suzie Glenn. (photograph from Judy Semonin)

Ballard School:



1951 May Day festival - The May Pole is to the left with streamers that are blue and yellow. Note that children of the same age are dancing. At this time there is no seventh or eighth grades. (photograph from Judy Semonin)

BALLARD FAIR



TELEVISION SET

This year the P.T.A. is giving away another television set. This set is very beautiful, and you may buy chances at the Fair for very little. Everyone come to the Fair and take lots of chances on the Television set.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Hurry, all you kiddies! The merry-go-round is about to start!

This year there will be a merry-go-round for the kids at the Ballard Fair. Buy your ticket on this merry-go-round, and when it stops you will want to buy another ride. So, kids, this is your chance to have some real fun at the Fair!

SOCK THE TEACHERS

Boys and Girls! How would you like to sock your teacher? You will have your chance at the Fair. There is a booth in which for one thin dime you get three chances. Not only do you get to sock your teacher, but you also will win a prize if your aim is good. So, if you think you are a good pitcher, come and try your luck!

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

There will be a Wheel-Of-Chance again. There'll be fine prizes, and many of them. A sweets table with lots of home made goodies will provide something for you to take home. Books, balloons, plants and many other things will be on sale too!

PONY RIDES

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Keith will have charge of the ponies for the young and old to ride. There will be big ones, small ones and middle sized ones.

Come, let's all take a ride! The cost will be very small, and the ride will be a long one. Be sure to buy many tickets to ride the ponies.

MOVIES

Up in the school building movies will be shown. They will be exciting cowboy pictures.

There will be two puppet shows also. Come, watch the puppets dance and play.

BASE BALL

Hey! you old men! Do you think you can beat your kids? Well, you will have your chance at the Ballard Fair.

(Kids, you'd better be practicing to beat your dads!)



Ballard School:



The Way We Were

Ballard School:



A summer swimming party. (Left to right): Jane Haldeman, Sherry Keith, Lee Brown, Morton Boyd, Doug Roy, Clay Morton, Bruce Haldeman, Don Janzen, Stewart Ogden, Joe Bell (on the ground with ball) - 1946

Ballard School:



An outing at Big Rock in Cherokee Park. Gary Bailey (with sailor's hat), Paul Semonin (left), Don Janzen (in middle with eyes shut), Kenney Brown (to the right of Don), Lawrence Smith (behind Paul), Dougie Roy (between Don and Kenny), Hugh Shwab (back row, right) - May, 1946

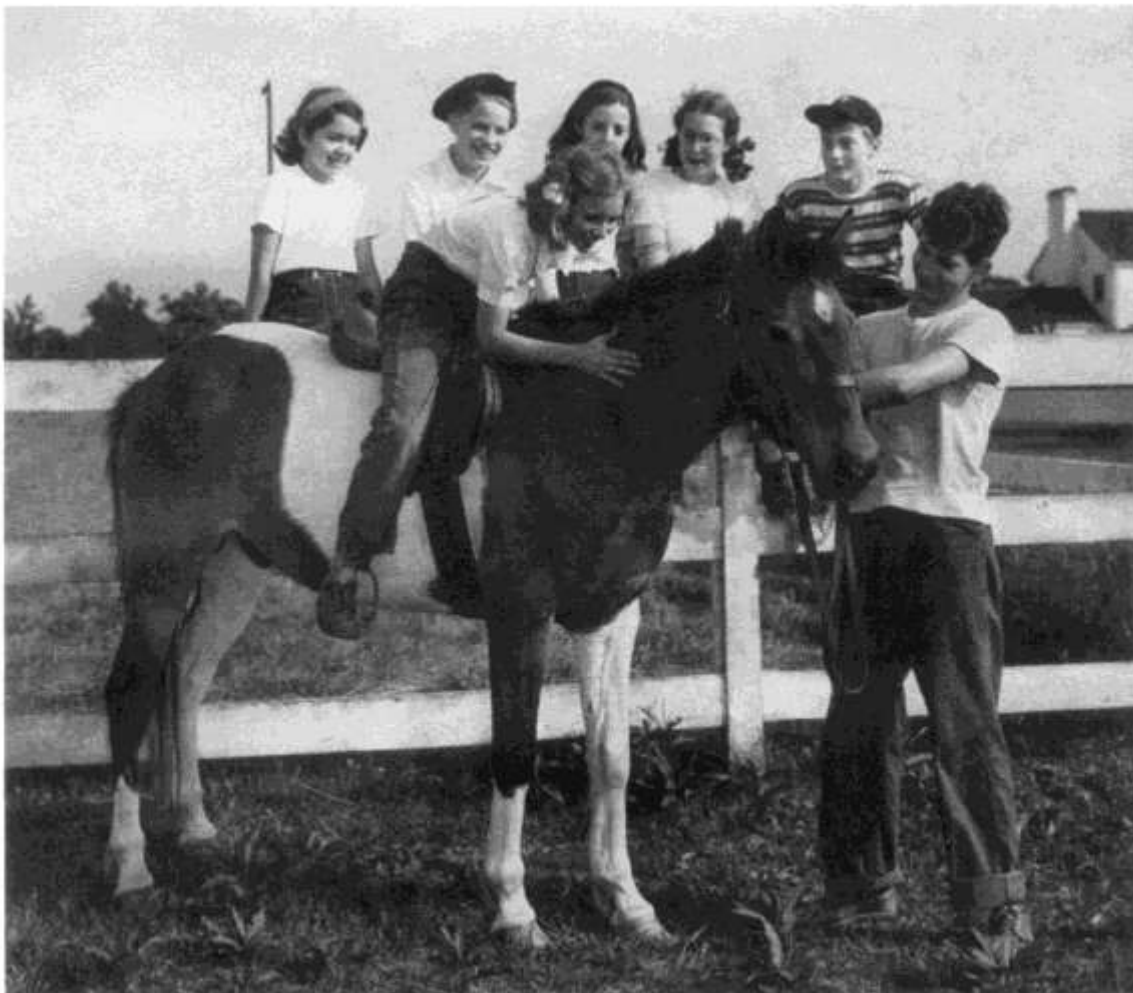
Ballard School:



Ballard School Troop 109 at Bernheim Forest Camporee in 1949. Facing camera (left) Paul Semonin, (standing with hand on hip) Doug Roy, front right, Bill Wells. (photograph from Paul Semonin)



Ballard School:



My classmates horsing around. Louise Helm (on horse, Fritz Russell (standing), on fence (left to right), Ann Shelley, Eric Everbach, Mary Clowes, Martha Norman, Morton Boyd (photograph from Mary Clowes Taylor)

Ballard School:



Lamar Douglas Roy III
(but just Dougie Roy to us)
(photograph from Sarah Roy)



Llew Spears at Ballard
(photo from Mary Clowes Taylor)



Ross Todd (left), Don Janzen (right) 1945

Ballard School:



Paul Semonin - 1945



Rodney Wells with his Ballard "B"
1950



Larry Leis with his Ballard "B"
1950

Ballard School:



Ballard School:

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Ballard Pupils Give 19th Annual Valentine Show

In keeping with a nineteen year tradition, Ballard School presented its annual Valentine's Program Friday morning at the regular assembly time. Like three other annual programs, Harvest Festival, Christmas, and May Day, this endeavor was designed to give every child in the school an opportunity to perform. In addition it allowed the older and younger children to combine their efforts in a single production.

This year's presentation held to the custom of having a King and Queen of Hearts and all the court as the focal point with the performers striving to entertain their "Royal Majesties". However, for this occasion the theme of each class' dance or skit was based upon the fairy story, "The Princess Who Couldn't Laugh." The unhappy Princess was seated high above the audience on her castle balcony. From this vantage point she viewed the street below where various grades and combination of grades attempted to dispel the gloom that surrounded her by filling the air with music, gaiety, and laughter.

Try as they might each group was doomed to failure. But as the fairy story recounts, the spell was finally broken by a group of hilarious characters who somehow got themselves unmistakably attached to a golden goose that refused to let go.

The King and Queen of Hearts heartily applauded the dramatic efforts of their subjects, and the program concluded with the Recessional.

Johnny Lich played the king. Kingsley Henry was the queen. Heralds were Gene King and Rod Moorhead. Flower girls were Peggy Smith and Holly Russell. Train bearers were Frederick Louis and John Pitchford.

All 358 children of the school participated.



THE KING AND QUEEN OF HEARTS
Johnny Lich and Kingsley Henry

February 18, 1954

Ballard Fair Pet And Horse Show Winners Listed

Tinker Bell, a 3½ months old female collie, owned by Dan Cox, was judged best of show at the Ballard School Fair pet show last Saturday.

Other pet show winners:

Most unusual pet — triplet goats owned by LaMar Hansen.

Most attractive cat — two Persian kittens, Mr. and Mrs. James W. Henning.

Puppies one to eight months—female collies, Betsy Cox.

House dogs — fox terrier, Billy Hahn.

Small hunting dog—dachsund, Beezy Hobson.

Large hunting dog — weimaraner, Owsley Brown.

Horse show winners were:

Lead line class, Nancy Reid Martin.

Handling class, George Petro. Ballard school special class, Roansie Mashburn.

Ballard school special class, Missy Martin.

Novice horsemanship, Peppy Martin.

Intermediate horsemanship, Adelaide Snyder.

Advanced horsemanship, Lynne Girdler.

Pair class, Anne Durham.

Barobuck class, Cornelia Serpell.

Family class, Sissy Aubrey.

County class, Doris Spinner.

June 3, 1954

Part Of Ballard Fair Profits Go To Chenoweth

A horse show, pet show, and flower show will highlight the annual Ballard School Fair to be held on the school grounds Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. About one-third of the profits go to the new Chenoweth School. The rest go to Ballard P.T.A.

Those interested in entering the horse show, which begins at 2 p.m., should call Mrs. Dan Cox, chairman, at Harrocks Creek 350. Entrance fee is \$1 in advance or \$1.50 the day of the fair.

Pets of all kinds may be entered in the pet show. There is no charge. Mrs. Jim Henning is chairman.

Entries for the flower show should be brought in from 9 to 11 a.m. Judging will be at noon. Mrs. Asa Fuller and Mrs. Lloyd Terrell are in charge. There will be prizes and ribbons in all shows.

There will also be rides and booths of all kinds, and lunch will be served. An air conditioner will be given away.

Mrs. Clifton Rodes is chairman of the fair and Mrs. Fielden Woodward is co-chairman. The school is on Lime Kiln Lane, between Brownsboro and Upper River Rd.

May 27, 1954

Ballard School:

Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:

They Share Their Knowledge At Ballard School

At Ballard School recently the fifth grade class of Sam Fleischer was sharing its knowledge of nutrition with the rest of the school.

Taking over the auditorium, members of the class one by one advanced to the center of the stage to tell the audience of fellow students what foods to eat for the best health. They carried large cards to demonstrate what they were talking about.

This was only one phase of a whole general program carried out by Ballard and other County Schools.

- The purposes:
 - To share knowledge.
 - To give the children poise.
 - To enable them to address a group with assurance, and
 - To develop individual aptitudes.
- Assemblies at Ballard are held about every week. Principal Mrs. Mabel Bowen said they are so arranged that every child in the school gets up on the stage before an audience at least once a year.
- She explained that each class does the ground work on "a work unit" in the home room. When the class is finished with that unit, it goes on stage.

For instance, Mr. Fleischer first taught the class a great deal about nutrition. Then he and the class worked out a way to put it on the stage in such a graphic manner that the essentials of what they learned could be absorbed quickly by the rest of the students.

Of course, Ballard has four big assemblies each year. The first is a Harvest Festival in November to which families and alumni are invited. Second comes the Christmas party for Santa staged for the pre-school children in the Ballard area. For the Valentine program, the children learn the principles of sharing. They make gifts for each other. The finale is the May Day program, with a Queen picked from those girls who have attended the school all six years. The Queen's Court is picked from those who attended from the third grade on.

Mrs. Bowen said that all the school children participate in all four programs.

There have been many interesting smaller programs this year. After completing a pioneer unit, Peggy Moberly's fourth grade class gave a pioneer play about George Rogers Clark. After finishing a unit on Norway, this same class gave an assembly program on Norway.

Other interesting assemblies: Art, with a visit to the Junior Art Gallery, by Elizabeth Libby's third grade; United Nations, and a study of the American form of government, by Mattye B. Reed's sixth grade; the Middle Ages, and a safety unit, by Alice Kennedy's sixth grade; Landing at Corn Island by Hattie Glenn's fourth grade.

"Of course acting is a little rough in the lower grades but it's pretty smooth by the time the children reach the sixth grade," said Mr. Bowen. Those



Sam Fleischer's fifth grade class at Ballard School last week presented its assembly program on milk and foods. Here Miss Trinkia Terrell demonstrates the value of vitamin C.

who can't perform work on the lights, scenery, and other stage chores.

"The more you get boys and girls to participate in programs, to work with other people, the better citizens they become," she said. "They are able to see the viewpoint of others and they acquire tolerance. I look for the day when youngsters will be able to adjust from elementary school to junior high school and then to high school and beyond without any trouble whatsoever."

Realizing this is a break with the traditional approach, she said: "Yesterday's gone and we live today for our boys and girls."

April 28, 1955



—photo by Jimmy Wallace

Crowned Queen at Ballard School's May Day last week was Peggy Pruitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Pruitt, Louise Rita Lane, Diane Fisher crowns the Queen. At left is Janice Vaughn. All are sixth graders.

May 19, 1955

Ballard Fair A Gala Event

Plans for the annual Ballard Fair are going forward in a big way and when the fair opens Saturday, May 21, at 10 a.m., rain or shine, the school grounds free.

will be humming with activity.

There will be fun for all; and, Mrs. William Chescheir, general chairman, expects a record crowd at this year's Fair. There will be rides and games of all kinds for the kiddies, and the many booths and handsome prizes will intrigue the adults. Admission free.

May 19, 1955

Ballard School:

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*



Queen Barbara Satterly reigned over the annual May Day Festival at Ballard School on Tuesday. Barbara, 12, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Satterly of Harrods Creek. She is in the sixth grade. The entire student body participated in the dances and ceremonies of the Festival.

May 3, 1956

Annual Ballard Fair, Horse Show Next Week

The annual Ballard School Fair, highlighted by a student championship horse show, will be held on Friday, May 26, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the school grounds on Lime Kinn Lane.

The Fair will get underway with a horse show at 10:30 a.m. which will include equitation, hunting, and family classes. The main attraction will be the Ballard School Championship for students only. A new class has been added to the horse show this year, the alumnae class, which includes those under 18 years. Other classes are open to the public.

Other attractions at the Fair will be a doll show, a clown corner, rides, booths, a plant stand,

a white elephant sale, a fish pond, a gift shop and an interesting movie on a trip to Mexico and California.

Following a free ventriloquist show at 11 a.m., a cafeteria-style luncheon will be served from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Chairman of the Fair is Mrs. Gene Sims, who will be assisted by co-chairmen, Mrs. Marion Greer, Mrs. E. C. Tatgenhorst, and Mrs. Lloyd Rupp.

Entries for the horse show should contact Walter Sherman, 512 Blankenhaker Lane.

May 17, 1956

St. Margaret, Ballard P.T.A.'s Elect Officers

J. H. Diersen, marshall of Beechwood Village, was elected vice-president of the St. Margaret Mary P.T.A. last week. He succeeds Carl Zoller.

Mrs. William Chescheir, Harrods Creek, was elected president of the Ballard P.T.A. last week, succeeding Mrs. Robert Martin.

Two other officers and a board member were also elected. They were, Haydon Heaphy, treasurer, succeeding Thomas McCarthy; Joseph Mehr, sergeant-at-arms, succeeding Dix Williamson; and Gorman McMullin, board member, succeeding Paul Ogden.

The election of male officers was in keeping with the P.T.A.'s policy of maintaining a balance between the mothers and fathers on the staff. Mrs. Russell Goodwin, president, Mrs. William Harris, secretary, and Mrs. Homer Parrent, board member, are the mothers presently in office, whose terms will expire next year.

All terms of office at the St. Margaret Mary P.T.A. are for two years.

Two other officers were also elected. They were Mrs. Stuart Levy, treasurer, who succeeds Mrs. Benjamin Boone, and Mrs. Fred Louis, second vice-president. The second vice-president is a new office created to relieve some of the duties of first vice-president. The terms of the new officers are for two years.

Mrs. Chescheir, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., has lived in the area for the past 12 years. She has two children, both of whom attend Ballard School. Her husband is employed with the New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.

As a graduate of the University of Nebraska, where she took a degree in primary education, Mrs. Chescheir is familiar with the needs of the young school children. Although she never pursued teaching as a career, she has conducted Sunday school classes and has worked with girl scouts for a number of years.

Last year, Mrs. Chescheir was chairman of the Ballard School Fair and during this past year she served on the hospitality committee.

May 3, 1956

Grade Schools Enroll 13% More Than Last Year

School started Tuesday:

Enrollment in St. Matthews area County and Catholic grade schools is already up by 742 pupils over last year, an increase of more than 13 per cent.

And the total is expected to go even higher, as stragglers are enrolled the rest of the week.

Figures compiled by the County Board of Education at the end of the day on Tuesday, the first day of school, showed an enrollment of 3,877 in seven schools here as compared with 3,388 last year.

The Catholic Board of Education reported that by the end of the day Tuesday, 2,451 pupils had enrolled in four Catholic schools here, as compared with 2,198 last year.

No figures were available by press time for Trinity High, Eastern High, or Waggener Junior High.


County School	Enrollment This Yr.	Last Yr.
Ballard	308	272
Chenoweth	611	615
Greathouse	543	465
Lyndon	610	534
Middletown	548	457
St. Matthews	541	338
Stivers	716	507
Totals	3,877	3,388
Catholic School Enrollment		
Holy Spirit	618	612
Holy Trinity	583	567
Our Lady of Lourdes	682	540
St. Margaret Mary	570	479
Totals	2,451	2,198

September 6, 1956

Ballard School:

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

County Getting Better Teachers' — Mrs. Vaughn



Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn, new principal at Ballard Elementary School, called the \$1,000,000 increase in school revenue this year a "windfall" and thinks the County will get "better qualified teachers who will remain in Kentucky" as a result.

One of the greatest teacher problems in Kentucky is keeping teachers in the State upon graduation from the colleges, she said.

"In the past, about 15% of graduates with teachers certificates left to teach in other states where salaries are higher," she said. "This year, however, it is predicted that 45% will remain here to teach."

County teachers this fall are slated to receive salary increases averaging \$374 a year. In addition, a \$4,700,000 school building program is included in the 1957 budget.

With the trend toward emergency teachers making teaching a permanent profession, increasing within recent years, the picture looks even brighter, Mrs. Vaughn said.

"About 1,000 teachers on emergency status have completed qualifications and have become qualified teachers each year for the past three years," she said.

Many of the improvements the board feared would be curtailed this coming year will probably remain in the program, she opined.

However, she stressed the point that "the situation changes from year to year and since the school board plans well ahead they can't afford to get overconfident or take or granted the "surprise" that came this year."

"With new industries springing up, the population is on the increase and this means more children in the schools," she said. "People must look ahead to the future and be made aware of the school problems that will result from it."

Mrs. Vaughn, who replaces Mrs. Mabel Bowen as principal of Ballard this term, has been teaching on the intermediate level for the past 15 years. She is a widow, who lost both her husband and son in a span of three years.

Her son was killed at 14 in a train accident in 1931 and her husband, the late Robert Moss Vaughn, died in 1949.

"This was the reason I went on with school work," she said.

Mrs. Bowen was promoted to intermediate superintendent (for grades 5 and 6) of Jefferson County Schools.

A native of Lexington, Mrs. Vaughn lived most of her married life in Horse Cave and came here about six years ago. She taught the fourth grade at Presleria for four years and the same grade at the new Audubon school for two years before her present assignment.

This is her first position as a principal and she is "deeply grateful" over the appointment.

No immediate change in policy or curriculum is planned, she said, but rather "the policies of my predecessors will be adhered to."

She said that "any change will come from a decision made within the faculty and from the community in general as they feel necessary."

"The background and tradition at Ballard is great," she added. Ballard has been operating since 1914. There were 285 pupils last term and 312 are expected to enroll this fall. Six new teachers have been added to the faculty. The school covers grades 1-8.

She lives at 2153 Barringer Avenue.

September 6, 1956

Ballard Parents To Meet Faculty

The new principal and the teachers will be introduced at the first meeting of the Ballard School P.T.A. Monday, Sept-24, at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Also to be introduced is Mrs. Wray Murray, of California, the new full-time art teacher at Ballard.

Mrs. Hatie Glenn, assembly program chairman, will review the assembly program for the year. Teacher Alice Kennedy will explain the functions of the student council.

Ballard's new principal is Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn.

September 20, 1956

BALLARD

Principal: Elizabeth Vaughn.
 Teachers: Alsie Holland, Barbara Whitten, Barbara Crenshaw, Mrs. Shirley Hays, Lillian Blackwell, Mrs. Ellen Beard, and Elnor Y. Chrisman.

August 15, 1957

Ballard School Harvest Festival Opens Tomorrow

Ballard School will present its annual "Harvest Festival" on Friday, Nov. 16 at the school beginning at 6 p.m.

The evening's entertainment will be a split-program. From 6 to 8 p.m., a Christmas booth, country store, grab-bag, and refreshment booth will be in operation, and at 8 p.m., the actual "Harvest Festival" will begin.

The "Harvest Festival" depicts a series of autumn activities ending with a Thanksgiving theme. While the Choric, Speech and Glee Club renders song to the theme, other members of cast will enact typical fall activities, such as, birds flying south for the winter, raking leaves, World Series, Halloween, and a football game, through dance and pantomime.

The show will be climaxed by a group of children listening to the reading of a psalm, followed by Thanksgiving hymns sung by the audience and the children.

Mrs. Marvin Wasserman is chairman of the festival, with Mrs. Charles Arnold as co-chairman. Booth chairmen are:

Mrs. William Miller, decorations; Mrs. Marcua Burke, Christmas booth; Mrs. Wilbur Japs, soft drinks; Mrs. Kenneth Reichard,

and Mrs. Jen Gudmundsson, run country store; Mrs. Bob White, dry apples; Mrs. Morris Borowitz, dessert and coffee; and Mrs. Grablag; Mrs. William Koch; James Hobart, cake sale.



Barry Tatgenhorst reads from the good book in this rehearsal scene from the Ballard Harvest Festival. His attentive listeners, in their various costumes, are, in front, left to right, Danny Thomas, Diane Miller, Barbara Blair, Gail Koch, and Joyce Thomas, and, in back, Leary Hopkins, Billy Miller, Donnie White, Sally Davis, Sara Barlow, Avazy Burke, Don Boone, Steven Habich, Kirk Quyn, Andrea Andermanis, Wendy Whayne, and Peggy Cropper.

November 15, 1956

Ballard School:

Courtesy The Voice Of St. Matthews:



A head of lettuce, an ear of corn, and a carrot emerge from the beak of plenty at Ballard School. This symbolizes the act of giving, so necessary to the spirit of Thanksgiving, and is one of several acts to be presented at the school's Harvest Festival tomorrow evening at 7:30. Left to right are Dennis Marie Bishop of Harrods Creek, Savitri Johnson of Prospect, and Terry Gordon of 34th Cliffwood. All are seven years old.

November 21, 1957



A fowl, a fowling-piece, a Pilgrim and his wife. These were the ingredients in the first Thanksgiving Day back in early America, and they were seen again at Ballard School's Harvest Festival Friday. The Pilgrim is Stephen Kirzinger, 11, and his lady, Dorejan Markham, 11.

November 28, 1957



Ballard School Queen Penny Chamberlain will reign over the traditional Ballard May Day program May 6 at 1:15 p.m. The theme this year is "Springtime in Kentucky." Penny, 12, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Chamberlain of Harrods Creek.

May 1, 1958



Mary, Joseph, and an angel greet the new born Savior in this still-life tableaux at Ballard School Friday. Nancy Rupp and Paul Johnson are Mary and Joseph. The angel is Mac Koch. All are sixth graders.

December 26, 1957

Schools should 'create an interest in learning'

The job of the school is to create an interest in learning and to teach children how to obtain knowledge, said Mrs. Orville K. Schmied, newly-elected president of the Ballard School P.T.A.

We can't remember everything we learn in school, she said, but it is important that we know how to learn, and where to go to find out the facts we need.



MRS. SCHMIED

She feels the purpose of the P.T.A. is twofold. First it should create harmony between teachers and parents. Second, it should sponsor outside-school activities for the children.

Mr. Schmied was elected May 1 to succeed Mrs. William Chaschir, Cocher officer elected were:

First vice president, Mrs. Richard L. Hasvia, succeeding Mrs. Schmied; second vice president, Mrs. Albert A. Gerding, succeeding Mrs. Fred Lucht; and treasurer, Mrs. Albert B. McCullsch, succeeding Mrs. J. Clifton Rodes. The secretary, Mrs. William E. Barnes, will serve another year.

Mrs. Schmied, of 4261 Innes Tract, is the former Edith Carlson of Montclair, N.J. She went to grade and high school at Montclair, and was a registered nurse at the Presbyterian Hospital.

She and Mr. Schmied, who is originally from Louisville, met in New Jersey, where he was working for Reynolds Metals. He

now works at Cochran Foil, where he is a chemical engineer and the head of research.

They have five children, Donald, 13, John, 11, Billy, 8, Orville, Jr., 7, and Suzanne, 2.

Mrs. Schmied is a member of Zion Effie Church and is first vice president of the Woman's Guild. She is president of the Mary Martha Circle within the Guild.

May 8, 1958

Ballard School:

Courtesy *The Voice Of St. Matthews:*

Fall schedule gets underway at Ballard School

The fall schedule at Ballard School got underway with the executive board of the Ballard P.T.A. entertaining the principal, Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn, and her staff, and Mrs. William Chescheir, past president of the P.T.A. for luncheon the day before school opened at the home of Mrs. William H. Barnes.

The Ballard School P.T.A. executive board members are Mrs. Orville Schmied, president; Mrs. Richard Harvin, first vice president; Mrs. Albert Gordon, second vice president; Mrs. William H. Barnes, secretary, and Mrs. Albert B. McCulloch, treasurer.

The Ballard school staff includes:

Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughn, principal, Mrs. Robert D. Whitten, first grade teacher, Mrs. Virginia Castel, second grade teacher, Mrs. Edward B. Hayes, third grade teacher, Mrs. Douglas Nelson, fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Lewis Beard, fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Hamm, sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Terrel Falkner, librarian and Mrs. Shirley J. Hemp, clerk.

September 18, 1958

To celebrate Ballard's 45th birthday

Ballard School will celebrate the 45th birthday of the school at the P.T.A. meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Following the business meeting, County School Superintendent Richard Van Hoose will speak on the new Five Program Plan. There will be a question and answer period.

February 19, 1959

Ballard PTA helps others as it prepares to go out of business

With the closing of Ballard School after this year, the school's Parent-Teacher Association is going out of business with at least \$2,000 in its treasury, which it plans to distribute in parts to the Wilder P.T.A., Zachary Taylor P.T.A. and to the new St. Matthews Library.

Mrs. Orville Schmied, P.T.A. president, said that the association has voted to give 60 per cent, which amounts to about \$1,200 to Wilder P.T.A., 30 per cent to Zachary Taylor P.T.A. in the amount of \$600, and 10 per cent or \$200 to the St. Matthews Library.

About 90 percent of the children now attending Ballard will go to Wilder next year and about 10 per cent will go to Zachary Taylor. Mrs. Schmied pointed out that a large number of parents have helped raise the money and will have children in neither school next year. The P.T.A. felt that these children would benefit most from the donation to the library.

The Ballard P.T.A. is also giving the Wilder P.T.A. the Wilder Memorial Perpetual Challenge Trophy, a silver bowl given by the William B. Belknap to Ballard School in memory of Nunde Wilder, who was principal of Ballard for many years.



MRS. SCHMIED

Mrs. Schmied who has been with the Ballard P.T.A. two years, served as first vice-president last year. She says and the other members will have wonderful memories of Ballard School and are sad to be leaving, but are glad to be a part of the new five point

program plan that is starting in the County schools next year.

Mrs. Schmied and her family live at 6201 Innes Trace. She and Mr. Schmied, who is Aluminum Research Director of the Anaconda Co., in Louisville, have three sons in Ballard this year, John, Billy, and Orville, Jr. Billy and Orville, Jr., will go to Wilder next year, and John will go to Eastern with his older brother, Donald. The Schmieds also have a three-year-old daughter, Suzanne.

The P.T.A. is trying to contact all past presidents. They will be recognized at the annual and final May Festival which will be held May 29 at 10:30 a.m. on the school grounds. All past presidents or anyone having information on past presidents, may contact Mrs. Schmied by calling TW 3-6544.

They also hope to have all present who have been interested in the school throughout its 45 years of existence.

Other parts of the festival will include scenes depicting traditional days at Ballard, such as the Harvest Festival, Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter Egg Hunt, May Pole dance, and crowning of the May Queen.

May 14, 1959

Ballard School:

Courtesy The Vice Of St. Matthews:

Ballard P.T.A. goes out with generous gesture

The Ballard School P.T.A. closed out its accounts last week, with good news for the Wilder and Zachary Taylor P.T.A.'s and for the St. Matthews Library.

Mrs. Orville Schmeid, president of the Ballard P.T.A., announced that \$1,451.15 was given to the Wilder P.T.A., \$725.58 to the Taylor P.T.A., and \$241.86 to the library.

Also, a fountain that was given in memory of Ninde Wilder at Ballard has now been moved to the Wilder School.

Ballard School was closed at the end of last school term, and the children sent to Wilder and the new Taylor school.

Mrs. Schmeid said the disbursement of these funds finally and officially winds up the business of the Ballard P.T.A.

September 24, 1959

Courtesy http://www.chanceschool.org/01_ourrichhistory/01_ourrichhistory.htm:

Our Rich History

1953 marked the opening of a unique nursery school – the first of its kind in Louisville, Kentucky. The school was operated by Virginia Thomas Chance, a distinguished educator with a progressive approach to education. After just six years, a group of students’ parents recruited Mrs. Chance to become the director of a new non-profit, parent-sponsored, independent school for young children; what is now known as Chance School.

Chance School employs a philosophy that breaks away from outdated assumptions regarding traditional learning and teaching practices. The philosophy recognizes each child as an individual, supports creative teaching and positive guidance, and helps parents better understand the stages of growth and development. Since its early years, the school enjoys an excellent reputation as a community pioneer in its developmental approach to learning.

Thanks to generous gifts from supporters and philanthropists, the school has benefited from a number of important expansions and renovations over the years. Through the constant support and commitment of those who strongly believe in the Chance philosophy, what started as a small school with a big idea is now an established, fully accredited school, serving up to 250 students from age two through the fifth grade.

Our Unique Campus

Tucked away on a bluff overlooking the Ohio River, the Chance School’s beautiful twenty-six acre campus is surrounded by woods and fields.

As you walk through the buildings and around the school grounds, you will find that our campus is a physical extension of our educational philosophy. It provides students with a peaceful yet stimulating environment uniquely conducive to learning through discovery.

The classrooms have lots of large windows that “let the outside in” to stimulate eager minds. Students may observe and learn from the rise and fall of the river and the changing of the seasons. The playground is nestled among trees and rock structures and provides a wonderful landscape for enjoying the outdoors. The surrounding woods and fields offer several walking pathways and are home to a variety of plant, animal and insect species for children to observe firsthand. A garden with a garden house teaches children how things grow, as well as valuable lessons in care and responsibility and working with others.

We eagerly take advantage of every aspect of our natural setting to make studies in science, math, language, history and more “come to life” for our students in meaningful, memorable ways.

