

ARREL'S KREMLIN SCHOOL DAYS

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[ToewsBrothersKremlin.info website](http://ToewsBrothersKremlin.info)

This document begins with a history of the schools in the Kremlin OK area but is also about my years there as a student (August 1954 - May 1966). My brother [Myron Toews](#) was very helpful in supplying many photos and much information, and he has my sincere thanks and gratitude for all he has done to help me. I hope my family and some friends and others as well will enjoy reading this story and looking at the photos, perhaps even remembering their own **Kremlin School Days!** I encourage readers to explore [weblinks](#), shown [underlined in purple](#).

[Myron](#) has also prepared a [detailed follow-up history and account of Kremlin School buildings and additions, consolidations, mergers, as well as detailed information on Garfield County 1-room schools](#) - also on [our website above](#).

We will always welcome comments, corrections, additional photos, and personal memories.

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History of Kremlin Schools

Perhaps the first school sessions in the Kremlin area were conducted by pioneer mothers in the shade of covered wagons or in front of dugouts or primitive shacks of early settlers. Platting of townships in **Garfield County** for the 1893 Cherokee Outlet Land Run established 3-6 mostly rural one-room schools in each township. Myron Toews has prepared a document (Garfield County One-Room Schools) identifying all 126 school districts originally in Garfield County, as well as their ultimate consolidated home districts. Rural schools in Kremlin Township (24N-6W) are shown below (1906 Ogle Atlas of Garfield County OK). They are **Pleasant Valley** (SW/4-2; Dist 8), **Wild Horse** (SE/4-7; Dist 9) and **Columbia** (SE/4-30; Dist 17). The presumed location of the original **Kremlin town school** (*; Dist 18) at the NE corner of Kremlin is also shown.

*Pleasant Valley School
Dist 8

*Wild Horse School
Dist 9

*Columbia School
Dist 17



Early schools in **Keowee Township** (24N-7W; Hillsdale; just W of Kremlin Twp) are shown below (1906 Ogle Atlas of Garfield County OK). They are **Coldwater/Hillsdale** (SW/4-5; Dist 11), **Nine Mile** (NW/4-11; Dist 10), **Pleasant Plain** (SW/4-14; Dist 16; still standing) and **Jetmore/Lacey** (SE/4-19; Dist 15). Also note **Olive Chapel** adjacent to Pleasant Plain school (SE/4-15). The Hillsdale school district merged with the Kremlin school district in 1968.

*Coldwater/Hillsdale School

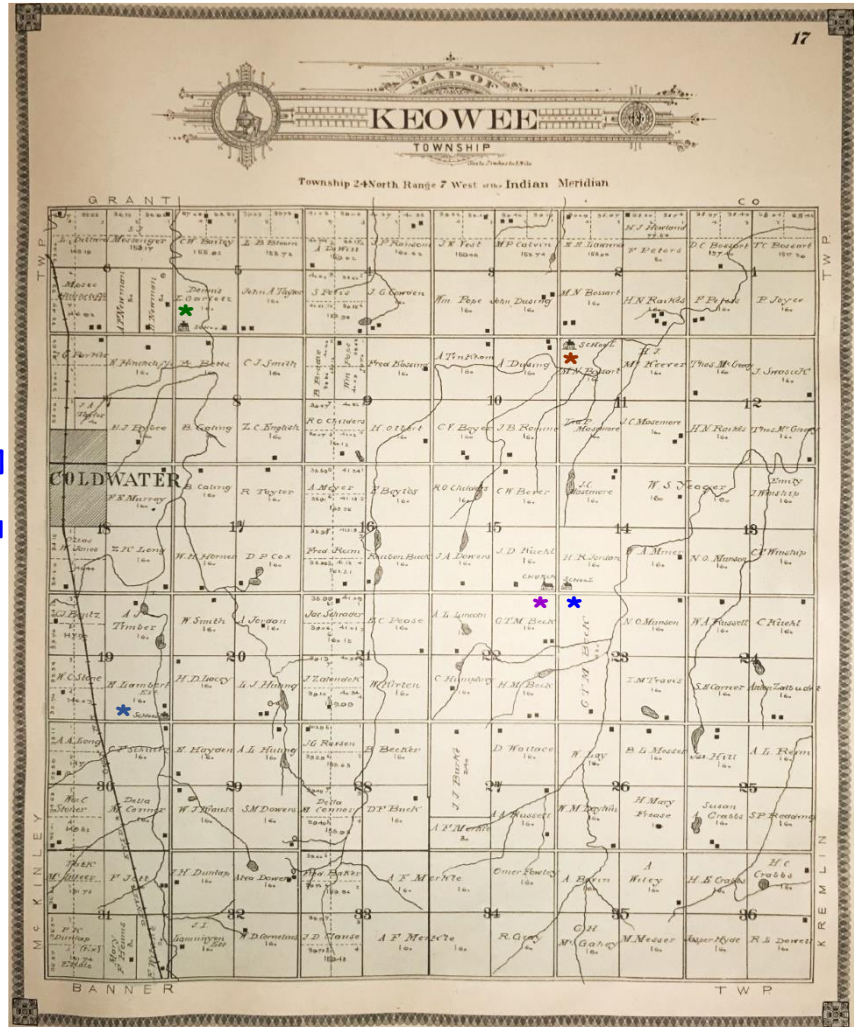
*Nine Mile School

[Coldwater now Hillsdale]

*Pleasant Plain School (still standing)

*Olive Chapel

*Jetmore/Lacey School



The earliest known photo of an area school is the sod school building of **Coldwater/Hillsdale School** (Dist 11) shown at R with the teacher and students for the 1900-01 school year. (1994 Kremlin Centennial Bronc Yearbook)

For much more detail on [early Garfield County Schools](#), see Myron's ["Garfield County One-Room Schools"](#) - also on [this website](#).



According to the "[Kremlin History](#)" booklet hand-written by my [Uncle Jacob Toews](#) when a Junior in Kremlin High School (available on request), the first Kremlin school building was built in 1900, partially by [Mr. Dobrey](#), who also built a lumberyard and in 1900 chartered the first Bank of Kremlin. [Helen Frits](#) was the first schoolteacher. This was 7 years before OK became a state in 1907. Photos from early 1910s & 1912.



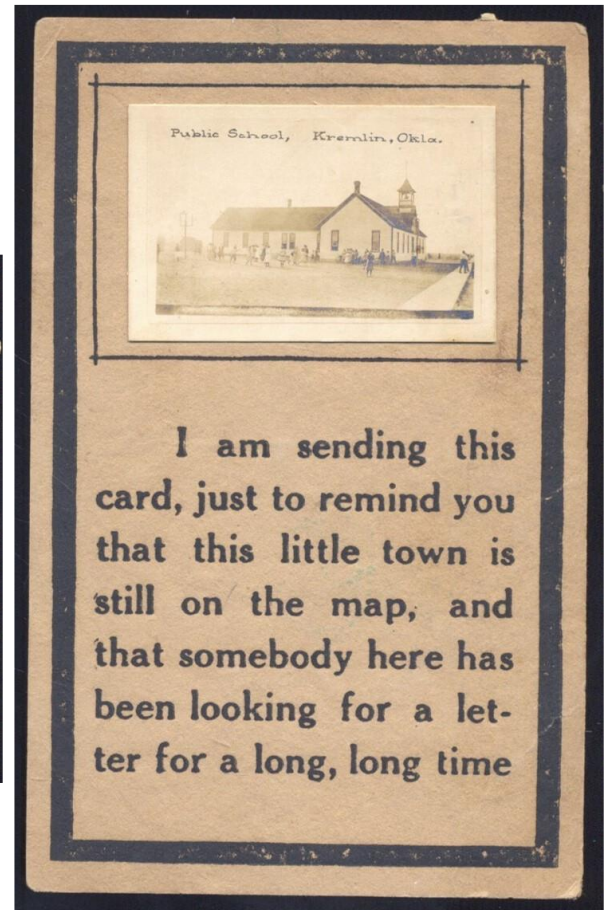
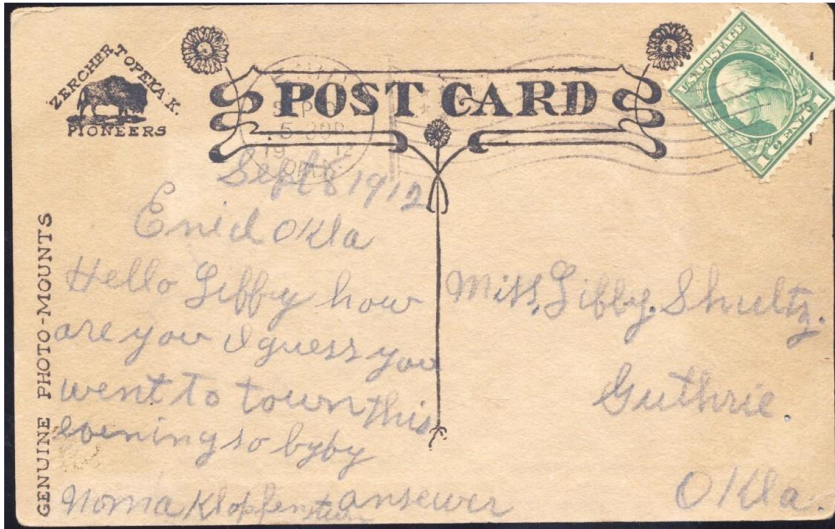
Photo at L (FWZ BLDG) above shows [first Kremlin School building](#) under construction (note ladder on roof). Photo at R shows children outside schoolhouse with outbuildings (toilets?) at back L, taken [1912](#) (source unknown). We believe this first schoolhouse was located in block 2 near current Keowee Road, E side of 5th Street (see map, p 6), opposite end of Kremlin from where current school is located (both E side of 5th Street). Another view of this school is below (1994 Bronc). For a time, [kindergarten and primary grades](#) (1st, 2nd & 3rd) were taught in the nearby [First Baptist Church](#) (Block 11, Avenue A and Fifth Streets; see map p 6).

As seen above and below, the schoolhouse was a T-shaped frame building - it had 4 rooms. The school was cold in the winter and the children would sit around the stove to study. Traditional classes were taught. Extracurricular activities included a glee club and baseball and basketball teams, which played outdoors until the Community Hall was built in 1933.

In [1908-09](#), Kremlin taught 9 grades - [JC Hoffsommer](#) was principal, teachers were [Maude Wilson](#) (1), [Lizzie Phares](#) (2, 3), and [Mildred Calvert](#) (4, 5, 6). See souvenir program on p 7. The [1994 \(Centennial\) Bronc yearbook](#) has some interesting history in the front.



The 1912 postcard below shows the original school building and celebrates the continuing existence of Kremlin. Note the 1¢ postage stamp.



Student body and teachers in front of original Kremlin School building, ca 1912. Perhaps it is on opening day of the new school? Note sidewalk in front with bare soil all around it. FWZ BLDG



Another nice photo of the [original white wooden schoolhouse](#) is shown below (Garfield County Vol II). Note the students, basketball goal, and toilet/outbuilding in back.



An interesting note is that the large red barn on our homeplace, built by [Grandfather George P Toews](#), was struck by lightning in [1935](#) and it burned to the ground. This was just a few years after the new 6-room brick schoolhouse was constructed at the S end of Kremlin in 1931/32 (see p 15). Grandpa Toews purchased the old vacant wooden schoolhouse and had it torn down, using the lumber to build the large white barn we knew and used when growing up.

We know this new barn was constructed rather quickly, because our dad, [David A Toews](#), remembered a birthday bash in the new barn, hosted by his sister Anna ("Bush"), for his 19th birthday on Sunday afternoon, 20 October 1935.

As an aside, our big white barn was destroyed by a tornado on 7 May 1961 (see [The Tornado That Destroyed Our Farmstead](#) on our [Toews-Voth Family Website](#)).

You might be interested to know that my brother Myron and I, with financial support from numerous current and past community members, have erected metal [signs denoting the locations of 6 Kremlin area 1-room schoolhouses](#). They are [Wild Horse](#), [Columbia](#), [Spring Valley](#) (all along US-81), [Pleasant Valley](#), [Valley Center](#) and [Red Rock](#). Look for them! Additional information on these schools is on our [Kremlin History website](#).



The plat map for Kremlin, from 1906 Ogle Atlas of Garfield County OK, is shown below. Our father, David A Toews, attended kindergarten and 1st-3rd grades in the First Baptist Church (Avenue A and 5th Streets), then 4th grade in the nearby wooden school building; his class was on the S side of the "tail" of the building that stuck out to the E (see photos p 4). Although block 43 is already denoted as school land, we believe the first Kremlin School was on 5th Street in Block 2, and that the nearby church indicated in Block 11 likely was the First Baptist Church. David started school (kindergarten) in 1921, graduating in 1935. He remembers when in the 9th grade (1931-32), children from smaller rural schools like Columbia, Pleasant Plains, Wild Horse, and Spring Valley began attending Kremlin School. His final years were in the new brick schoolhouse on Block 43, completed in 1931/32.

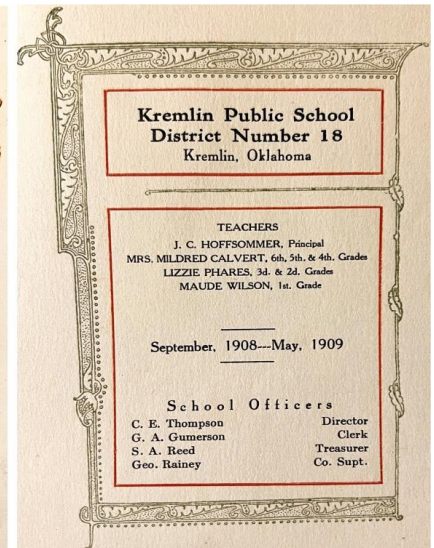


The [souvenir program for Kremlin Schools for the 1908-09 year](#) is shown at R. (from James Wuerflein via Myron Toews)

Note there were only 9 grades. As years passed, Kremlin School expanded to include 11 grades, but students still had to go to another school to earn their diploma. Most finished at Enid High School.

This changed in 1932-33 when state accreditation standards were met and the new brick schoolhouse was completed. The first high-school class graduated in 1933. [Marie Wuerflein Meyer](#) received the first Kremlin High School diploma; she was also class salutatorian.

Also shown (lower R panel) is a souvenir program for [Rose Bud School](#) (Dist 19; NW/4-29-24N-5W; [Buffalo Twp](#), just E of Kremlin Twp). Rose Bud later became part of Kremlin District 18 and the schoolhouse moved S of the brick schoolhouse to serve as overflow classrooms (beginning in 1947-48) prior to the new schoolhouse being completed. See [Myron's Kremlin School Buildings History](#) for details and much more.



Pupils

NINTH GRADE
George Hooker Flavia Miner
Ola Gardner Rose Shafer

EIGHTH GRADE
Faye Stucker Ethel Humphrey
Claud McCormick Royal Carson
Jesse Arter Imogene Downie
Alexander Lawrence

SEVENTH GRADE
Clara Humphrey Mabel Rice
Rolla Hoberecht Leslie Gardner
Paul Gumerson Everett Yeager
Herman Reim Lennie Smith
Willie Nelson Lila Crawford
George Harter

SIXTH GRADE
Dollie Landon Mary Toews
Ernest Zelenka Daniel Coakley
Bernice Miner Fara Hughes
Abbie Seapy Katie A. Voth
Mae Phares Oscar Stucker
Frank Lott Joe McCormick
Bert Wagonseller Urban Eby
Forest Peck

Pupils

FIFTH GRADE
Roy Magee Frank McCoy
Lillian Stuard Lila Phares
Mabelle Hole Anna Voth
Hubert Hoberecht George Brown
Frank Zelenka Fritz Reim
Pearl Humphrey Frances Mysicka
Harold Peck Gladys Lynch
John Cunningham

FOURTH GRADE
Bertha Humphrey Irene Lott
Myrtle Shrewsbury Katie Stucker
Ethel Stucker Addie Seapy
Katie Coakley Gladys Wood
Albert Crail Lue Reim
Marie Hole William Hole
Russell Carson Glenn Eby
Russel McCoy Timothy Farrier
Katie DaMoude

THIRD GRADE
Martha Voth Frank Iddings
May Clark Mamie Bonnett
Marvel Mount Elsie Zelenka
Pauline Gumerson Dollie Lebow
Esther Gumerson Mollie Zelenka
Joe Phares Howard McGarr
Jay Worthington Ray Clark
Beulah Hoberecht William Crail

Pupils

Third Grade (Continued)
Nora Eby Dale Harden
Bruce Harden Mary Voth
Homer Magee Eddie Reim
Dallas Bowman

SECOND GRADE
Agnes Johnson Ella Humphrey
Faneta Crail Josephine Mysicka
Leona Krause Glenda Farrell
Letha Phares Ray Iddings

FIRST GRADE
Inez Bowman Gladys Moffitt
Alva Clark Andrew Lebow
Helen Mysicka Helen Coakley
Ellis Mount Henry Rice
William Rathmel Leon Bonnett
Neilie Cunningham Elles Reim
Viola Bowman Helen McGarr
Frances Krause Antony Zaloudek
Anna Buller Willie Clark
Donald Eby Maerhea Voth
Irene Gumerson Howard Gumerson
Frank Bowman Alice Lebow
Henry Crail Earl Zelenka
Beulah Rice Albert Voth
William Simons Eugene Carson
Wilhelmina Johnson Louis Johnson
Frances Johnson

F. A. OWEN CO. DANVILLE, N.Y.



The 1922 Enumeration Report (school census) for Kremlin School District 18 is shown below. Note the list begins with the George P/Anna Buller Toews children (except eldest daughter Clara) and contains many familiar Kremlin names - Gumerson, Randolph, Rathmel, Smith, Wuerflein, Peck, Kirkpatrick, Mitchell, Reim, Toews.

COPY OF ENUMERATION REPORT
INCLUDING THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LIST

After completing the enumeration on the booklet blank form furnished by the County Superintendent, the District Clerk, or the Enumerator, should make two complete copies of data for each name on this blank—one copy to be a record of the office of the District Clerk, the duplicate to be given the teacher at the beginning of the school term. From this list the teacher will keep a careful record of those of compulsory age and those absent reported as required by law to the School District Board and the County Superintendent.

Dist # 18 Kremlin Sch.

NAME OF CHILD	Sex	Date of Birth			Age	Indicates Deaf & Dumb Blind Feeble Minded	Number	NAME OF CHILD	Sex	Date of Birth			Age	Indicates Deaf & Dumb Blind Feeble Minded
		Month	Day	Year						Month	Day	Year		
Henry G. Toews	M.	Aug	10	1904	19			James H. Hubison	M.	July	17	1916	7	
Peter J. Toews	M.	Jan	20	1907	16			Margaret Offner	M.	July	25	1905	13	
Jacob W. Toews	M.	Apr	27	1909	14			Lloyd Smith	M.	Oct	20	1902	20	
Anna J. Toews	M.	Mar	12	1913	10			Edna Smith	M.	June	14	1905	18	
David A. Toews	M.	Oct	20	1916	6			Clay Smith	M.	July	19	1907	16	
Pauline Mitchell	M.	Dec	25	1905	17			Aubrey Smith	M.	Dec	13	1909	13	
Norman Mitchell	M.	June	14	1907	16			Lynk Smith	M.	Feb	23	1912	11	
Dale Mitchell	M.	May	26	1910	13			Florence Smith	M.	Feb	7	1911	9	
Julma Betty	M.	June	1	1909	14			Francis T. Starbuck	M.	Dec	4	1906	16	
Clarence Betty	M.	Feb	2	1911	12			Wm. Starbuck	M.	Aug	8	1901	16	
Minnie Spurling	M.	Aug	30	1911	12			Clark Starbuck	M.	Mar	2	1911	13	
Clarence Spurling	M.	May	11	1913	9			Helen Starbuck	M.	Sept	24	1902	12	
Edward Kirkpatrick	M.	Nov	27	1904	14			Dale Peck	M.	July	2	1911	9	
Francis Brown	M.	Sept	24	1910	12			Betty Wuerflein	M.	Dec	20	1904	18	
Gladys Brown	M.	Nov	2	1912	10			Geo. Wuerflein	M.	Aug	31	1906	17	
Fred J. Allen	M.	June	9	1917	6			Fred Wuerflein	M.	Dec	17	1907	15	
Wm. Cronan	M.	July	15	1910	13			Beth Wuerflein	M.	Jan	1	1910	13	
John Lawrence Cui	M.	Oct	3	1916	6			Sydia Wuerflein	M.	Dec	20	1910	10	
Helen Bowers	M.	May	13	1915	7			Maria Wuerflein	M.	July	2	1905	18	
Milhelmina Johnson	M.	Nov	18	1902	20			John Wuerflein	M.	Mar	25	1907	15	
Clara H. Rance	M.	Dec	14	1916	6			Rosa Wuerflein	M.	Sept	28	1903	19	
Albert Burt	M.	Oct	21	1902	20			Mildred Scapy	M.	Apr	13	1905	15	
Katherine Burt	M.	May	7	1905	18			Marjorie Farrell	M.	Feb	16	1905	15	
Alice Burt	M.	Sept	21	1907	15			Edwin Tandon	M.	Mar	10	1916	7	
Edna Irene Macey	M.	Aug	22	1904	19			Marie Gonzales	M.	Mar	30	1905	15	
J. Carlton Rathmel	M.	June	16	1905	18			Sydia Gonzales	M.	Jan	1	1911	12	
M. Carolyn Rathmel	M.	June	16	1905	18			Josephine Gonzales	M.	Mar	13	1913	10	
H. Marion Rathmel	M.	Aug	27	1907	15			Mary Gonzales	M.	Sept	26	1912	10	
Jesse Smith	M.	Oct	12	1912	11			Eugene Coker	M.				14	
Bearl Cooper	M.	Mar	4	1904	19			Lloyd L. Peck	M.	May	7	1904	19	
Northy Cooper	M.	Dec	19	1912	9			Mary E. Duffy	M.	Aug	27	1902	20	
Ralph Gumerson	M.	Aug	6	1905	18			Catherine Duffy	M.	Feb	20	1907	16	
River Gumerson	M.	Sept	28	1909	14			Filavy M. Kinitri	M.	Feb	7	1917	6	
Everett Gumerson	M.	July	19	1910	13			Delma M. Kinitri	M.	June	24	1917	6	
Leon Gumerson	M.	Aug	14	1905	18			Tom Brennan	M.	Dec	26	1903	19	
Ruth Gumerson	M.	Sept	26	1905	18			Joseph Brennan	M.	Dec	18	1904	16	
Lynken Gumerson	M.	May	15	1910	13			Henry Brennan	M.	Nov	13	1908	14	
Ed Gumerson	M.	June	28	1913	10			James Brennan	M.	Aug	10	1912	11	
Joe Harter	M.	Sept	17	1904	19			Wm. Brennan	M.	July	26	1914	9	
Edwin Harter	M.	Sept	7	1908	14			Augusta Reim	M.	Mar	2	1905	20	
Ernest Randolph	M.	Jan	30	1904	19			Etch Reim	M.	July	28	1902	18	
Fred Randolph	M.	Dec	31	1910	12			Anna Reim	M.	Nov	26	1907	15	
Clarence Hubison	M.	Sept	24	1905	18			Wm. Reim	M.	Feb	28	1910	13	
Mari Hubison	M.	Mar	22	1910	13			Leonard Reim	M.	Jan	14	1914	9	
Chas. Hubison	M.	Mar	24	1915	8			Bella Anderson	M.	May	26	1914	9	

Some photos from local one-room schools are shown on the following 4 pages:

Below: [Wild Horse School \(Dist 9; SE/4-7-24N-6W\)](#). ("Garfield County Oklahoma 1893-1982," Vol II, published for the 1893 Land Run Centennial Celebration; 1982; Josten's Publications, Topeka KS).



[Vernon Janzen](#), Tabor College president from 1980-87, was born 26 April 1931, just 1 mile S (& across the road, now US-81) of this school. Some information from his self-published "[An Enchanted Life](#)" memoirs follows: "My brothers were enrolled at Wild Horse School for grades 1-8. This was a one-room schoolhouse just a mile north of our house, near the town of Kremlin. Our family attended many programs in that schoolhouse. It served as community center for family gatherings and for various social and educational functions.

The Wild Horse School closed in 1935, when a unified school district was formed. Now grades 1-12 were taught in a (new) brick school building. It was located in the village of Kremlin, 3 miles east of our farm."

The schoolhouse belfry bell from [Columbia School](#) and teacher's bell used by [Anna "Aunt Bush" Toews](#) at this school are shown at R. Teacher Anna Toews was my dad's sister.



Below: **Columbia School** (Dist 17; SE/4-30-24N-6W) students and teacher (ca 1927).

My Mom **Rosa Voth Toews** is 6th from R and her sister **Anna Voth Regier** 4th from R in front row.

The **Jacob & Elizabeth Voth** family lived $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile W of Columbia School.



Another photo of **Columbia School students** taken 7 April 1915, is shown below. Included are **John P, Abe A, and Sara M Buller** (from James Buller family scrapbook). Slate board reads Columbia, Dist No 17, April 7, 1915.



Below: **Valley Center School students & teacher Agnes Pierce** (Dist 32; SE/4-3-23N-6W, N portion of N Enid Twp; later merged with Kremlin Dist 18): Caption reads "X-mas to **Anna Voth** from **Agnes Pierce**, teacher 1916-17"



A photo below is of **Valley Center School**, shared with Myron Toews by **John Regier**, who with his brother Jacob attended this school. Students are posing on the merry-go-round and swing set. Known teachers are JD Koop, Thelma Cinnamon, and Anna Voth (later Mrs Jacob Regier).



Another photo of **Valley Center School students** (Cherokee Strip Museum, Enid OK):
Note lots of familiar names on the student roster! (ca 1935)



Valley Center School
42nd & Robertson Rd.

Back row - left to right
Pee "Hardy" Wuerflein

Paul Toews

Dan Ediger

Jacob Regier

Teacher - Helma Cinnamon

Front row

Evelyn "Krocker" Clodfelter

Selen "Hardy" Jeff

Ruby "Voch" Grunau

Alice "Krocker" Gese

Aganetha "Regier" Sperling

Rubena "Barkman" Seiricks

Marion Phillips

Calvin Toews

We have no photos of the inside appearance of 1-room schools in the Kremlin area, so I have included some hopefully informative alternative photos below.

The [1896 Turkey Creek School](#) (Dist 64) shown below served students in the [Imo](#) area of W Garfield County OK from 1896 through 1947. It was located in Garland Township (SE corner of SE/4-19-22N-7W). Relocated to the [Humphrey Heritage Village](#) at the [Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center](#) in Enid OK, restored to its original appearance, and equipped as it would have been in 1910, it is used as a Living History Classroom for elementary students. Note the teachers desk and recitation bench in front of the slateboard and retractable map holder, as well as individual cast iron/wooden student desks/seats. The Heritage Center and its museum, located at the W edge of Government Springs Park, are well worth an extended visit.



Photos below are of the [Lower Fox Creek one-room schoolhouse](#) (Dist 14) at the [Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve](#) near Cottonwood Falls KS. Constructed in 1882, it is an excellent example of what rural schools were like in the late 1800s/early 1900s. It operated until 1930, with attendance of 3-19 students from all 8 grades combined. Again, note the teacher's desk and recitation bench in front of 3 rows of individual student cast iron/wooden student desks/seats, with pot-bellied stove and maps in back and slateboards along the walls. Kerosene lamps are mounted above the windows. Photos by Arrel Toews



A vintage photo of the [1928-29 Kremlin men's basketball team](#) is shown above. Holding the ball is [John Janzen](#), father of Dwayne and Faith Mary Janzen Heinrichs, who graciously supplied the photo. Both [John](#) and son [Dwayne](#) ended up teaching and coaching at Kremlin Schools.



Below: Photo of [Anna "Aunt Bush" Toews](#) (3rd from L @ back) as teacher with her students at one of the schools she taught at, [mid-late 1930s](#). She later taught at Columbia School.



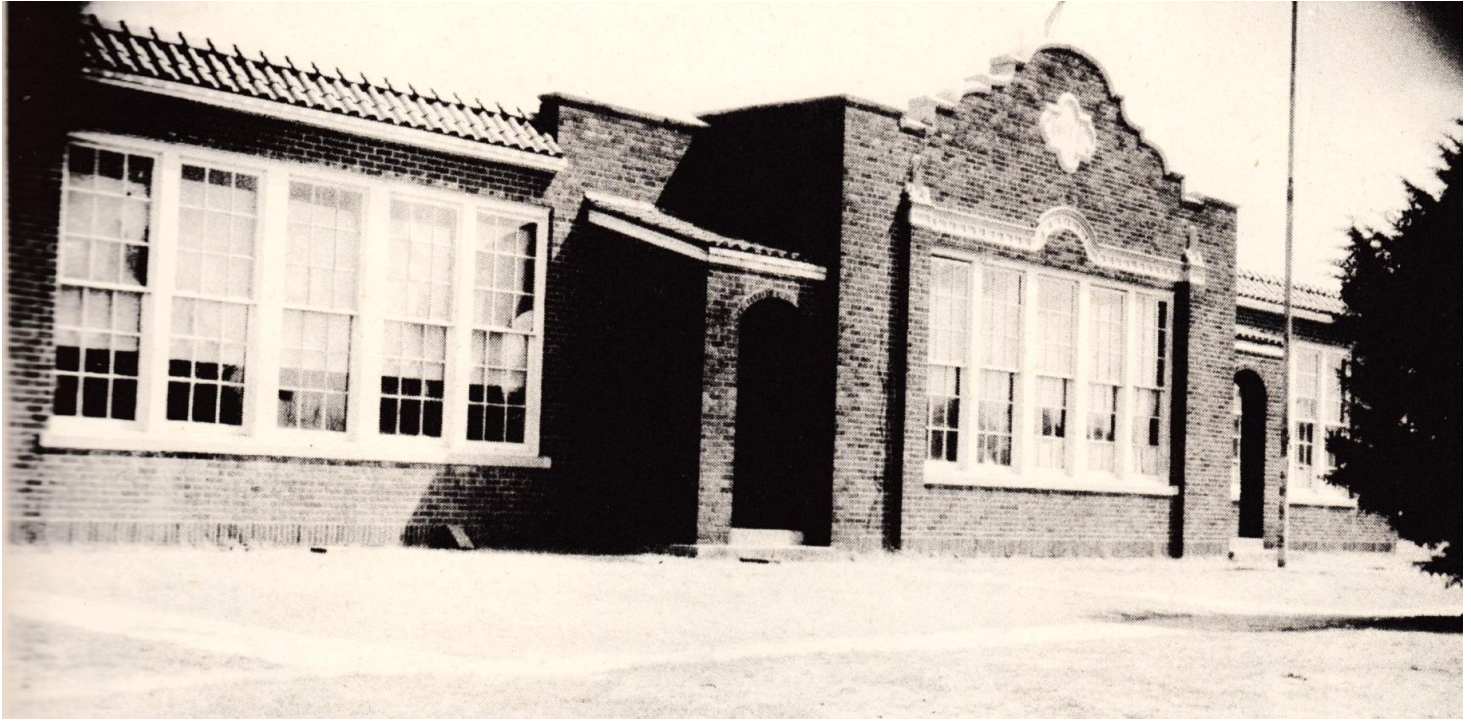
A new 6-room brick schoolhouse built in 1931-32, shown below, graduated its first high-school class in 1933. A Nov 1939 Enid newspaper article notes that "the attractive building of the Kremlin School accommodates 128 students from its 180 square mile district territory, which is combed daily by its three school buses." Looking E



Another view of the new Kremlin school, from the 1939 newspaper article, is shown below. The article discusses the new school, financing and building of the new community hall and more; it includes a photo of town leaders (Town Council members [Fred Phillips](#) and [FW Zaloudek](#) and long-time mayor [Floyd "Tuck" Smith](#)). I can supply a copy if requested, or see our "[Kremlin Life](#)," also on [this website](#). Provided by [Gerry Toews Reimer](#), from her [Henry G Toews](#) memorabilia collection. Looking NE - primary grades were at the near (S end) and high school at the N end, the reverse orientation from my childhood.



Yet another view of the "new" brick schoolhouse from Tena Voth's mid-1940s Bronc yearbook. This school building was built by [WPA workers](#). Looking SE



Below: A group of young students are shown in front of this new school building, ca **1932-33**. Front row, from L: Vernon Janzen, ?, Franklin, Milton, Henry & Abe W Janzen. Courtesy of Faith Janzen Heinrichs



The first graduating senior class (**May 1933**) of Kremlin School in the new building is shown below: These [senior class panels](#) are in the Kremlin School building; Myron Toews has photos of all, which are also available on this website. [Marie Wuerflein](#) is the future Mrs. Alfred Meyer, mother of Wayne, Connie, Joyce, Bruce & Larry.



[Wild Horse School](#) closed in **1935**, soon after the new brick schoolhouse was constructed in Kremlin, and it is likely the other area schools were consolidated into [District 18](#) at this time as well. I have vague memories of [Columbia School](#) still in the country from my very early childhood (1949/early 50s), but it was in Kremlin by 1952. Both [Columbia](#) and [Pleasant Valley](#) school buildings were moved to the Kremlin campus, Columbia W of 5th Street and Pleasant Valley E across the street; Pleasant Valley schoolhouse was later moved to E of the Community Hall. [Valley Center School](#) (SE/4-3-23N-6W; N Enid Twp) was the 4th school merged into Kremlin District 18, but the schoolhouse remained in place and was not moved. The 5th country school merged with Kremlin was [Red Rock School](#) (SE/4-6-23N-5W; Union Twp).

Our father, **David A Toews**, graduated from **Kremlin High School** in **1935** - his **Senior Class Panel** is shown below. His was the 3rd class to graduate in the new brick schoolhouse. Other notable graduates include Helena Janzen (Toews), Irene Zaloudek, John Wuerflein and Walt Buller.

Our mother, **Rosa Voth (Toews)** graduated in **1936**. She later returned to teach Commerce at Kremlin High School - see 1943 Senior Class Panel on page 18.



Photo below (from Jeanette Regier Ratzlaff) shows what appears to be the [1935 Kremlin High Band](#) (although we have no other evidence of its existence). Anna Voth Regier (Jeanette's mother) 5th from L back; perhaps our mother Rosa Voth Toews 5th from L, front. Teacher/coach LA Chelf at L, Superintendent LJ Anderson at R, other teacher unknown.



The [1936 Kremlin women's basketball team](#) is shown below. Our mother Rosa Voth Toews is 5th from L, back row. LJ Anderson, Superintendent at L; Coach LA Chelf at R. Mom's basketball letter below R.



1934-35 Kremlin High School photo, with some identifications.



1st-3rd graders at Kremlin School in 1939, presumably on the S side of the "new" brick school building is below. From [Vernon Janzen, "An Enchanted Life."](#) Vernon says there are 5 first cousins in the back row (Helen, Leroy and Wilma Kroecker, himself, and Franklin Janzen). Another of his first cousins, Louis Janzen, is in second row.



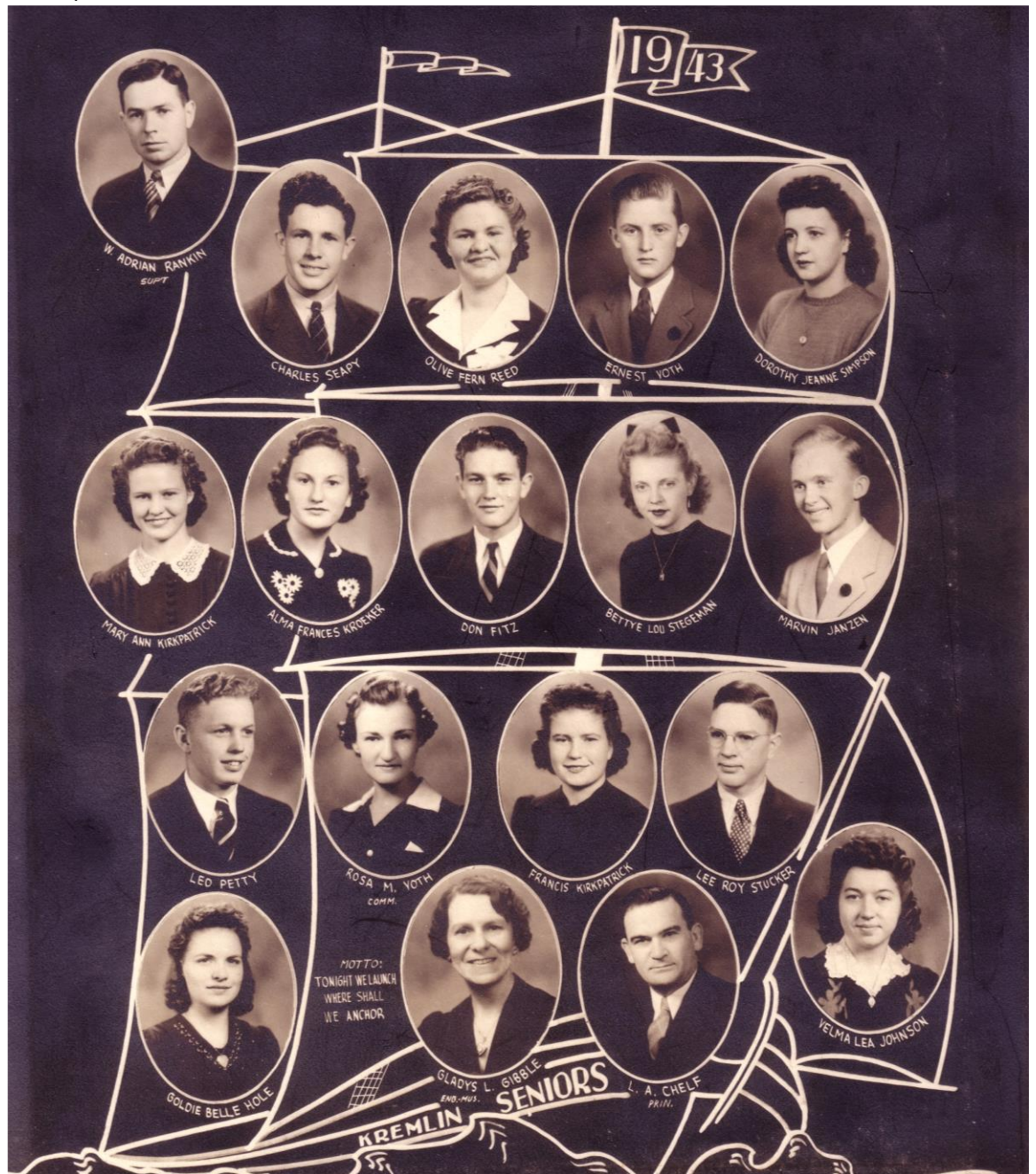
Photos on this page are from the high-school scrapbook of [Don Fitz](#), [KHS Class of 1943](#). Notable classmates include Ernie Voth, Mary Ann and Frances Kirkpatrick, Marvin Janzen & Goldie Hole. Don was a 3-year basketball letterman at Kremlin (R). (from Ginny Zaloudek via Myron Toews). The Class of 1943 was the initial First Grade class to attend the new brick schoolhouse, entering in September 1931.



From top, another view of the new brick [Kremlin schoolhouse](#), looking E;
[1941 Kremlin High School students](#) ([Mr Mitchel](#), Superintendent, [Leonard Chelf](#), [RC Siebel](#) & [Miss McIntosh](#) faculty), posing by the N entrance to the school (later 1st/2nd and 5th/6th grade classrooms during my time; high school was originally on N end of building).



Below (top) is the **Senior Class of 1943** panel; notable classmates include **Ernie Voth**, Mary Ann Kirkpatrick (Allen & Terry Bese's mom), Marvin Janzen & Goldie Hole. Our mother, **Rosa M Voth (Toews)** was the **commerce teacher**.



L/R, Cornelius Ediger, **Ernie Voth**, George Beck, Kenneth Hardman, Wilbur Fry, Charles Seapy, Don Fitz, Leo Petty in a high-school hallway (not Kremlin; note "D" shape of senior photo at L). Perhaps KHS basketball team? Early 1940s, from Don Fitz scrapbook via Ginny Zaloudek to Myron.



Kremlin 4-H Clubs in the 1940s are shown below. Top: tentative IDs include Ruben (or Mose) Thesman (2nd from L), Ernie Voth (5th from L), both back row, Neal "Shiner" Ediger (5th from L, 3rd row) and Dorothy Voth (6th from L, 2nd row). ca 1942

Lower photo 1947 4-H Club: "Doc Abe" Janzen, L; Bob Voth 2nd from L, front



L. to R. Back row: Mrs. Thesman, Coach; Chelf, Ruth, Voth, Janzen, Voth, Phillips, Toews, Rickabaugh, Schiffman, Hays. Middle row: Devery, Zaloudek, Zaloudek, Toews, Seapy, Fawcett, Johnson, Coakley, Voth, Richey. Front row: Janzen, Voth, Fields, Johnson, Janzen, Hays, Schiffman, and Block Colski.

Below: [Kremlin High School championship basketball team](#), ca **1940** (FWZ BLDG)



Andy Anderson, Wessley Kroker, Elmer Voth, Lester Schrrall, Abe Janzen, Marvin Petty, Leonard Chelf
Carroll Schuelien, Ruben Thesman, Bob Heardman, Henry Ediger, John Ediger

[Kremlin Grade School 1947 Rhythm Band](#) - note the conductor with baton at far R, first row, and the 1947 Rock Island calendar and Tri-State Music Festival poster. Possible teachers include [Carolyn Rathmel](#) or [Helena Toews](#) (L) and [Marine Buller](#) (R).



The **new school addition** completed in **1952** included high school rooms, gymnasium/auditorium, cafeteria and more. The 1952 Bronc yearbook was dedicated to the Board of Education and others who helped make possible these new and improved facilities. Shown below (L/R) are **Leonard Chelf, Fred Randolph and Henry G Toews** with blueprints for the new school, as well as before/ after photos. From 1952 Bronc (Dorothy Voth Gray; scanned by Myron Toews).

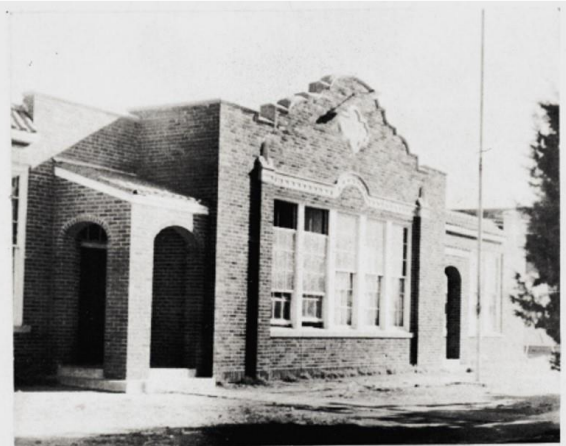
DEDICATION



TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF KREMLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS WE DEDICATE THIS EDITION OF THE BRONC. WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S UNTIRING EFFORTS AND FAITHFUL GUIDANCE OF KREMLIN SCHOOL. WE THANK THESE MEN; MR. FRED RANDOLPH, MR. H. G. TOEWS, MR. L. A. CHELF; AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR IMPROVED AND ENLARGED SCHOOL BUILDING AND ITS FACILITIES.

WE ARE ALSO APPRECIATIVE OF THE PATIENCE OF BOTH THE FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY DURING THE CONSTRUCTION. ALTHOUGH AT TIMES THE CONFUSION SEEMED INTOLERABLE; WE ARE SURE THE PLEASANT SURROUNDINGS OF OUR NEW HOME WILL OVER-SHADOW ALL THESE INCONVENIENCES AND OVERCOME ANY RETARDATIONS OF LEARNING.

THE BRONC STAFF



BEFORE

AFTER



Weller Construction Company (OKC) built the new school addition (see 1952 Bronc ad at R).

CONGRATULATION ON A FINE NEW BUILDING

AND

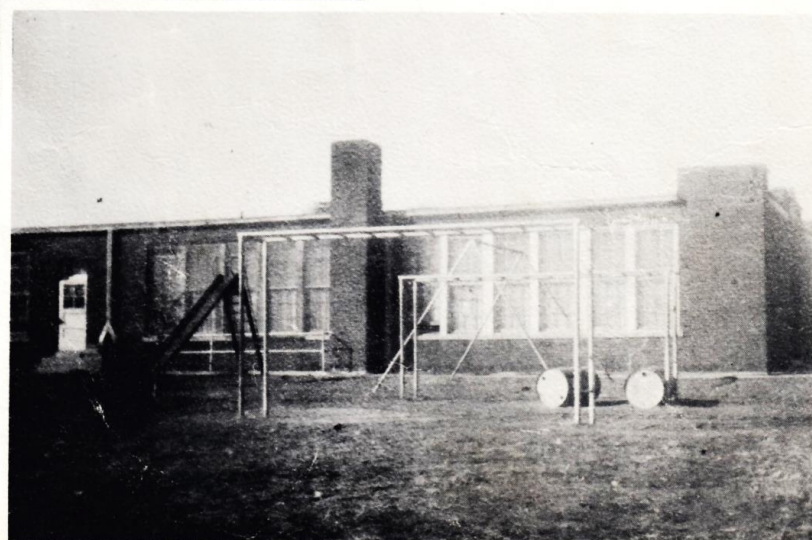
ON THE 1952 YEARBOOK

WELLER CONST. CO.

Oklahoma City

The **new school addition** completed in **1952** was still noteworthy in the **1953-54 Bronc** yearbook, as shown below. Photos show the original brick building with new high school rooms to the right, and buses parked in front; the new high school addition and gym at back (both looking SE); the back of the gym looking WNW; and the E side of the original building and playground, looking W. The chimney for the basement coal-fired boiler and janitor's rear door are visible. (1954 Bronc from Dorothy Voth Gray; scanned by Myron Toews).

Our School



The above addition of more rooms, including a gymnasium, in the **early 1950s** was the school I attended all 12 years. Photos below show the construction of this addition (L, 5 December 1951, by Jim Lucas, from OK Historical Society [OPC Photo Collection](#); R, FWZ BLDG). Note the "original" portion of the school at far L in the R photo. Ladders & sawhorses are visible.



Additional school photos from Kremlin Bronc yearbooks are shown below:



Photo at right shows Superintendent **Claude Gist** and Principal, science teacher, and Arrel's early science mentor **Merlin Rogers** unpacking new science lab tables. From OHS Photo Collection, 17 November **1961**; caption reads "Claude Gist, left, and Merlin Rogers await a first look at new laboratory tables."



An interesting article from [24 August 1951](#) is shown at R. The photo at bottom shows construction of the new \$100,000 high school/gymnasium addition is just getting underway. The existing 6-room brick schoolhouse is at back L. A 1-room schoolhouse and another building are R of the new construction. For details of these new and existing school buildings, see [Myron's Kremlin School Buildings opus](#), coming soon. News clipping and photo courtesy of [Dick Chelf](#), from his mother Tillie's ([Lillian](#)) scrapbook, shared with Myron Toews. Dick's father and Tillie's husband was longtime Kremlin School administrator, teacher, and school board member, [Leonard A Chelf](#).

August 24, 1951

Kremlin School Has New Superintendent



S. A. Stratton
Superintendent

A new superintendent, S. A. Stratton, will be in charge of Kremlin school this term. He has a Master's degree in school administration and was superintendent of Nelagoney

schools before coming to Kremlin.

The school is well under way with a new \$100,000 addition to the present building. It will have a new gymnasium with maximum playing space, and it will have a modern, well equipped lunch room. A home economics room is also provided.

The building will be modern in every respect with the latest in design in school construction. It will have adequate school room space for all the students to be accommodated under one roof.

Kremlin school will open Wednesday, August 29, with enrolment on that day. School will be held all day on August 30, with no school scheduled for August 31 since the teachers will attend a district workshop at Fairview on that day.

Other new teachers include: James W. Braley, coach and history teacher; Bob J. Phillips, speech and English teacher, and Miss Blanche Mildred Dick, home economics teacher.

Teachers returning from last year are: Mrs. Blanche Welty, math and science; Lester Kelly, commerce and grade coach; Mrs. Velma Vivian Devery, grade teacher and 4-H club coach; Mrs. Alberta LaVonna Lounsberry, grade teacher and Miss Carolyn Margaret Rathmel, beginner teacher.

An enrolment of about 60 pupils is expected in the high school and about 110 pupils in the elementary grades.

Fred Randolph is president of the school board; Henry Toews is clerk, and L. A. Chelf is vice-president.

Bus drivers will be Fred A. Phillips, J. R. Kirkpatrick, Jr., and Roy Beaver.

Mrs. Seapy is the lunch room cook, assisted by Mrs. Kirkpatrick. Mr. Peck is the custodian again this year.

Pictorial Mail, Farm Paper Photo.



Kremlin's \$100,000 school addition is well started.

Another nice view of the entire school following completion of the high-school and gymnasium/ auditorium addition is shown below, from the [April 1953](#) Case Factory Eagle magazine featuring FW Zaloudek and Kremlin in general. Also from Dick Chelf and his mother's scrapbook, obtained by Myron Toews



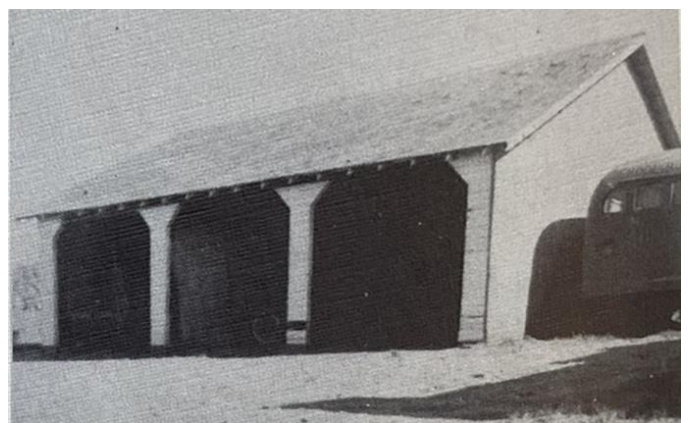
The **Columbia School House** is shown at R below, after it had been moved to Kremlin - it was originally a one-room schoolhouse (Dist 17) located on US-81 about $\frac{1}{2}$ mi S of the present H Holden Road, W side of the highway, 1.5 mi S of the Midway Corner. This was where my mother, **Rosa Marie Voth Toews** and her siblings went to grade school, and also where my Dad's sister **Anna ("Aunt Bush") Toews** taught until her untimely early death. It was moved to across from the bus barn before we had started school and was used as the shop classroom building until a second high-school addition with a new shop was built.



There was also another 1-room schoolhouse (**Bill Richey** says **Pleasant Valley**) located across from the relocated Columbia School in the late 1940s/early 1950s. **Peggy Smith Harris** and **James Buller** both remember attending 1st (James) and 1st & 2nd (Peggy) grades in the Columbia schoolhouse (Peggy started in 1950 and James in 1951). Grades 3 & 4 were in the building across Fifth Street and Peggy remembers student clod fights back and forth across the street.

All 12 grades were initially in the brick schoolhouse to the S when it opened in 1933, but enrollment continued to grow and apparently these 2 buildings were eventually necessary as "overflow" classrooms until the new addition (completed in 1952) was constructed. James remembers grades 1-4 walking to the brick schoolhouse for lunch, but Peggy remembers a Quonset hut to the E that served as a lunchroom. The **Unified Kremlin School District I-18** was formed in **1935**, 2 years after the original brick schoolhouse was completed.

Photo at R shows the bus garage present when I began attending Kremlin School; a larger metal garage with four bays replaced the one shown sometime during my school days. I believe this was once immediately N of the 1st/2nd grade classroom in the brick schoolhouse (see recess photos). My Dad, **David A Toews**, drove one of the school buses, including the activity bus to various sports events and other activities, for many years. Both photos 1955 Bronc yearbook



The school building as we knew it during our school days was torn down in 2015 and a completely new building erected in a short period of time. A few concrete decorations from the old school building were incorporated into the new building façade. A few photos taken inside the schoolhouse just days prior to demolition are shown below: (L/R) upper, NW corner of gym, dressing rooms under bleachers); gym looking N (note large gas heaters in both corners near ceiling); lower, high school hallway with lockers; scorer's table and E bleachers. Extreme R of top row of E bleachers is where Ellis and I were sitting with Superintendent Jack Gordon and school board president Fred Randolph when that M-80 exploded, sadly ending a school dance.



Right: concrete "Dist. 18" frontispiece from first brick Kremlin School front incorporated into new school façade (see following page).

Photos this page by Arrel Toews





Photos above show the abandoned science lab I used when in high school; new school entry façade with original [District 18 frontispiece](#); and the author in front of the science lab the day before demolition of the school began. L & C photos by Arrel Toews; R by Myron Toews

For school floor plans and detailed chronologies and descriptions of schoolhouse additions and renovations, see [Myron's "Kremlin School Buildings"](#) document on our [Kremlin History website](#).

[TriArch Architects](#) managed construction of the [new 37,000 ft² \\$6.5 million high school/middle school](#) during 2015-16 - click on the link for interesting background and additional photos. New elementary school and gym, as well as Stewart Pool, are at extreme L, football field at back. At the time of its demolition, the previous 1929 building was the oldest in OK still being used as a main high school building!



Photos below show [Google Satellite Map](#) aerial views of later [Kremlin School buildings](#). See my brother Myron's detailed descriptions of [Kremlin School building additions and floor plans](#) beginning with the original 6-room brick schoolhouse (1932) all the way to the destruction of the high school structures in 2015 on our Kremlin School website - well worth a careful look. Upper L view from 2011, upper R 2013, lower L 2015, lower R 2019. Note destruction of previous school buildings in 2015 photo and new high school/middle school in 2019 photo.



Arrel's Grade School Teachers and Their Classrooms

I started school in **August 1954**. There were 4 rooms for elementary school classes, with 2 grades in a single room with one teacher/room for all subjects except music, which was in a separate room and had a separate music teacher - among them were **Mrs. Dunham**, who was young and quite gorgeous, at least to us grade-schoolers, and **Mrs. DW (Jewel) Lowder**, but we had others as well. Stay tuned!

Photo at R shows **Basketball Queen Attendants** when I was in **first grade (1955)**. Near as we can tell, they are (L/R) **Helen Probst**, the author **Arrel Toews**, **Betty Randolph**, **Jimmy Hermanski**, **Jeri Thesman**, and **Stanley Janzen**. Color photos of this event on next page.



Recess time was always a special time for us, something we really looked forward to. There were 15 min recesses in both mid-morning and mid-afternoon. On the playground, there were swings, a nice high slide, 2 sets of monkey bars (high and low), and a couple of merry-go-rounds, including a big one that swung on a tall mast pole (below r) and you could really pump it back and forth and smash it into the metal mast-pole instead of just going round and round if you wanted to. Of course we always wanted to! It was relocated from between the Bank of Kremlin and Community Hall. Teeter-totters too, where I learned some elementary physics about levers and fulcrums and equal but opposite forces, plus how to jump off and crash your teeter-tottering partner - all that and more. Including trusting others (to not jump off!).

Note the school bus and bus barn just N of the 1st/2nd grade classroom at L, and what appears to be a one-room schoolhouse N of the playground in center photo. 1955 Bronc yearbook



Way on the east end of the school property (where the football field is now), under an elm tree in the fence row right next to Lou Zaloudek's wheat field, we had a fort where we'd go out and play in during recess if nothing else was going on.

The author carrying the crown for the [1955 Kremlin High School Basketball Queen](#), accompanied by Helen Probst, his beautiful consort. Sue Johnson was Queen and Clarence Burrell her Herald. Other high-school attendants were Rita Ruth, Don Guffey, Lois Long, Jack Zaloudek, Barbara Claunch, John Burrell, Patsy Hays and Sonny Lorenz. Note how carefully I am studying the kiss in the lower photo - see photo on p 63 for the ultimate result!



Additional playground recess photos are below: I believe [Max Wofford](#) and [Jimmy Hermanski](#) are at bottom of the slide. Old bus barn at L in center photo. 1956 Bronc yearbook



First and Second Grades - Carolyn Rathmel - My first year of school was the 1954-55 academic year. Miss Rathmel was the spinster twin sister of postmaster/mailman Carlton Rathmel. Another brother Bill and wife Clara together ran both the post office and Rathmel

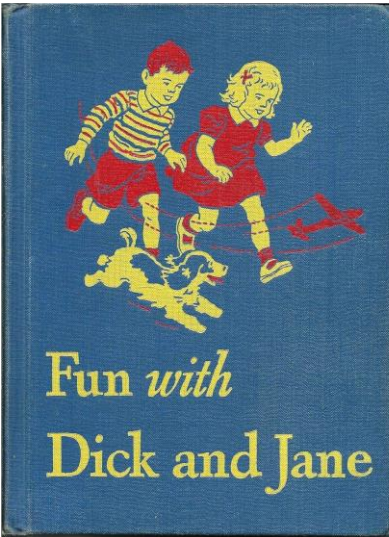


Grocery, which was actually more of a general store than just a grocery (same building; see our ["Kremlin Life"](#) on this website for more details). The two first grades were in the room at the extreme NE end of the school building, with a real slate-board on the W wall and a coatroom in the back (N end) where you'd hang your coat and stocking cap in wintertime. There was a small nave on the N end of the building with



outside entrances for this classroom and for the 4th & 5th grade room directly to the W. Miss Rathmel's desk sat in front facing N, with a semi-circle of chairs in front of her desk to which one of the two classes would be called when a given subject was being taught. She had a pretty strict disciplinarian/authoritarian approach to teaching, probably an absolute necessity to beat down beginning students, particularly free-spirited farm boys, into a meaningful established routine. None of that "how is everyone feeling this morning, and what would you like to do today" stuff that is the norm nowadays. Looking back, I'm basically fine with that approach way back then - I am sure I am the better for it! Subjects I remember from early grades were reading, spelling, penmanship ([Zaner-Bloser penmanship pens de rigueur!](#)), arithmetic (politely called math

these days), science, geography, and history - probably there were more. Music and art eventually as well. For the first and second grade, we had those old-style single desks in rows front to back, with hinged desktops that lifted up to access book/tablet storage below, a pencil groove on top to keep your pencil from rolling off, and an inkwell hole on top for your bottle of ink (which we never used). Lots of dried chewing gum underneath the desks and lots of initials and other material scratched and carved onto the desktops.



Our reading primers were the [Dick-Jane-Spot readers](#) by Zerna Sharp and William S Gray, based on the earlier McGuffey primers. They utilized the "look-say" method of word recognition (sight-reading), and introduced new readers to one new word/page and no more than five new words in each story.

Being chosen to clean the erasers - pounding them on the sidewalk outside

until all the chalk dusted out of them - was always quite an honor for me - not sure why, but I think I brown-nosed a bit to be selected. The blackboard on the W wall really was black slate, and it had cracks all over it - sometimes when we were supposed to be doing work up there, writing sentences or spelling words or doing math or whatever, we'd just take our chalk and trace all the cracks - it ended up looking like a big map of the world, there were so many intertwining cracks on it. Or maybe like a Pablo Picasso or Louise Nevelson masterpiece, but

who knew then!

And speaking of maps, there was a wooden map case/rack hanging above the blackboard - similar to but not identical to the online photos shown at L.



Each school day began with a pledge of allegiance to the US flag, which stood in a front corner. We always had recess in the morning and afternoon where we could go out and play, and in the afternoon, we always had a cup of milk that came on a cart from the lunchroom (Thanks, USDA!). White or chocolate, 2¢/day, so a dime a week and you'd pay when you paid your lunch money, which was 25¢/day, or \$1.25/week. If you were lucky, you could bring your lunch - The Toews Brothers were mostly unlucky!

One thing I remember about recess in the first and second grades of any import was that Ellis and I and Eddie Veal and Alex Bryce and Max Wofford (a year behind me, but one of my good buds) and probably other guys would sometimes find an old cardboard box and we'd make it flat and then one of us would lay down on it on our backs while others pulled us all over the playground like we were just taking a joyride. Whooping and hollering and having a good time, trying not to slide off when we'd make a corner, looking like we were just really enjoying ourselves. But what we were really doing was very serious business - trying our best to look up the dresses of all the girls out on the playground and secretly get a peek at their panties! And ALL of the girls wore dresses, not slacks or jeans, in those days. Not every recess, but more than once, for sure! Now you know why we call them the [Good Ole Days!](#) Nobody ever had a clue! Not bad for a bunch of first and second graders, eh?? Betty Randolph, Jeri Thesman, Connie Meyer, Helen Probst - pretty much anyone who was out there in a dress was fair game, except for Miss Rathmel, of course. And then there were those second graders - Rita Sue Thesman, Shirley Wuerflein, Janet Kirkpatrick, and more. I am hoping the statute of limitations has expired by now - I am sure I would quickly lose my first-grade diploma and be forced to resign in shame in today's politically correct climate. "Me Too!" 1950s-style!

Perhaps equally memorable - I remember in the 2nd grade, there was a girl who sat towards the back of the classroom who would occasionally wet her pants in class, and I was sitting there at my desk once, just minding my own business, when I looked down beside my desk and there, in a big crack between the old worn hardwood floor boards of our classroom, was a little river of bright yellow steaming-warm fresh piss heading for the front of the room. It was just enough and coming just fast enough to stay in the groove between those floorboards and I just watched it slowly flow ever forward right towards Miss Rathmel's desk and I remember thinking, "Oh, Boy, there's really gonna be some trouble now!" And sure enough, there was. Our teacher saw it and threw a hissy fit, immediately tracing that little yellow river straight back past me to that girl (she will remain anonymous!), then making her get up and go clean herself up and carrying on about the mess she'd made, which was considerable, by the way, especially back where the main puddle was behind and underneath her desk. After reading a draft of this memoir, my good buddy Ellis, who was right there as well and has an excellent memory, confirms this story as well as the culprit! This was all very embarrassing and humiliating for her, so best to maintain our secrecy over her identity. Myron and Eldon Toews both remember very similar, equally traumatic and demeaning series of events when they were in Miss Rathmel's room.

Myron and Ellis Toews both remember Miss Rathmel drawing elaborate artistic scenes on a side blackboard - [Thanksgiving](#), with Pilgrims meeting Indians in a village with teepees in the background, and also at [Christmas](#). She was an accomplished chalkboard artist! See next page.

Photos of [Miss Rathmel's blackboard murals](#) are shown below. L is first/second grade Halloween party from the [1953 Bronc](#) yearbook; R is the Thanksgiving celebration in Miss Rathmel's classroom from my second year of school ([1955 Bronc](#) yearbook). Note the cloakroom doors in both photos - N wall of 1st/2nd classroom. Also note actual teepee at far R of R photo. Arrel with the drum at far L, then ?, Ellis Toews, Jeri Thesman, ?, Jim Hermanski in middle row.



Photo at R, also from [1955 Bronc](#), shows a Halloween party with students in costume. Note cracked real slate "blackboard" and alphabet letters above and chalk/eraser tray below. Myron thinks 3rd/4th grade classroom, but it looks like I remember the 1st/2nd grade blackboard as well.



Third and Fourth Grades - Alberta Lounsbury - she and her husband lived on the Kremlin-Hunter blacktop, just a couple miles W of Hunter, and she was a very nice and good teacher. I



KREMLIN
SCHOOL DAYS 1956-57

remember she had us try to draw, using the encyclopedias on the bookshelves for our picture sources. There was a row of lockers at the back (N end) of the room where we stored our books and coats and lunch boxes. I remember this quite well because of the fiasco I brought on by "losing" my reader. This is material for another story (all true, of course!) - those interested are directed to my "**Mrs. Lounsbury, I can't find my reader!**" -



I will be delighted to send a copy to anyone who asks. But for now, suffice it to say that under Mrs. Lounsbury's close supervision, not only I, but the entire 3rd and 4th grades fully cleaned out their lockers and looked carefully through their desks (a couple of times!) to see if they might find my misplaced reader. But sadly, no. Upperclassmen including Dennis Toews, Bobo Fox, and Rick McDonald were not too happy about having to do these repeated searches! The fact is that only Ellis and I knew what happened for a great many years! He was standing right beside me when that reader disappeared into the rain-swollen ditch along the Kremlin blacktop by the OG&E electric substation. I was performing a bodily elimination function whilst clasping my reader between my legs (where else was I supposed to put it??) as I stood on the ledge of the [WPA bridge](#) where "[Wall Street](#)" meets current [Keowee Road](#) (1 mile W of Kremlin) As I said, there's lots more to the story, but you will have to ask. I swore Ellis to secrecy, and to my knowledge, he has not violated his oath to this day!

By the way, it was in 4th grade that [Kathy Lowder](#) appeared - when she arrived for school that year, I thought she was the most beautiful creature that ever lived - she had a fake mink collar that tied around her neck and the ties ended in little fur balls. Her dad was DH Lowder, the high-school math and science teacher. In later years, DW became very protective of his seriously budding lush young daughter, for many very good reasons (all of them high school guys) - but I was not yet one of them.

Not only was Kathy Lowder beautiful, she also had an equally beautiful singing voice! She was [Snow White](#) in the [4-H Share the Fun Contest](#) when we were in the 4th or 5th grade, with [me](#), [Ellis](#) and [Dennis Toews](#), [Vic Rempel](#), [Rick McDonald](#), [Bobo Fox](#), and [Gary Janzen](#) as her [Seven Dwarfs](#). We won the County Contest by a landslide, then went to the District Competition in the Enid Education Building and again won the [Grand Prize!](#) Were we not in the Junior Division,

we would have gone on to the State Competition - who knows what would have happened there! See my "[4-H Club Memoirs](#)" for more details.

First, we dwarfs sang "[Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho, It's Off To Work We Go!](#)" - and not doing it very well either. But [Vic Rempel](#) had a good voice, singing trios and duets with his brother(s) in church sometimes, and he and [Bobo Fox](#) both had solo parts in this skit. Then having Kathy Lowder sing "[Whistle While you Work](#)" to her infatuated dwarfs, with us whistling while we worked, just humming merry tunes, and so on. [Kathy's Mom Jewel](#) was the music teacher, so she was playing the piano and trying to keep us all in line. Not a lot of fun wearing tights and a funny hat and standing up on the stage with lots of folks watching. But maybe this was the inspiration for my ill-informed decision to play the role of [Doc](#) in the [Tabor College](#) production of [Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs](#) so many years later - see my "[Tabor College Days](#)" for some thoughts on this.

Between the 3rd/4th and 7th/8th grade classrooms, there was a hallway/narrow room with an exit to the E that was used as the "[janitor's closet.](#)" Directly N of this, outside against the building, was a [coal chute](#) where coal for heating the basement [steam boiler](#) was dumped. Steam produced by the boiler was used to heat the school during wintertime. Roy Sanders (Class of 1962; married to Shirley Weurflein) remembers being excused from class to help shovel coal into the boiler, then lingering by visiting with custodian Fred Phillips for as long as he could get away with it. Perhaps the school basement was even a refuge for highschoolers to sneak in a smoke sometimes?

The Toews Brothers were avid readers from an early age, and this included [Weekly Reader](#), which I believe we subscribed to through offers from school.

My Weekly Reader The Children's Newspaper News Story
Vol. XXVIII Issue 10 - November 10-14, 1958 EDITION THREE

Here We Come, Moon!



Pioneer was shot into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida. The line with arrows shows how Pioneer traveled. The dotted line shows how scientists wanted Pioneer to travel. They wanted Pioneer to reach the moon.

Pioneer raced into space. Pioneer was a rocket. It was fired toward the moon. Pioneer went 79,000 miles into space. Nothing has ever gone so far.

Pioneer traveled for almost two days. Then, it fell toward the earth. It burned up before it reached the earth.

Scientists wanted Pioneer to travel to the moon. They wanted it to go around the moon. The big rocket went about one-third of the way.

Pioneer carried radios. The radios sent messages to earth. Pioneer had a camera to take pictures of the moon.

Scientists are happy. Pioneer told them much about space. Soon, they will fire another moon rocket.



The men are fitting the nose covering on the rocket.

My Weekly Reader News Story The Children's Newspaper
Vol. XXX Issue 9 - November 7-11, 1960 EDITION THREE

Moon Suits Will Protect Spacemen



The new moon suit is seven feet high.

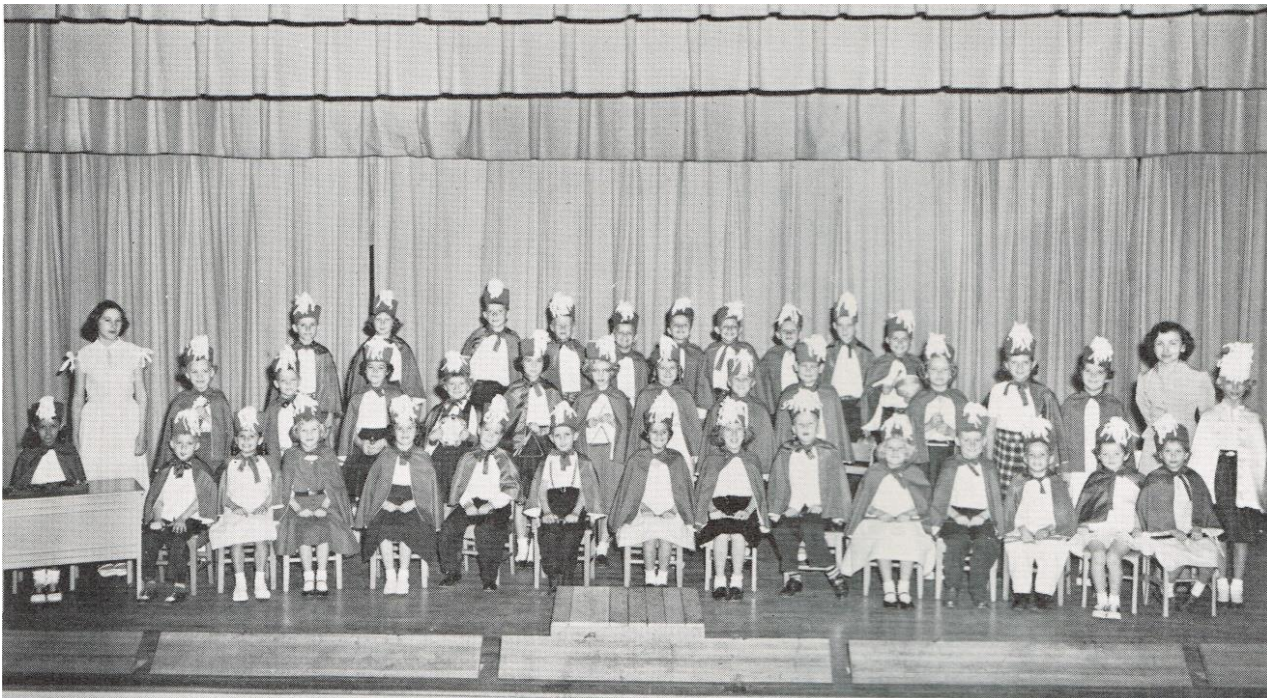
Scientists have made a strange-looking space suit. Someday, a man may wear such a suit on the moon.

A man from earth cannot live on the moon without a special kind of suit. There is no air on the moon. Sometimes, the moon is very hot. At other times, it is very cold.

The moon suit covers a man from head to toe. The suit is made of aluminum. The arms and legs are nylon. There is a window to see through. Food, air, and water can be stored in the suit.

The new suit is shaped like a can. It has built-in legs. They are lowered when the spaceman sits down.

And speaking of [grade-school music](#), in addition to daily sessions in the music room, we also had a "rhythm band" during grades 1-4. Most of the "instruments" were "sticks" - wooden dowels about $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter and about 12" long. They had a series of ribbed rings near one end so you could rub them to make a vibrating clicking sound in addition to just banging the sticks together. Anyone with any musical ability might be fortunate enough to play the triangles or small cymbals (I was most definitely not one of them!). I think maybe there were also small drums, bells, and tambourines. Our music teachers included [Mrs. Dunham](#), [Mrs Rundle](#), and [Mrs. DH \(Jewel\) Lowder](#). Can you find [Arrel](#)? [Ellis](#)? [Dennis](#)? [Vic](#)?



My 2nd grade (Carolyn Rathmel) and 3rd grade (Alberta Lounsbury) report cards are shown below. Note my less than sterling performance in 3rd grade writing, music, and art!

GRADE SCHOOL
PUPIL'S REPORT CARD

School Year 1955-1956

REPORT OF
Arrel Duayne Toews
Kremlin School

Class _____ Grade 3rd

Promoted to Third Grade
Carolyn Rathmel Teacher.

Promoted to _____
_____ Teacher.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

- Mrs. David A. Toews*
- David A. Toews*
- David A. Toews*
- Mrs. David A. Toews*
- David A. Toews*
-

In 2nd grade; Promoted to 3rd grade;
Retained in _____ grade.
Carolyn Rathmel Teacher.

TO PARENTS

The purpose of this card is to keep you in touch with the school work of your child. Please confer with the teacher of the pupil or the superintendent of the schools. Your case will always be given careful, individual attention. It is the purpose of the school to develop good citizenship.

L M Sullivan Supt.

6161 N. DORSEY DOUGLAS, OKLA. CITY 12202

SIX WEEKS PERIOD

STUDIES	1			2			3			Ave.	Exam.	Credit Grade
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3			
Days Present	29	28	31				27	28	24			
Days Absent	2	0	1				0	1	6			
Times Tardy	0	0	0				0	0	0			
Department	A-	A-	A-				A-	A-	A-			
Reading	A	A	A				A	A	A			
Spelling	A+	A+	A+				A+	A+	A			
Writing	S	S	S				S	S	S			
Arithmetic	A	A	B				B+	B	B			
Geography												
English	A-	A	A				A-	B	B+			
U. S. History												
Physiology	A	A	A				B+	A-	B+			
Manual Training												
State Hist.												
State & U. S. Civ.												
Domestic Art												
Domestic Sci.	A	A	A-				B+	B+	B+			
Art	S	S	S				S	S	S			
Music	S	S	S				S	S	S			

HONOR PUPILS must be perfect in attendance, and make an average grade of 90 per cent in all studies, including department.

Carolyn Rathmel Teacher-Principal.

MARKINGS
A—Excellent.
B—Good.
C—Fair.
D—Poor or Passing.
F—Failure.
I—Incomplete.

GRADE SCHOOL
PUPIL'S REPORT CARD

School Year 1956-1957

REPORT OF
Arrel Toews
Kremlin School

Class _____ Grade 3

Promoted to _____
_____ Teacher.

Promoted to _____
_____ Teacher.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

- David A. Toews*
- Mrs. David A. Toews*
- Mrs. David A. Toews*
- Mrs. David A. Toews*
- Mrs. David A. Toews*
-

In 5 grade; Promoted to 4 grade;
Retained in _____ grade.
A. Lounsbury Teacher.

TO PARENTS

The purpose of this card is to keep you in touch with the school work of your child. Please confer with the teacher of the pupil or the superintendent of the schools. Your case will always be given careful, individual attention. It is the purpose of the school to develop good citizenship.

L M Sullivan Supt.

6161 N. DORSEY DOUGLAS, OKLA. CITY 12202

SIX WEEKS PERIOD

STUDIES	1			2			3			Ave.	Exam.	Credit Grade
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3			
Days Present	30	26	29				30	27	33			
Days Absent	0	0	0				0	0	0			
Times Tardy	0	0	0				0	0	0			
Department	B	C	C				B	B	B+			B
Reading	A	A	A				A	A	A			A
Spelling	A	A	A				A	A	A			A
Writing	D+	C	C				C	D	D+			D+
Arithmetic	A	A	A				A	A	A			A
Geography	A	B+	A				A	A	A			A
English	C	A	A				B	B	B+			A
U. S. History												
Physiology							B-	B+	A			A-
Manual Training												
State Hist.												
State & U. S. Civ.												
Domestic Art												
Domestic Sci.												
Art	C	C	D+				C-	B	B			B
Music	B	B	C				B-	B	B-			B-
Science	A	A	A				A	A	A			A
Lesson Preparation	B	A	A				B	A	A			A-

HONOR PUPILS must be perfect in attendance, and make an average grade of 90 per cent in all studies, including department.

Teacher-Principal.

MARKINGS
A—Excellent.
B—Good.
C—Fair.
D—Poor or Passing.
F—Failure.
I—Incomplete.

My 4th grade report card is shown on the next page. Middle R is an "Award of Honor" for reading 25 books in the 6th grade. As you will read below, I read a lot more than 25 books that year, and that's been true for every year of my life since! At bottom R is a note from Mrs Rundle, my 3rd grade music teacher to my parents. She notes "when he tries, he sings passably well!" And there you have it!

"Honor and Shame from no condition rise,
Act well thy part, there all the honor lies."

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

- Mrs. David A. Toews
- Mrs. David A. Toews
- Mrs. David A. Toews
- Mrs. David A. Toews
- David A. Toews
-

In 4 grade; Promoted to 5 grade;
Retained in _____ grade.

A. Lounsbury Teacher.


TO PARENTS

The purpose of this card is to keep you in touch with the school work of your child. Please confer with the teacher of the pupil or the superintendent of the schools. Your case will always be given careful, individual attention. It is the purpose of the school to develop good citizenship.

J. M. Sullivan Supt.

12202

GRADE SCHOOL
PUPIL'S REPORT CARD



School Year 1957 1958

REPORT OF
Arrel Toews
Kremlin School

Class _____ Grade 4

Promoted to _____

Promoted to _____

A. Lounsbury Teacher.

SIX WEEKS PERIOD


STUDIES	1	2	3	Ave.	Exam.	Credit Grade	1	2	3	Ave.	Exam.	Credit Grade
Days Present	27	29	28				30	29	31			
Days Absent	1	0	2				0	1	0			
Times Tardy	0	0	0				0	0	0			
Department	B	B	B	B	B	B	B+	B	B	B	B	B
Reading	A-	B	A-	A-	89	A-	A-	A-	A-	97	A	A
Spelling	A-	A	A	A	100	A	A	A	A	96	A	A
Writing	B-	B	B+	B	B	B	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
Arithmetic	A-	B+	B+	B+	94	A-	B	B	B	93	B+	B+
Geography	B+	B+	A	A-	95	A	A-	A	A	94	A	A
English	B+	A	B+	A-	91	A-	B	A-	A-	87	A-	A-
U. S. History												
Physiology	B	A	A	A-	89	A-						
Manual Training												
State Hist.												
State & U. S. Civ.												
Domestic Art												
Domestic Sci.												
Art	B	C	B-	B-	B-	B-	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+	B+
Music	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Science	A	A-	B+	A-	92	A-	A-	A-	A-	80	B+	B+

HONOR PUPILS must be perfect in attendance, and make an average grade of 90 per cent in all studies, including department.

MARKINGS
A—Excellent.
B—Good.
C—Fair.
D—Poor or Failing.
F—Failure.
I—Incomplete.

Teacher—Principal.

Certificate for reading 25 books



Arrel Toews

a pupil in the Kremlin School, is awarded this

Testimonial of Honor

for Reading twenty five books during

the School Year ending May 18 1960

Given at Kremlin, this 18 day of May 1960

Mrs B. Beutler Claude A. Gust

ESBO H. DORSEY DOUGLAS INC., OKLA. CITY

Note to my parents from Mrs. Rundle, my 3rd grade (1956) music teacher

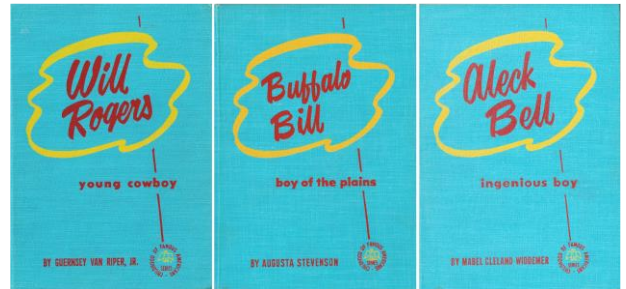
Arrel has so much energy that it's almost unbelievable! Part of it has been channeled to music activities and he has made a nice improvement of music activity. Arrel has a "good ear" for music, his rhythm is excellent, and when he tries he sings creditably well. I hope we can maintain his interest in music in the years that follow. I've enjoyed every minute of his being in my class.

Mrs. Rundle.

Fifth and Sixth Grades - Mrs. BW (Bessie) Guthrie - she lived in Kremlin with her husband,



across the street near where Ernie and Virgie Voth lived. Her husband, **Burwell**, worked in the North Enid **Champlin Refinery**. There was a small library along the wall of each grade-school classroom. When I was in the 5th grade, I discovered a row of blue-green books on the shelf - a **set of biographies of well-known people** (**Childhood of Famous Americans**, 156 books in all, I think), each about 200 pages long. People like Mark Twain, Cyrus McCormick, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, Henry Ford, Eli Whitney,



Lewis and Clark, Andrew Carnegie, many Presidents and other world leaders, and a host of others. I was enchanted with learning about all of these people and about their lives and what they accomplished, so I began reading these books avidly - I kept on steadily until I had read every one of them. This was when I discovered the joy of reading and the immense satisfaction of learning new things, things I hope everyone else enjoys as well. It was basically accidental - nobody told me to do it, but once I got started, I could not quit, and I still have not quit! I have been able to collect several books from this 1948 series (see some above at R).

Seventh and Eighth Grades - A (Agnes) Mable Gist was the wife of superintendent Claude A Gist, and they lived in the house just N of **Uncle Pete and Aunt Clara Voth** and across the



street from **Uncle Henry G and Aunt Elsie Toews** in Kremlin. I mowed their lawn for several years and got to know Claude a bit outside the context of school. He had a lever-pump-action Daisy BB air rifle and was a pretty good shot with it (shot a skunk in his front yard while I watched!). Although Claude was Superintendent for a good many years, Mrs. Gist only taught for a couple years at Kremlin - our 7th and 8th grade years. She was rumored to have had a "nervous breakdown," a euphemism for all kinds of mental disorders in those days and was not seen publicly after she quit, to the best of my knowledge. She had no college degree, but rather a

Life Elementary Certificate from Northwestern OK State College in Alva, something probably as easily attainable as are online ministerial certificates these days. She was not a great teacher, far from it, in fact, and I now believe she got her teaching job simply because her husband Claude was the superintendent - part of a package deal if you will. We usually had 1-2 hrs/day when she would read to us (remember, this is 7th and 8th grades!) from classic books

(Ellis thinks we listened to the entire "Gone With the Wind") instead of providing us with meaningful instruction. In addition, lots of time was devoted to "crafts," a favorite both years being making an [etched aluminum tray for our mothers](#). We were given colored round aluminum disks onto which we traced a design we selected - virtually all of them floral in nature. Then we carefully painted everything but the design with thick, black paint, then the edges were fluted with a pair of pliers and the tray etched with acid - the tray coloring of everything not painted black was etched off to give a shiny aluminum picture. Then the black paint was removed and the finished product was ready for gifting. An OK thing to do, but more suited for Vacation Bible School than for Junior High knowledge and learning. I believe I still have one of those trays - in our farm home in OK - and will try to remember to look for it. A photo of one of those trays would be golden!

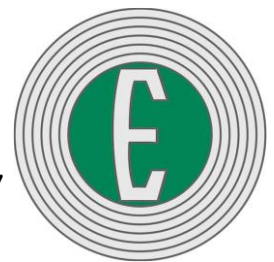
Of course, one of the most "memorable memories" was the extended vendetta against good friend and 8th grader [Vic Rempel](#), who managed to get in the cross-hairs of Mrs. Gist (at least twice!). Nobody, including Vic, is sure what initially set her off about Mr. Rempel, but it was a genuine phenomenon, for sure. Although both [Ellis](#) (7th grade) and [Dennis](#) (8th grade) [Toews](#) recall the incidents, Vic himself has also supplied his memories, and nobody would remember better than the man himself, right? Here, as Vic put it, is the ["Rest of the Story."](#) The first incident was when Vic was reading a book titled ["The Land of the Sioux"](#) and when he came to a humorous part, he could not resist laughing out loud. Mrs. Gist asked what he was reading - he responded with the title, mispronouncing Sioux to sound like "Sikes," intentionally or not. That was not a good beginning, but then she asked why he was reading a book instead of doing his math homework (he'd already completed it), and that was the beginning of nothing good for Vic. Just a severe loud verbal dressing-down for that first unfortunate incident, but keep reading!

The second, more serious incident occurred during the [4-H Club Share the Fun Contest](#) during my 7th grade year. The contest was at Kremlin School that year and our teachers let us all go into the gym to watch, with the entire 7th and 8th grade classes going into the gym together. We were going up the stairs in the NW corner of the gym (see first photo, p. 5) to sit on the bleachers on the west side of the basketball court. Vic already had big feet when he was in the 8th grade and to top it off, he wore cowboy boots to school that day. We were climbing the stairs and "Old Lady Gist" [as she was fondly referred to by all of us; Vic and Dennis have also supplied less charitable nicknames, but they will not be printed here] thought Vic was intentionally stomping his feet as he went up the stairs, trying to purposely make excessive noise. Vic insists he was not trying to make excessive noise, but the rest of us are still not sure. I mean, why wear cowboy boots to school if nobody notices, right? Anyway, that's what she thought, and it really set her off. Nothing that day, but the next morning, Mrs. Gist

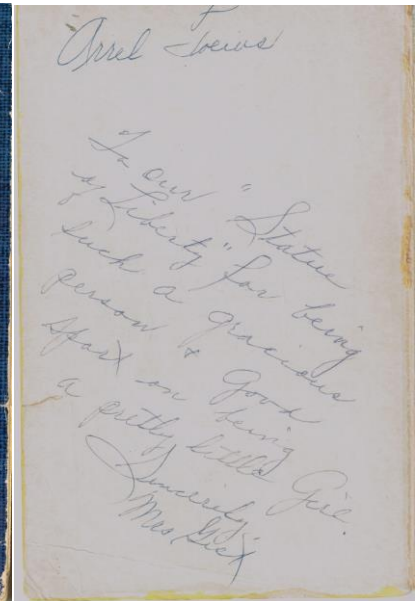
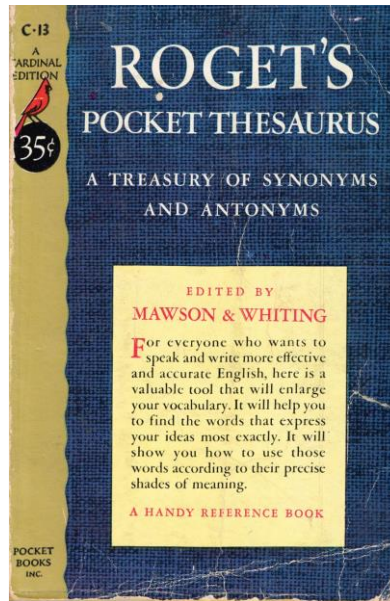
proceeded to whip Vic's ass with a big spoon. She wailed on him a few times and then asked him if he'd had enough. When he replied, "Yes!" she said "Oh no, you haven't!" and started whipping him some more. On the first blow as she vigorously started in again, the large bracelet she was wearing broke and lots of big shiny black beads went flying all over the floor. Of course everyone started laughing (except Vic, of course) and this pissed her off even more. She was very flushed and red in the face as she continued beating on poor Vic, probably getting dangerously close to a coronary event.

[Vic's additional comments](#), nearly verbatim: "Old Lady Gist made a real derogatory comment to me one day in school and when I got home from school that day, I told my Mom about it. My Mom immediately went across the yard to find my Dad, who was starting to do the chores in the barn. My Dad came running to the house, threw on some clean pants, told my brothers and me to milk the cows and finish the chores, and took off down the driveway. That [Edsel](#) [Vic's Dad had not one, but two of these automobiles!] was probably screaming for mercy on the way to Kremlin. My folks never did tell me what was said at the Gist home (school was out by now, of course). This incident took place after the paddling and broken beads incident. My folks were royally teed off!" For the record, Vic will still not tell us exactly what she said to him, but be assured, we are all working on him! Understandably, Vic chose to complete his 4 high-school years at Oklahoma Bible Academy in Meno, OK instead at Kremlin High School. [Note from Arrel - At the end of the next school term, A Mable Gist retired from teaching and was never seen in public by anyone at Kremlin from that day on. As noted previously, rumor had it that she suffered some type of "nervous breakdown." It is hard to imagine the above incidents, and Jake Rempel's response to them, had nothing to do with her public disappearance.]

No compelling reason to do so, but I have pasted a couple photos of [Edsels](#) below - the [1958 Edsel Pacer \(L\)](#) and the innovative "teletouch" shifting system on the steering wheel hub and "rolling dome" speedometer (R). Too bad Vic did not hang onto his Dad's cars!! Edsels were only manufactured by [Ford Motor Company](#) from 1958-60.



Arrel as the Statue of Liberty - While in Mrs. Gist's room, I was persuaded to dress up as Lady Liberty for some school program - no idea why she did not force some of the girls to do this, but maybe because I was utterly unable to sing at all. I wore a flowing gown with a tinfoil crown on my head and held a book and a fake torch (tinfoil around a flashlight with slits on top) while something happened - not sure, but must have been a song sung by someone besides me (I'm certain I didn't sing!!). I stood on a sawed-off **white wooden porch pedestal from our old house that got blown away by the tornado in May, 1961** - we nailed a false base near the top for me to stand on, and I guess at least that part looked OK. This was such an obvious embarrassment to me that Mabel A Gist gave me a paperback **Roget's Thesaurus**, with a very nice inscription inside it - thanking me for being such a good sport and for being such a "pretty little girl." I still have this book.



Previously (and perhaps in later years too), **John Janzen** (father of beloved shop teacher **Dwayne**; keep reading) taught 7th and 8th grades - in those days, unbeknownst to me, the first two grades were termed primary, next two (3rd & 4th) elementary, next two (5th and 6th) intermediate, and last two before high school (7th & 8th) junior high. Mr Janzen was also a long-time accomplished basketball coach.

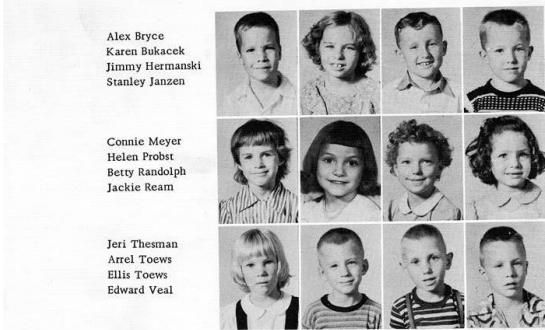


Perhaps this is also a good place for a few words about the mother of Dennis, Ellis, Eldon & Janice, **Helena Toews**, who taught for many years at Kremlin Schools - first in the one-room **Columbia School** along US 81 (my **Uncle Jake Voth Jr.** was one of her students!). She also taught Music and English at **Kremlin High School** in the early-to-mid 1940s prior to marrying **Bill Toews** in 1944, then eventually returned to Kremlin Schools in the 1960s, teaching the **4th, 5th, and 6th grades**, as well as **grade school music**.

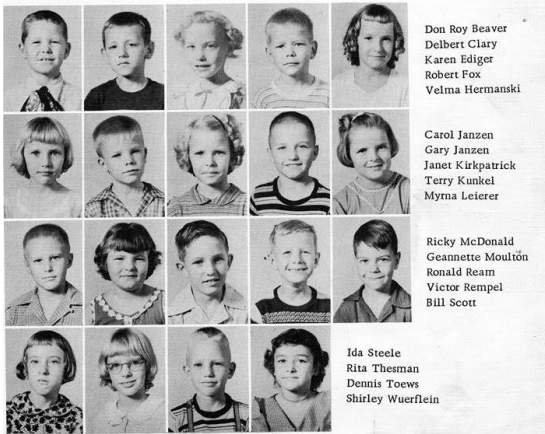


Yearbook Photos of Grade School

Shown below are the yearbook photos of my 8 years of "grade school" at Kremlin School. Since we had 2 grades together in a single room, there are 8 photos total. Note the small size of our and other classes and the significant turnover of students.



First and Second Grades



Third Grade

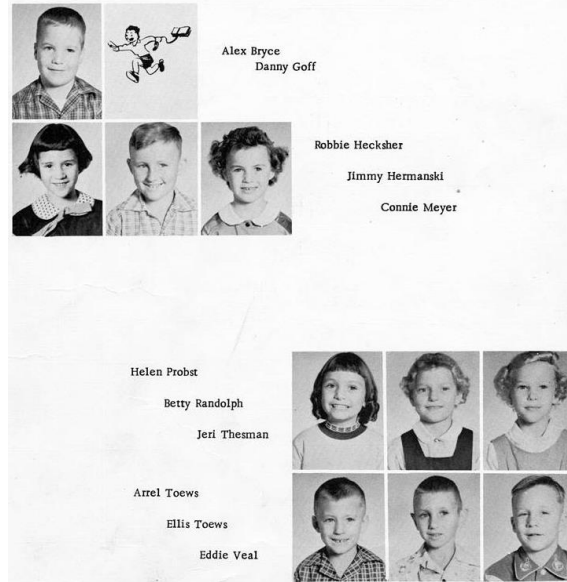


Fourth Grade

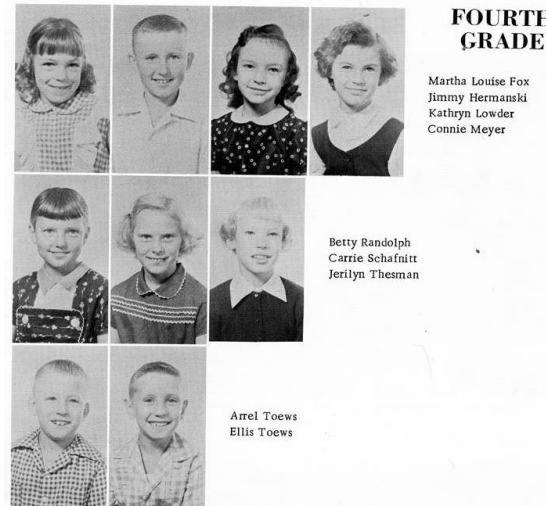


FIRST GRADE

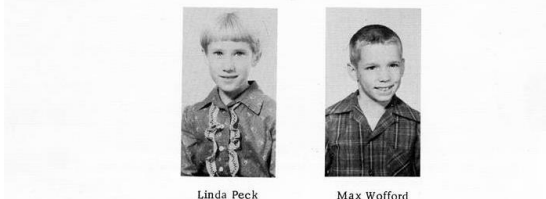
SECOND GRADE



FOURTH GRADE



THIRD GRADE



SIXTH GRADE



FIRST ROW: Dennis Toews, Rita Thesman, Delbert Clary, Velma Hermanski, Victor Rempel. SECOND ROW: Ida Steele, Janet Kirkpatrick, Gary Janzen, Karen Ediger, Robert Fox, Shirley Wuerflein.

FIFTH GRADE



FIRST ROW: Kathryn Lowder, Ellis Toews, Connie Meyer. SECOND ROW: Martha Fox, Jimmy Hermanski, Carrie Schafnitt, Arrel Toews, Jerilyn Thesman, Betty Randolph.

Seventh Grade

Allen Bese Jean Bittner
Betty Randolph Jeri Thesman



Martha Fox Connie Meyers

Arrel Toews Ellis Toews



Sixth Grade



FIRST ROW: Arrel Toews, Martha Fox, Ellis Toews. SECOND ROW: Kathryn Lowder, Connie Meyer, Betty Randolph, Jerilyn Thesman.

Fifth Grade



FIRST ROW: Max Wofford, Linda Peck. SECOND ROW: Harvey Venable, Kenneth Venable, Jimmy Hermanski.

Eighth Grade



Martha Fox
Allen Bese
Connie Meyer



Terry Edwards
Betty Randolph
Arrel Toews



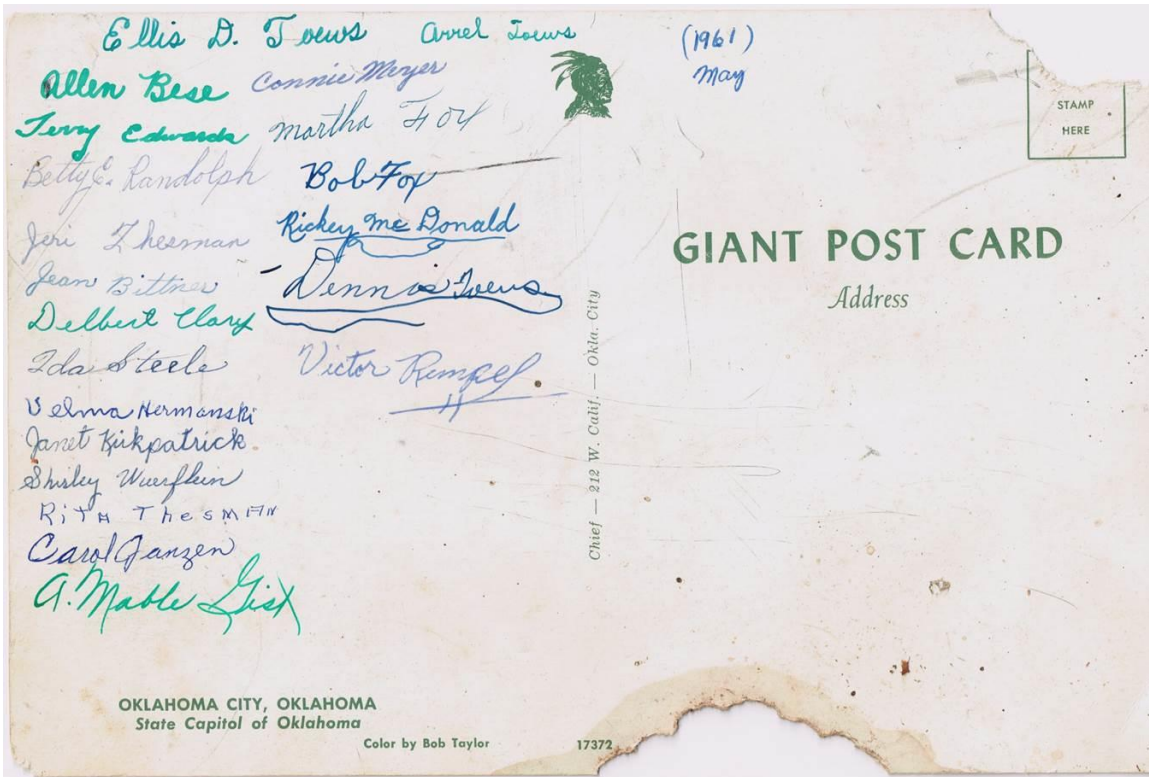
Jeri Thesman
Ellis Toews
Lynn Zook



Connie Edwards
Jimmy Hermanski
Linda Peck

Seventh Grade

When we were finishing the 7th grade, we took a trip to Oklahoma City, along with the 8th grade class. I have no memories of this trip, but did recently uncover a mouse-eaten postcard of the OK State Capitol Building with the signatures of all of my classmates (both grades) on the back. See photos below. Perhaps other participants reading this story will be able to provide additional details.



Grade School Sports

Bill Maloy was our grade-school coach for both basketball and baseball. I was a starter on the 8th grade basketball team, basically by default, and scored a career-high 6 points during one game, but mostly I just waddled around out there. I played baseball in grade school as well, but hated being at bat (why stand there while someone else throws a hard leather ball inches from your face??). That said, I really liked playing defense on the field. Photos below from when I was a 7th grader.



Top (l/r): Rick McDonald, Allen Bese, Vic Rempel, Delbert Clary, Dennis Toews
 Middle: Max Wofford, Bob Lambert, Arrel Toews, Bobby Mike Thesman
 Front: Ellis Toews, Jimmy Hermanski, Bobo Fox (Coach is Bill Maloy)

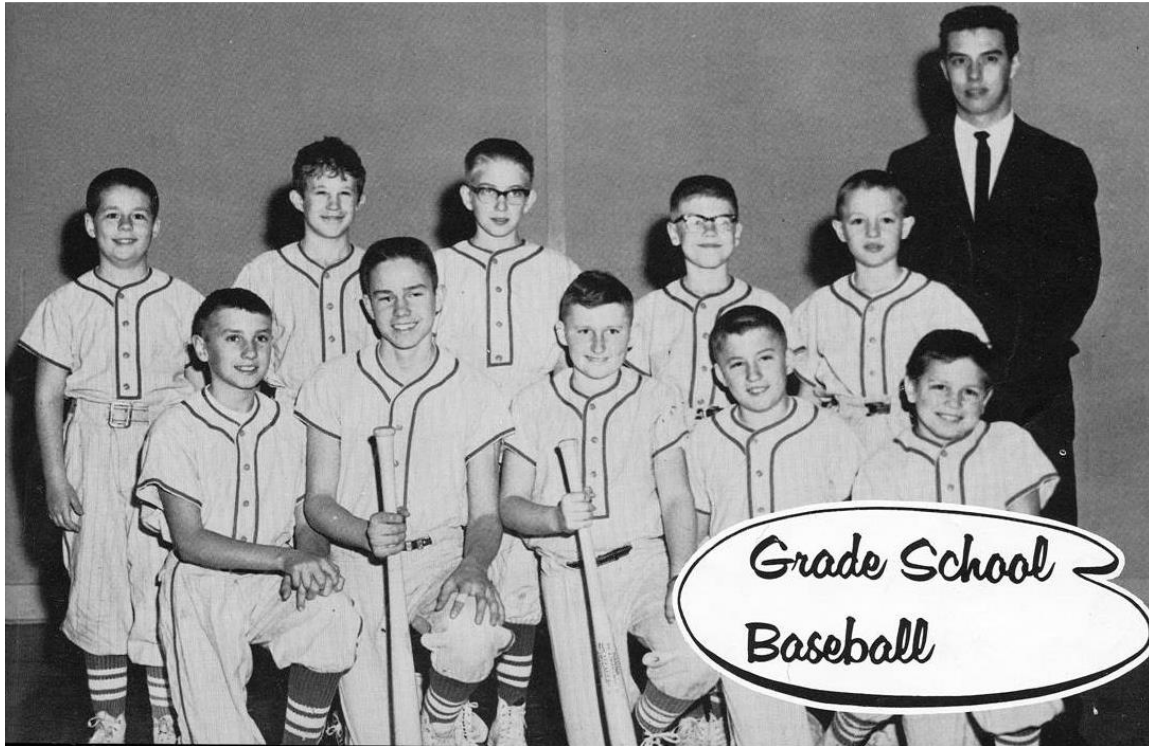
GRADE BASEBALL TEAM



Max Wofford, Arrel Toews, Ricky McDonald, Allen Bese, Vic Rempel,
 Delbert Clary, Dennis Toews, Bobo Fox, Bob Lambert, Bobby Thesman
 Coach Bill Maloy

GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM

Not much changed for me in the 8th grade (1961-62) except that **Dwayne Janzen** was our coach for both basketball and baseball. Some new teammates, and some lost former teammates too who moved up and out!



Kneeling: Ellis Toews Allen Bese, Jimmy Hermanski, Arrel Toews, John Fox
Standing: Franklin Baker, John Zook, Roger Siebert, Bobby Thesman, Myron Toews
 Coach Dwayne Janzen



Kneeling: John Fox, Myron Toews, John Zook, Bobby Thesman, Franklin Baker, Arrel Toews
Standing: Allen Bese, Jimmy Hermanski, Terry Edwards, Ellis Toews, Roger Siebert
 Coach Dwayne Janzen

4-H Club



The transition from Grade School to High School seems like a good place to insert a bit about my 4-H Club activities since I started sometime around the 7th grade (perhaps even earlier) and continued all the way through high-school. I will only touch on this subject briefly since **I am writing a separate document with all of my 4-H Club stories**. Looking back, 4-H Club was a **very good thing for me for many reasons**. The photo below shows the Kremlin 4-H Club during my 7th grade year (1960-61). Note the presence of **Peggy Smith, Mike Lorenz, Danny Zaloudek, Galen** and others in the photo. Can you find **Arrel?** **Ellis** and **Dennis?** How about **Myron??**

I really enjoyed being in the 4-H Club, including getting out of class for our monthly (perhaps more often) meetings. We always began by reciting the **4-H Club ritual**, including the motto, **"To Make the Best Better!!"** There were always **girls and boys demonstrations**, maybe one each from grade school and high school. "We are the boys demonstration team from the Kremlin 4-H Club. I am the captain, Arrel Toews, and this is my teammate, Ellis Toews. For our demonstration today, we have chosen to illustrate the dangers of grain dust explosions in elevators." You get the idea, right?

Some activities included the **"Share the Fun"** contests where we performed skits or songs or whatever, the **"4-H Dress Revue,"** where we just put on our Sunday clothes and tried to look nice (everyone got a blue ribbon), and summer camp.

Perhaps most important was exhibiting our **registered Hampshire sheep** at the **Garfield County Fair** (woodworking projects as well). We had a good-sized sheep operation with about 100 ewes, 5 or so rams, and so about 150 lambs/year (twins about half the time, rare triplets too!). We started out small, but ended up financing a good part of our college educations by selling all of our wether lambs to a county in W Texas.



The Toews brothers were not the only **Kremlin sheep breeders** - raising and showing sheep were popular **4-H Club projects** for Kremlin students. Other breeders included **Rick & Ronnie McDonald** and **Steve & Pam Voth** (Hampshire) as well as **Jack and Tom Zaloudek** (and parents **Ed & Varina**; Dorset). A photo collage is below (**any help in identifying anyone much appreciated!**).

Below: **Galen Toews** gets "blocking" tips from **Tom Zaloudek**; **Galen** with his Hampshire ewe and harem behind (both 13 September 1955); **Steve & Pamela Voth** (now Schoenhals).



Below: Showing sheep at Garfield County Fair (4th & 5th from L, **Galen Toews & Ronnie McDonald**); some 4-H Club County Fair ribbons; **Galen & Arrel Toews** just back from the fair (even at early ages, Arrel was always a snappy dresser!)




I was generally an underachiever in high school, including 4-H Club, but did manage to qualify for both **Sheep** and **Conservation** medals (see previous page, lower R).

In my later years at the **UNC School of Medicine** (2009), I was selected by the medical students to present the annual **Whitehead Lecture** (a pretty big deal!). My lecture relied heavily on 4-H Club philosophy, motto, and life lessons, and was titled "**To Make the Best Better - Farm Stories, Deep Thinkers, Good Doctors.**"

2009 WHITEHEAD LECTURE AND AWARDS CEREMONY

To Make the Best Better
Farm Stories, Deep Thinkers, Good Doctors

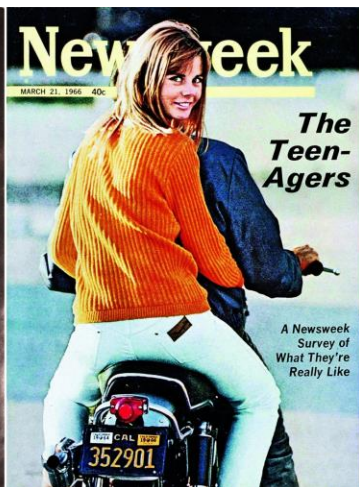
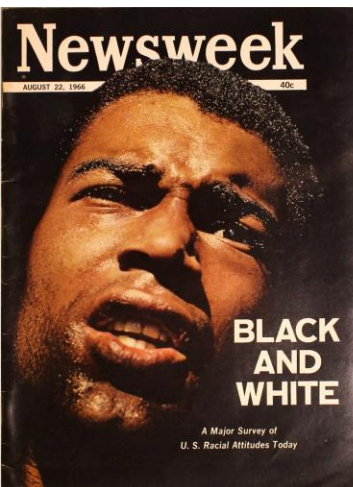
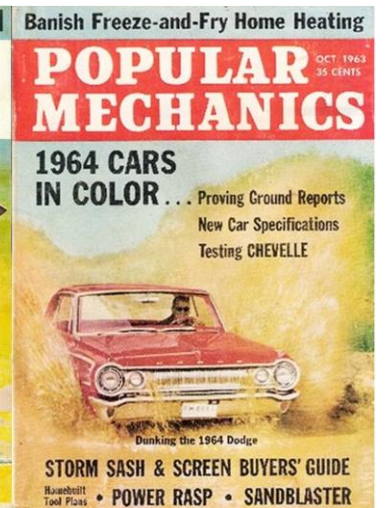
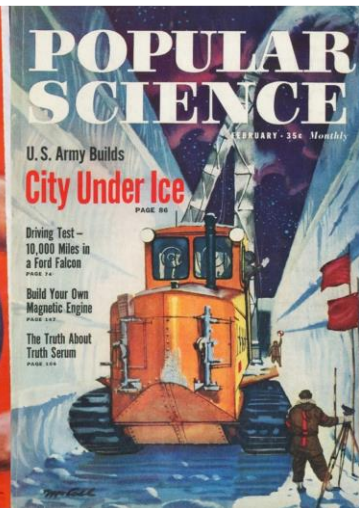
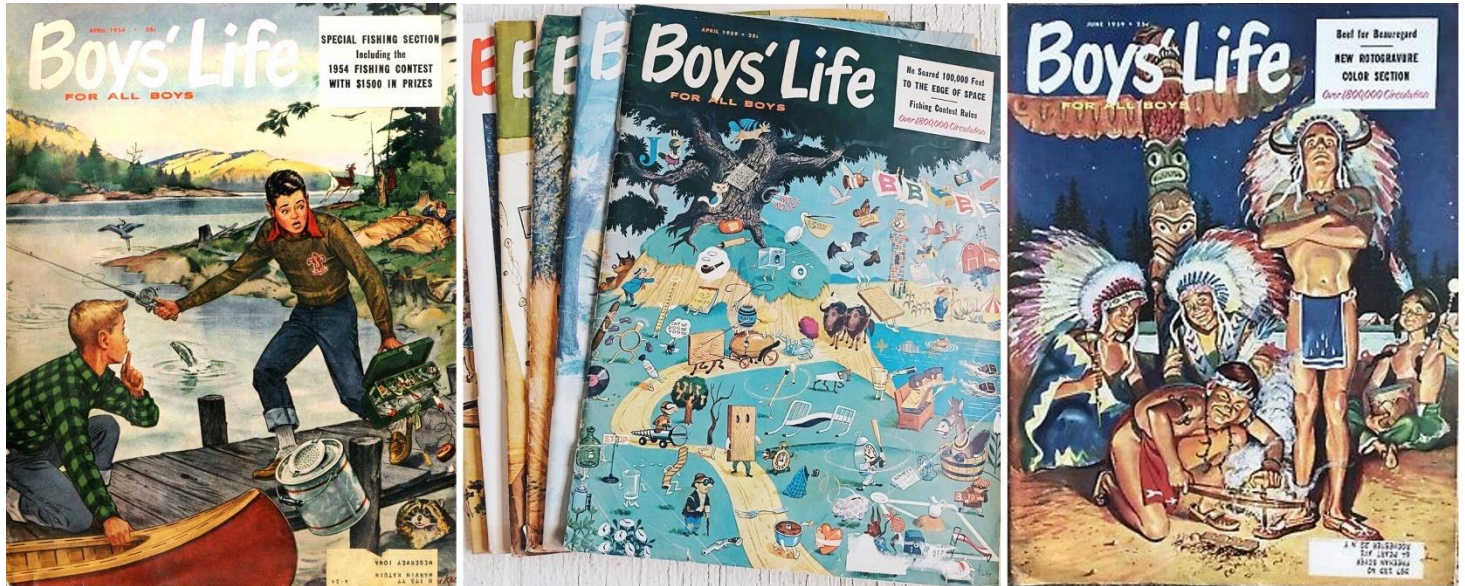


Arrel D. Toews, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics

Wednesday, August 19, 2009
12:00 P.M. • MBRB 2204

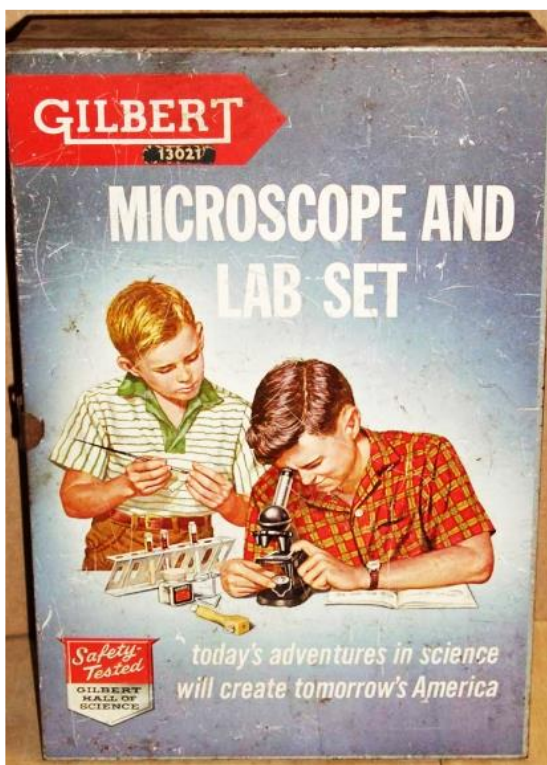
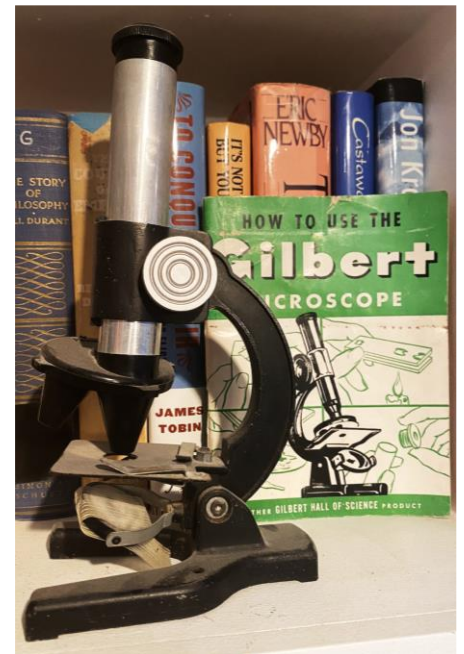
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW LECTURE

Of course, our continued learning and expanding knowledge of the world around us and the people who live in it was not restricted to classroom instruction. [Boys Life](#) eventually replaced [Weekly Reader](#) as our monthly periodicals (even though no Boy Scouts in Kremlin, we read it voraciously), and then on to [Popular Science](#) and [Popular Mechanics](#). Eventually, [Newsweek](#) and [Time](#) weekly magazines as well, which we always read cover-to-cover. I also subscribed to the [Popular Science Living Library Book Club](#) in high school, and still have a number of those volumes.



Science with its accompanying intellectual curiosity and fact-based learning were important parts of our lives early on as well. Some of my earliest memories of exploring nature was roaming our cultivated fields after a rain, looking for petrified wood and flint (chert) specimens and on rare occasions, even an Indian arrowhead! I also well remember cracking large limestone gravel pebbles from our driveway in the large vise in our machine shed - as well as cracking them on our ancient anvil with a ball peen hammer - searching for fossil seashells hidden inside. I was an early and dedicated rockhound, bringing back sacks of rocks and mineral specimens from our family vacations to Rocky Mountain National Park and the Black Hills/Badlands. My collecting activities continue to this day - my rock/mineral/fossil/seashell collection fills a number of display drawers in my current study.

I had a Gilbert Microscope Set and eagerly used it to explore things too tiny to see properly with the naked eye. The set included dried brine shrimp eggs - all you had to do was place some of the eggs in a small clear plastic specimen dish with a bit of salt water (instructions included) and a couple days later, you could see those tiny critters swimming around like crazy! But only through the microscope! Amazing to me that they would hatch and live! Of course, I still have the microscope and instruction manual - see photo at R.



The Toews Brothers also had a top-of-the-line [Gilbert Chemistry Set #10](#), which along with my microscope set, sat on a table in the NE corner of our shared bedroom. The chemistry set came in a blue tri-fold metal case with one bank entirely filled with chemical bottles, middle bank for lab apparatus including Bunsen burner and blowpipe, and the third bank for lab manuals. When a tornado struck our home in May 1961, tearing off the roof and upstairs ceilings, our chemistry and microscope sets miraculously escaped unharmed, partially protected behind an open closet door. I later built a lab bench and moved my lab to the storm cellar/basement of our new home on the Kremlin blacktop (Keowee Road).



The [AC Gilbert Company](#) was once one of the largest toy companies in the world. In addition to its chemistry and microscope sets made from 1910-1960, they originated [Erector Sets](#). The company struggled after the death of its founder in 1961 and closed in 1967. The [AC Gilbert Heritage Society](#) website is well worth a look - including Erector sets and American Flyer toy trains in addition to their science kits. For me, our Gilbert science kits were a big early nudge into the exciting world of science.

I salvaged the table upon which our chemistry and microscope sets rested in our upstairs bedroom and still have it - it now supports my desktop computer, upon which I am typing these words.

Arrel's High School Teachers & Classes

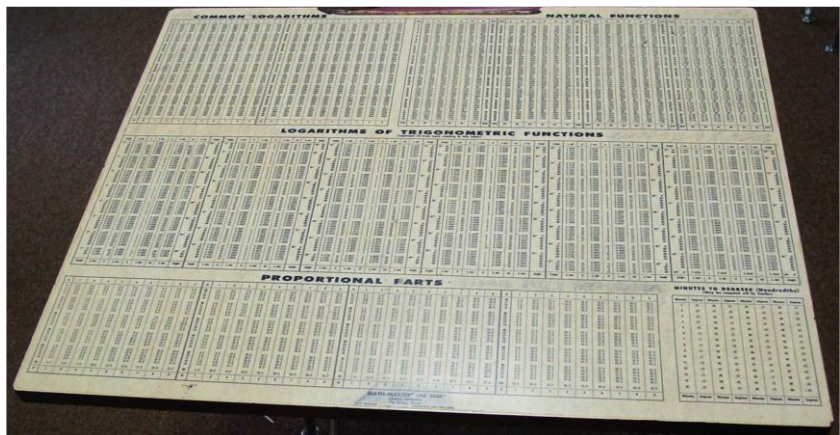
I have decided to chronicle my high-school days and corresponding memories largely according to my various teachers. We had [separate report cards for each subject](#), and each had to be [signed by our parents several times each term](#). Note the class sizes and grade distributions on the bottom lines of most report cards - I never noticed these while in school! I have most, but not all, report cards from high school and am including what I have for archival purposes.

And for the record, school and personal computers were still many decades from being a reality and there was never any thought of foreign language courses while I was in school. I do recall lugging home textbooks, but don't recall ever doing much of any homework at home - I always got it done during class or [study halls](#) (which were very enjoyable sessions for me!). Best study hall seats were behind Linda Tefft, Connie Meyer, Jeri Thesman and Betty Randolph - the list goes on!

Additionally, I never had any difficulty with any courses, and don't recall being challenged much at all by the coursework - I got mostly As and also some Bs, but only because I didn't think it worth the effort for an A (Sociology is a classic example!). I already liked learning in high school, but my priorities revolved distinctly around enjoying life and having a great time with my friends and classmates. It was a very good time of my life - not that the rest of it hasn't been great too!

[Claude Gist - Superintendent and Plane Geometry](#) - I really loved *Geometry*, especially Solid Geometry, because it was challenging and involved mostly analytical thinking - I didn't know I was doing that at the time, but it has certainly served me well in my later work and life in

general, and I trace the beginnings back partially to Claude Gist and his plane geometry class. While in high school, the school purchased "[math desks](#)" which had trigonometric functions and log tables printed on the desktop - they came with clear plastic T-squares that allowed you to determine the various trig



functions and log values by sliding the T-square up and down - a magnetic strip on the side of the desk held it in place. We all thought that was some pretty fancy equipment! They lasted a very long time too - the photo above was taken in the math room the day before Kremlin school demolition began in 2015!

Claude Gist was our superintendent from the 7th grade through our Junior year of high school. On a somewhat morbid note, both [Claude A](#) and [Mable Agnes Gist](#) are buried in the [Hennessey OK cemetery](#).



REPORT CARD

NAME TOEWS, ARREL RANK _____ YEAR 1963-64
 SUBJECT PLANE GEOM. YEAR GR. 10th UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER											
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD						
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	GR.	AB.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	GR.	AB.	T	CITZ.		
1ST	8	5	1	0	2	0	A					9	5	0	2	2	0	A				
2ND	8	4	2	0	2	0	A					9	5	0	1	3	0	A				
3RD	8	5	1	0	1	1	A					9	5	0	2	2	0	A				
EXAM.																						
SEM.	8	5	1	0	2	0	A					9	5	0	1	3	0	A				

INSTRUCTOR C. Gist SUPT. OR PRIN. _____

Jack Gordon - Superintendent during my Senior year - I never had any classes from Jack Gordon and don't know if he taught any. I did have some interactions with him, none of them good, but also nothing I could not handle in stride. He was a very stern authoritarian, probably out of necessity, but he never seemed at all at ease, even when he could have been. Two memorable incidents to recount, the second being one of those "priceless" things you sometimes hear about:



On the bus driven by Jack Gordon coming back from the [Alva Scholastic Contest](#), I moved to sit across from [Diana Davis](#) who was trying to talk to me - she was wearing a pink and white banded dress short enough to more than justify my move to get closer - really nice legs too! Jack Gordon saw me standing up and slammed on brakes while glaring at me in the mirror and shouting at me. The bus swerved badly, probably because of poorly adjusted brakes, almost rolling over. His inability to handle a school bus properly infuriated him even more than my "movement while the bus was in motion!" I stayed right across from Diana, by the way, who ended up facing me across the narrow aisle of the bus for the entire remainder of the hour-long trip back to Kremlin. Whatever punishment might await me, I already knew it had been well worth it! Of course a requisite trip to his office for an extended lecture on blind obedience to authority the next morning - as you might suspect, I already had very serious reservations about such practices, a trait that has served me quite well for the remainder of my life. He let my parents know too (Dad was still driving a bus); they took it all in stride, exactly as expected.

The second incident is even more memorable. During a high-school dance during our senior year in the Kremlin School gym, Ellis and I placed an [M-80 firecracker](#) (purchased from [Leonard Reim](#), of course) above the corner toilet in the men's bathroom on an elbow of a large cast-iron drain pipe - the fuse inserted into the back end of a lit cigarette - then went and sat with [Superintendent Jack Gordon](#) and [School Board President Fred Randolph](#) on the top row of the E bleachers, listening to the music and visiting with them until the explosion occurred. It was actually pretty loud! Of course we exclaimed, "What in the world was that??" And then later, of course, "Good grief! Who in the world would do something like that??"



[Jimmy Hermanski](#) happened to be sitting on the corner toilet directly below the bomb - probably less than 3' above his head and being in the back corner certainly amplified the sound, not to mention the actual blast! [Principal Merlin Rodgers](#) came storming into the men's room to investigate and found Jimmy standing up, his trousers still dropped completely to the floor, wandering around aimlessly, quite dazed and confused. [Ronnie Toews](#) and his garage band were playing rock music on the stage and Jack Gordon immediately declared an end to all activities, sending everyone home quite unhappy - except of course for Ellis and me!!

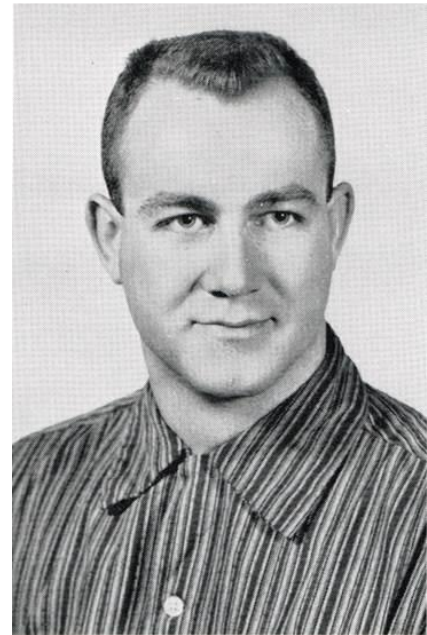
For the record, the [M-80 firecracker](#) was originally made in the early 20th century by the U.S. military to simulate explosives or artillery fire. The contained [3 grams of pyrotechnic flash powder](#), quite a bit for a firecracker! During our high-school days, they were illegal to purchase in OK, but that did not stop Leonard Reim from somehow purchasing them - nor did it stop him from selling them to us if we begged properly.



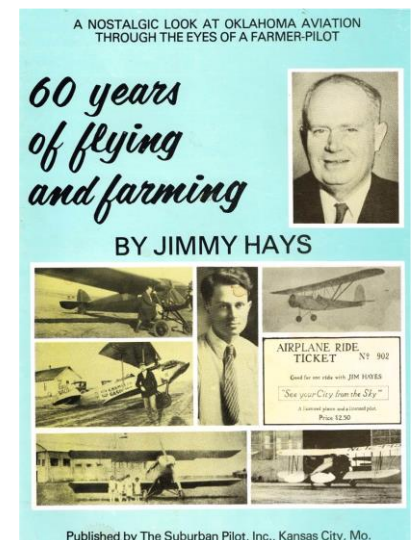
[Leonard Reim](#) had a "bazooka" made from the drive shaft of an old truck, welded vertically onto a steel plate. The diameter of the pipe was just a tiny bit larger than the diameter of a [Coors beer can](#). If you filled an empty beer can about half-full of water, lit an M-80 and dropped it down the shaft, then quickly dropped in the beer can, when the M-80 detonated, the explosion would shoot the beer can almost out of sight. He was doing this once for us at the [Kremlin Coop yard](#) and the cans went as high as the elevator head-houses. Pretty impressive for high-school guys, and still pretty impressive to me! Probably more accurately a "mortar," but Leonard always called it "my bazooka."

Leonard passed away in 1995 at the age of 81 - he rests in the [Kremlin Cemetery](#).

Merlin Rodgers - Principal and Algebra I & II, Trigonometry & Solid Geometry, General Science, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry - "Mr. Rodgers" was a good guy - I already thought that when we were his students. Of course there were some uneasy situations outside the classroom since he was the Principal and so largely in charge of maintaining order and meting out discipline when necessary. But he taught me lots of my math and science foundational knowledge, doing a good job of it, and he was also very flexible about allowing some of us to use the science lab and do stuff in there outside class time. An example was a project to build a **silicon-chip fuel cell**, long before they were in common use, undertaken by **Robert Hayes, Richard Christensen**, and myself. We ordered all the stuff through the mail, including a tiny tubular ceramic electric oven for baking the silicon chip, then tried to follow the instructions. We never got it to work, but it was fun working on it together and was probably the first concerted "research activity" I undertook - countless more followed over many years, of course. I really enjoyed discussing "science things" with Richard Christensen and Robert Hays, the latter the son of **Jimmy and Dorothy Hays**.



Jimmy was a very colorful character, a farmer and early **barn-storming pilot** who was friends with **Clyde & Eldon Cessna** and **Will Rogers** too! The Hays family lived W side of US-81, 3 miles S of the Midway. The **life story of Jimmy Hays**, published posthumously by his wife Dorothy following his untimely death in an auto-truck accident near **Dover, OK** in 1975, is good reading, especially for aviation buffs! Jimmy and Dorothy rest in the **Enid Cemetery**.



REPORT CARD

NAME Toews, Arrel RANK Sophomore YEAR 62-63

SUBJECT Algebra I YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER										
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	11	2	2	2	2	3	C+	2	10							A-					
2ND	12	3	2	1	2	4	B	1	10	5	1	1	3	0	A						
3RD	12	2	2	3	5	2			10	5	1	1	3	0	A-						
EXAM.	92% B+																				
SEM.	12	3	2	1	3	3	B-		10	5	0	1	4	0	A-						

Mr. Rodgers INSTRUCTOR C. J. Dist SUPT. OR PRIN.

REPORT CARD

NAME Toews, Arrel RANK 12 YEAR 65-66

SUBJECT Algebra II YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER									
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD				
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.
1ST	5	3	1	0	1	B	2	B	5	1	2	0	1	B-						
2ND	5	3	1	0	0	1	B	0	5	2	2	0	1	B						
3RD																				
EXAM.	C-																			
SEM.	5	2	2					B	5	1	3	0	1	B						

Mr. Rodgers INSTRUCTOR Jack B. Gordon SUPT. OR PRIN.

REPORT CARD

NAME Toews, Arrel RANK Sophomore YEAR 62-63

SUBJECT Gen Sci YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER										
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	10	5	1	2	2	A			10	5	1	3	0	1	A-1						
2ND	10	5	2	0	2	1	A-		9	5	1	3		A							
3RD	10	4	2	1	2	1	A		9	5	0	2	2		A						
EXAM.											E										
SEM.	10	5	1	3	1	A-			9	5	1	3		A							

Mr. Rodgers INSTRUCTOR SUPT. OR PRIN.

REPORT CARD

NAME Toews, Arrel RANK Soph. YEAR '63-'64

SUBJECT Biology YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER										
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	12	6	1	1	2	2	A	1	12	6	1	1	2	2	A-1						
2ND	12	7	3	2			A		12	6	0	1	3	2	A						
3RD											A										
EXAM.	98										E										
SEM.	A										15										

H. M. Rodgers INSTRUCTOR SUPT. OR PRIN.

REPORT CARD

NAME Toews, Arrel RANK 12 YEAR 65-66

SUBJECT Chemistry YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER										
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	8	5	0	2	1	A	3	B	8	4	1	3		B							
2ND	8	3	1	1	2	1	A-1		8	1	3	1	3		B-						
3RD																					
EXAM.	A+																				
SEM.	8	4	1	0	3	A			8	4	3	1	3		B						

Mr. Rodgers INSTRUCTOR Jack B. Gordon SUPT. OR PRIN.

REPORT CARD

NAME Toews, Arrel RANK 11 YEAR 1964-65

SUBJECT Physics Trigonometry & Solid Geometry YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER										
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	6	1	3	1			B+	1	6	1	3	1		1	B+						
2ND	6	2	2	1	1	2	1		6	1	3	1		1	A-						
3RD																					
EXAM.	86																				
SEM.	6	1	2	2	1	2	1	B	2	6	1	3	1		1	B+					

H. Merlin Rodgers INSTRUCTOR Supt. or Prin.

REPORT CARD

NAME Toews, Arrel RANK 11 YEAR 1964-65

SUBJECT Physics YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____

PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER										SECOND SEMESTER										
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD					
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	5	2	2	1			B-1		4	3	1		B								
2ND	5	3	1	1			B+		4	2	2		C+								
3RD																					
EXAM.	100																				
SEM.	5	1	3	1			B+		4	4			B-								

H. Merlin Rodgers INSTRUCTOR Supt. or Prin.

DEFINITION OF GRADES

Grade of A (Superior):

- Scholarship—Exceeding expectations of the instructor.
- Initiative—Contributions exceeding the assignment.
- Attitude—Positive benefit to class.
- Co-operation—Forwarding all group activities.
- Individual Improvement—Actual and noticeable.

Grade of B (Above Average):

- Scholarship—Accurate and complete.
- Initiative—Stimulating some desirable achievements.
- Attitude—Proper and beneficial.
- Co-operation—Effective in group work.
- Individual Improvement—Showing marks of progress.

Grade of C (Average):

- Work in general of medium quality.
- Work quite strong in one or more items but weak in others.

Grade of D (Below Average):

(This grade might be produced by any variety or combination of weaknesses as the definition suggests.)

- Scholarship—Barely meeting assignments.
- Initiative—Uncertain, not usually manifest.
- Attitude—Not objectionable, usually neutral.
- Co-operation—Not positive nor very effective.
- Individual Improvement—Slight, not positive.

Grade of F (Inferior):

- This is a failing grade and since it may result from any number of weaknesses it is not defined.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

1st Period David A. Toews

2nd Period David A. Toews

3rd Period David A. Toews

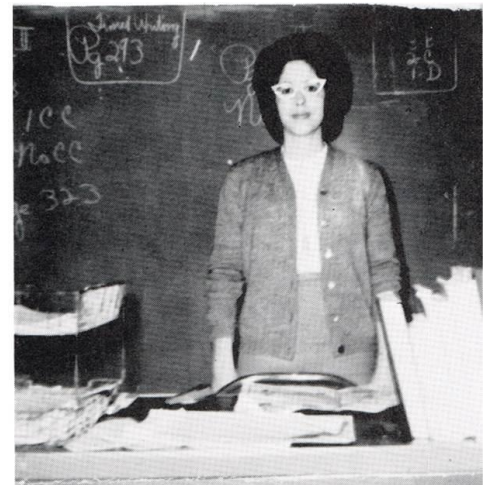
4th Period David A. Toews

5th Period David A. Toews

Form 111—School Specialty Supply, Salina, Kan. (Over)

Patty Dennis - Typing and English IV - "Mrs Dennis" was a **Homecoming Queen** for **Northwestern OK State College in Alva** prior to teaching at Kremlin, and for very good reasons.

She was a beautiful young woman fresh out of college who habitually wore her tight short red dress and black patent high-heels while trying to teach horny hormone-laden guys how to type and all about English literature. She was a welcome distraction from dreary high-school classes, but I was often quite shaky and mistake-prone when she was



close by answering my questions or checking on my typing prowess! All that said, she was a very nice lady and a very good teacher too - I remember enjoying her English Literature classes almost as much as Typing I. She knew quite a bit about the subject and was our initial introduction to classic English literature & poetry (Shakespeare, Milton, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, & more). And yes, I know how to pronounce 'Bysshe" correctly! Thanks!

REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Toews, Arrel</i> RANK <i>Junior</i> YEAR <i>1964</i>																					
SUBJECT <i>Typing I</i> YEAR GR. UNITS CREDIT																					
PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING							PUPIL'S RECORD													
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	184	7	5	0	2		B	0	0	C	182	9	5	2		B+	0	0	B+		
2ND	173	6	6	2			A-	0	0	B	18	5	7	3		B	1	0	B+		
3RD																					
EXAM.																					
SEM.	<i>173662</i>							<i>B+10 B184833</i>							<i>B10 B+</i>						
	<i>Mrs. Roy Dennis</i>							<i>C. D. Post</i>													
	Instructor							Supt. or Prin.													

REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Toews, Arrel</i> RANK <i>Junior</i> YEAR <i>1964</i>																					
SUBJECT <i>English IV</i> YEAR GR. UNITS CREDIT																					
PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING							PUPIL'S RECORD													
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	324	11	5	7	5		B	0	0	C	317	6	5	7	6		A	0	0	A	
2ND							B+	1	0	B+	31	5	7	6	1	0	B	1	0	A	
3RD																					
EXAM.																					
SEM.	<i>B:10 B+31567121B10 A</i>																				
	<i>Mrs. Roy Dennis</i>							<i>C. D. Post</i>													
	Instructor							Supt. or Prin.													

Lois Illingworth - English I & II - very chubby and quite large, but also very nice - I actually enjoyed her literature classes and writing stuff for her, despite being an otherwise regular high school guy. She was basically my first comprehensive introduction to classic literature, English or otherwise, and to the joys of writing, something I cherish and enjoy to this day. Thanks!



REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Toews, Arrel</i> RANK <i>Fr.</i> YEAR <i>62-63</i>																					
SUBJECT <i>English I</i> YEAR GR. UNITS CREDIT																					
PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING							PUPIL'S RECORD													
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST							A-	1			<i>Late Paper - B10 A</i>										
2ND							A	1			<i>Very Good! A+0 A</i>										
3RD							A										A			A	
EXAM.																					
SEM.	<i>Very Good! A2</i>							<i>A test 98 A</i>							<i>A</i>						
	<i>Lois Illingworth</i>																				
	Instructor							Supt. or Prin.													

REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Toews, Arrel</i> RANK YEAR <i>63-64</i>																					
SUBJECT <i>Eng. II</i> YEAR GR. UNITS CREDIT																					
PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING							PUPIL'S RECORD													
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Ab.	T	CITZ.	
1ST							A	1	0	A							A	0	0	A	
2ND							<i>Good!</i>							A	0	0	A	A	0	0	A
3RD																	A	0	0	A	
EXAM.																					
SEM.	<i>72311 A00A</i>							<i>Empty</i>							<i>A</i>						
	<i>Lois Illingworth</i>																				
	Instructor							Supt. or Prin.													

Dwayne Janzen - Shop I & II, Mechanical Drawing II, Oklahoma History - I still have some of my mechanical drawings, and of course my shop projects too. Dwayne ran a pretty tight operation, but in a good-natured and nurturing way. We all had tasks to do towards the end of each shop period - after putting away the tools, someone would dust off the tables, someone else would sweep the floor, and various other tasks. There was a board upon which hung each name which moved up each week, so everyone did each task in turn - I still have my nameplate! It rests above my workbench in my shop, which doubles as our garage, by the way. Photo below R taken in 2012 on our Houghtaling Farm.



Our initial project in **Shop I** was a **maple cutting board** - we cut the boards, then glued them together, then planed and scraped (hand-scrapers - ask me if you need) the glued boards until level, smooth, and square on both top and bottom, then sanded smooth - many many hours of work to do that since all by hand. Then the tapered square feet were prepared and screwed onto the bottom, then finally a finish with mineral oil to seal the surfaces and a bit of hand-cut felt glued to the bottom of the feet. You can view my finished product in the kitchen of our OK home on the Houghtaling Farm. We also made a **small cedar chest**, about 5"x5"x10". My big project the first year was a **birch end-table** for Mom and Dad's family room - it sat beside the loveseat for many years, but its current provenance is unknown. My most impressive work, made in **Shop II**, was a **queen-sized Early American cherry bed**, with lathe-turned posts and finials on both the head and foot boards. I think I did a pretty good job on this, because Mom and Dad used it for many years, then Kathy and I ended up with it and we have been sleeping and enjoying ourselves on it ever since. It turned **50 years old** last year! **Myron** has graciously loaned us the accompanying **Early American cherry nightstand** he made as one of his projects, and it sits right beside our bed. See **photos on next page**. Many fond memories of woodworking and eventually welding/cutting torch activity too, plus many valuable lessons learned, both technical and about real life too. **Thanks, Dwayne!**

Shown below are my mechanical drawing instrument set and yellow triangular wooden engineer's scale as well as some Woodworking Shop projects.



In addition to the small cedar chest shown below L, I also made a maple cutting board in Woodworking I, entirely with hand tools (no power tools allowed!). My major Woodworking II project was a queen-size Early American-style American Cherry bed, also shown below, with Myron's Woodworking II coordinated nightstand beside it.



REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Toews, Arrel</i> RANK <i>9</i> YEAR <i>62-63</i>																					
SUBJECT <i>Woodwk. I</i> YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____																					
PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD		CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD								
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	As.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	As.	T	CITZ.	
1ST							A	0	5	15	2	6	3	3	0		B+				
2ND	13	4	8	1	0	0	B	0	0	5							A				
3RD							A-										A				
EXAM.							EX										EX				
SEM.							A-										A				

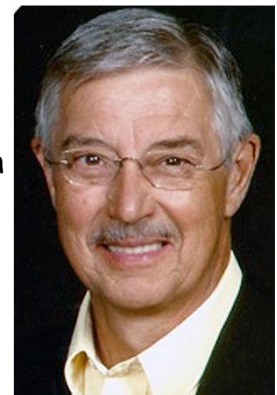
INSTRUCTOR *Jansen* SUPT. OR PRIN. _____

REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Toews, Arrel</i> RANK <i>9</i> YEAR <i>62-63</i>																					
SUBJECT <i>Oklahoma History</i> YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____																					
PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD		CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD								
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	As.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	As.	T	CITZ.	
1ST	14	6	2	5	1	0	A	0	0	5							A				
2ND							A										A-				
3RD							A										A				
EXAM.							EX										EX				
SEM.							A										A				

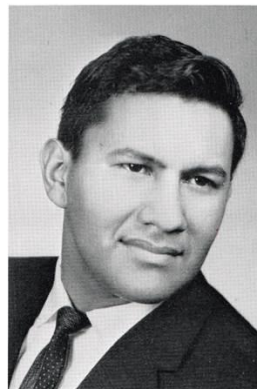
INSTRUCTOR *Jansen* SUPT. OR PRIN. _____

Dwayne was a **drag racer** with a high-performance **Pontiac GTO** - he re-built the stock-production engine very carefully and finely tuned it for maximal performance, including making his own headers in the school welding shop (after hours, of course!). He was nice enough to take some of us (Ellis, me, Allen Bese, maybe more) to several drag races, not just on a **runway at Vance Air Force Base**, but also to the **Mid-America Dragway** near **Ark (Arkansas) City KS**, just over the OK-KS border.

Sadly, Dwayne passed away in November 2014 after a very prolonged battle with prostate cancer. He is buried in the **N Enid Mennonite Brethren Cemetery** ([click here](#) for a brief obituary). He was working on an extensive life history work and I believe it was largely completed at the time of his death - his **wife Gloria** will let you look it over if you ask. I think we would all benefit from reading it and hopefully owning a copy someday too.



Ronald Red Elk - Drivers Ed - During a driver training run to Enid and back, I got a demerit for "excessive use of the horn" - this for honking repeatedly at **Bob Voth**, who was fixing fence on his home-place pasture along US-81, until he finally waved at us. Mr. Red Elk instructed us that if we were driving properly, we could have a quart bottle of milk sitting upright in the front passenger's footwell and it would not topple over through corners or during stops and starts. He was an American Indian and fit most of the uncomplimentary stereotypes to a "T", but I now believe he was spot-on about his driving axioms - which I flagrantly violate repeatedly as part of my daily driving routines.



REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Arrel Toews</i> RANK _____ YEAR _____																					
SUBJECT <i>Dr. Ed.</i> YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____																					
PER- IOD	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD		CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING					PUPIL'S RECORD								
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	As.	T	CITZ.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	As.	T	CITZ.	
1ST											3	4	4				A				
2ND											6	5					A				
3RD											6	4	1				A				
EXAM.																					
SEM.																					A

INSTRUCTOR *Ronald Red Elk* SUPT. OR PRIN. _____

Vernon Pope - Mechanical Drawing I - I have no recollection of this man, but have a report card to prove my taking his mechanical drawing course!

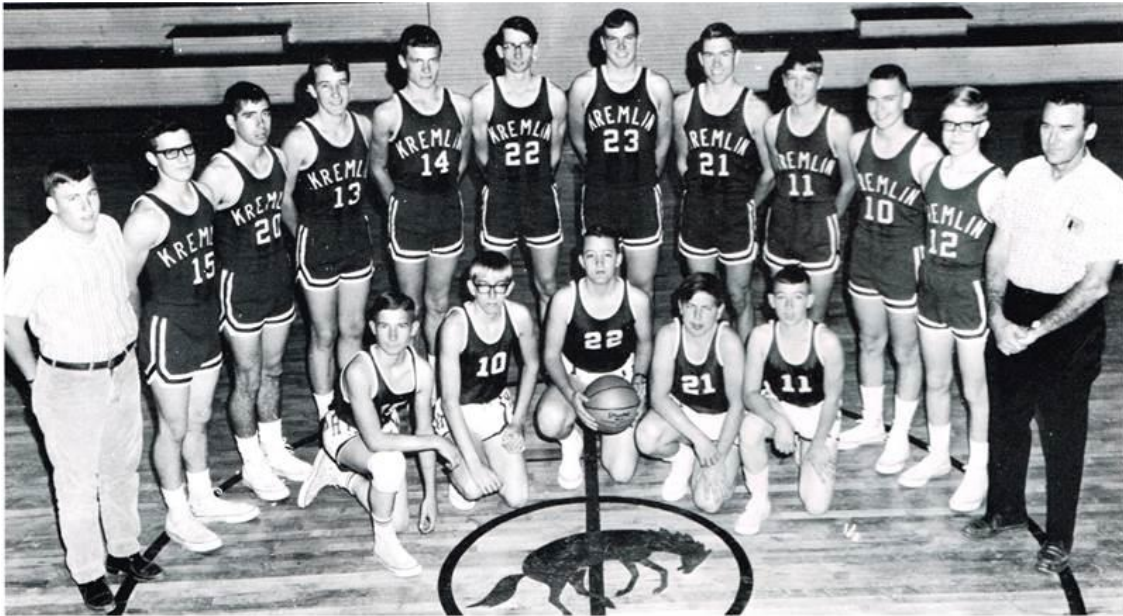
REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>Arrel Toews</i>										RANK <i>Sept.</i> YEAR <i>1963</i>											
SUBJECT <i>Mech. Drawing</i>										YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____											
PER. ID	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING				PUPIL'S RECORD			CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING				PUPIL'S RECORD									
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Av.	T	CIT.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Av.	T	CIT.	
1st	3	4					A				1	2	3				1	8			
2nd	2	3	1				B				3	1	3				A				
3rd	1	2	2				B				3	1	2	1			A				
EXAM.																					
SEM.																					
Instructor <i>Vernon Pope</i>										Supt. or Prin. _____											

Raymond Jones - Football/basketball coach, Sociology

I interacted quite a bit with **Coach Jones** in my role as trainer/manager for the fledgling football team and for the basketball team as well. I had, and still have, no idea how good he was as a coach (we understandably did not win any football games our initial year), but he seemed like a fairly laid-back and decent guy. He was obviously there to coach, not teach Sociology, and good for him!



REPORT CARD																					
NAME <i>TOEWS, ARREL</i>										RANK <i>11</i> YEAR <i>1964</i>											
SUBJECT <i>Sociology</i>										YEAR GR. _____ UNITS CREDIT _____											
PER. ID	FIRST SEMESTER							SECOND SEMESTER													
	CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING				PUPIL'S RECORD			CLASS NUMBER RECEIVING				PUPIL'S RECORD									
	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Av.	T	CIT.	ENR.	A	B	C	D	F	Gr.	Av.	T	CIT.	
1st	26	4	16	3			B	0	0	B	9	5	4	6	5	10	0	A	0	0	A
2nd	25	3	16	9	3		B	1	0	B	25	2	1	5	7	0	B	6	0	0	B
3rd																					
EXAM.																					
SEM.																					
Instructor <i>R. Jones</i>										Supt. or Prin. <i>R. Jones</i>											



Full Disclosure! It seems a good way to end the academic portion of my high school memories is to present my **Kremlin High School record card** to everyone. I was unaware these record cards even existed until recently, but Myron was able to obtain ours from a school administrator (apparently records are now digitized so they no longer have need for these paper records). For anyone closely examining them (go ahead, see if I care!), my senior year records are mislabeled as 64/65 instead of the correct 65/66 designation at bottom R. And yes, my grades and ACT test scores came in a distant third compared to **brothers Galen and Myron** - not that it mattered then or now!

PERMANENT HIGH SCHOOL RECORD
(GRADES FROM OTHER SCHOOLS IN RED INK)

Name (Reversed) **toews, Arrel Dwayne** Residence **Kremlin** Date of Entrance **8/28/62** 19 **62**

Year	Sem.	SUBJECTS	No. of Weeks	Rec. Per Week	Min. In Rec.	Periods In Lab.	Min. In Lab.	Sem. Grade	Units of Credits	Year	Sem.	SUBJECTS	No. of Weeks	Rec. Per Week	Min. In Rec.	Periods In Lab.	Min. In Lab.	Sem. Grade	Units of Credits	Units of Credits Carried
1962	First	Eng I	18	5	55			A	1	1964	First	Eng IV	"	"	"			B	1	26
		Alg I	"	"	"			B-	1			Sociology	"	"	"			B	1	
		Gen Sci	"	"	"			A-	1			Trigonometry	"	"	"			B	1	
		Woodwk. I	"	"	"			A-	1			Physics	"	"	"			B+	1	
		OKla. Hist	"	"	"			A-	1			Typing I	"	"	"			B+	1	
Total									5	Total									42	
1963	Second	Eng I	"	"	"			A	1	1965	Second	Eng IV	"	"	"			B	1	26
		Alg I	"	"	"			A-	1			Psychology	"	"	"			B	1	
		Gen Sci	"	"	"			A-	1			Solid Geometry	"	"	"			B	1	
		Woodwk. I	"	"	"			A-	1			Physcs	"	"	"			B-	1	
		Civics	"	"	"			A	1			Typing I	"	"	"			B	1	
Total									5	Total									42	
1963	First	Biology	"	"	"			A	1	1964	First	Eng III	"	"	"			B	1	26
		Eng II	"	"	"			A	1			Chemistry	"	"	"			A	1	
		Mech. Dr	"	"	"			B	1			Alg II	"	"	"			B	1	
		Pl Geo	"	"	"			A	1			American Hist	"	"	"			A	1	
		PE	"	"	"			S	1/2			Shop II	"	"	"			A	1	
Total									5	Total									42	
1964	Second	Biology	"	"	"			A-	1	1965	Second	English III	"	"	"			B	1	26
		Eng III	"	"	"			A	1			Chemistry	"	"	"			B	1	
		Mech. Dr.	"	"	"			A	1			Algebra II	"	"	"			B	1	
		Pl. Geo	"	"	"			A	1			Amer. Hist.	"	"	"			B	1	
		Dr. Ed.	"	"	"			A	1			Shop II	"	"	"			A	1	
Total									5	Total									42	

TOEWS, ARREL P.E. Total 42

Course _____ Date of Birth **July 22, 1948** ^{Enid, Okla} Parent **David A. Toews** Phone No **TR42236**

Yr.	STUDENT ACTIVITIES	Pts.	ATTENDANCE	STANDARDIZED TESTS	OUTSIDE READING IN ENGLISH
1st			Days in Session Days on Roll Days Absent Times Tardy	NAME OF TEST DATE % Standard Score 23 28 29 33 28 87 95 96 99 98 11 65 74 88 93 99 95 1.ENG. 2.MATH. 3.SOC.S. 4.N.SCI. 5.C.COMP. 1.ENG. 2.MATH. 3.SOC.S. 4.N.SCI. 5.C.COMP. MO. Yr. 1.ENG. 2.MATH. 3.SOC.S. 4.N.SCI. 5.C.COMP. STANDARD SCORES % S. SENIOR PCTLE. SCORES DA. COLLEGE-BOUND PCTLE. SCORES	
2d			Days in Session Days on Roll Days Absent Times Tardy	ACT SCORE REPORT AMERICAN COLLEGE TESTING PROGRAM ACT SCORE REPORT GRADE 1-BACKGRD 2-BACKGRD 3-CORE OF EXPRESSION 4-QUANT'VE THINKING 5-READING SOC. STUD. 6-READING MAT. SCI. 7-READING LIT. 8-GEN'L VOCAB. COMPOSITE 9-USE OF SOURCES 1227912589206924852689272238325882790 912 STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE STD %ILE IOWA TESTS OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - S I R I A PRESSCORP	
3rd			Days in Session Days on Roll Days Absent Times Tardy		
4th			Days in Session Days on Roll Days Absent Times Tardy		
	Withdrawal		19		
	Dropped		19		
	Reinstated		19		
	How			Rank 5/14 7th Sem GPA. 3.57/4.0	
Average in Elementary Grades			HIGH SCHOOL		
Intelligence Quotient in Elementary Grades			Average Grade		
Accomplishment Quotient in Elementary Grades			Intelligence Quotient		
Physical defects			Accomplishment Quotient		
			Units of Credits required for Graduation 36		
			Total units of Credits received 42		
			Graduated May 19		

Meredith Rogers Prin.
1966 Jack D. Gordon Supt.

School Specialty Supply, Salina, Kans. Form No. 916-C.1

High School Activities

My **senior year**, I was elected **Yearbook Herald with Betty Williams the Yearbook Queen** - I was elected because **Jack Toney** and **Dwayne Magnus** went around to other classes before voting started and threatened consequences if they did not vote for me (or coerced them all in other ways unknown to me). I "crowned" Betty at the beginning of some school program (maybe a play?) and then we had to sit in front to the side and watch the whole thing! She would not have been my first choice for such an honor, but looking back, I know she was a very nice person and not bad looking at all when all dressed up. Of course, the same can be said for this author. At the time, my post-crowning kiss was the longest kiss I'd ever done (her crown even fell off!), and not particularly pleasing at that. But I eventually got to like that stuff quite a bit, and still really do!



Doug Toews, Diana Davis, Stephen Burdick, Sandy Johnson, Russell Lloyd, Jeanne Tefft
 Front: Herald Arrel Toews and Queen Betty Williams

Yearbook Queen & Attendants

Three additional photos of the Yearbook Queen, Herald & Attendants - from slides taken by Uncle Jake Voth Jr and provided by his wife, Beverly Voth - thanks, Aunt Beverly!

Upper photo: Andrew Rex (Drew) McKenzie (1st grade), Betty Williams, Arrel Toews, Pamela Voth (1st grade, Jake & Beverly's daughter)



Middle photo: (back) Sandy Johnson, Diana Davis, Jean Tefft, Arrel Toews, Russell Lloyd, Doug Toews, Steve Burdick; (front) Pam Voth, Betty Williams, Drew McKenzie.



Sandy and Steve were juniors, Diana and Doug sophomores & Jean and Russell freshmen. Pam & Drew were 1st graders,

Lower panel: Documentation of that very long kiss when the crown fell off! Only the corsages on the male attendants are visible at right. Note the dirty concrete block wall and wooden stairs to the stage in the gym/auditorium.



I was also **Yearbook Editor my senior year**, again pretty much by default, and managed to assemble a quite mediocre product. Probably Allen Bese had more important things to do - he would have been an obvious choice, along with Betty Randolph or Connie Meyer. I had been on the annual staff my Junior year so knew a little bit about how things worked - and about how much time could be enjoyed outside class pretending to work on this project. Great fun overall. Most of the folks who signed my yearbook noted that I was crazy! But always in a good sort of way! Some of them said "sweet" too!

My "staff" and I are shown posing below at r - obviously a staged photo!! They are (l/r), standing: Martha Fox, Jeri Thesman, Linda Tefft, Allen Bese, Connie Meyer; seated: Jeanne Bittner, Betty Williams, Arrel Toews (Editor), Ellis Toews, Betty Randolph.



Editor's Message

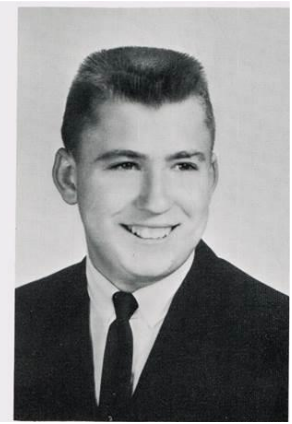
We, the annual staff have tried to piece together a brief history of your school here at Kremlin.

We hope the contents of this book will bring back many fond memories each time you turn its pages.

I would like to thank the members of the annual staff and Mr. Gordon for all the work they have put into this book. I know this book would have been impossible without their help.

Arrel Toews

EDITOR



There were **Scholastic Competitions** at **NW Oklahoma State University in Alva** and I went all four years of high school - mostly in **math and science**, which I was dependably pretty good at - always getting either **Excellent** or **Superior** - but I also went for **Shop II** my senior year and did better than I expected - Excellent - we got blueprint plans to build a wall-mounted broom-hanger and some wood pieces and a bunch of hand tools, and then had 2 hours to get it built. Nobody in the entire room, myself included, could make it exactly as indicated on the plans, but I guess I got pretty close.

My senior year (1965-66) was the [first year Kremlin played football](#) - it was (and still is) the [Class C 8-man version](#) where the field is only 80 yards in length and 40 yards wide and everyone is eligible to receive a pass. A bunch of other quaint rules as well, but I don't recall them all. I helped prepare the football field, using [Dad's 930 Case Comfort King](#) and our dirt scraper to level the playing field. We lost all of our games our first year, but the Kremlin Broncs have since been [State Champions twice!](#) - 1987 and 2000.

[Cheerleaders](#) in 1964-65 (my Junior year) were [Janet Kirkpatrick](#), [Shirley Wuerflein](#), [Rita Sue Thesman](#), [Linda Tefft](#), [Diana Davis](#), and [Donna Fales](#). "Keep it cool, Big Team, Keep it Cool, Hey! Hey!" We were all anything but when they were out there flashing us!



I was the [trainer for the football team](#) ([basketball](#) too) my senior year, so managed a letter and letter jacket without being trampled into the earth to get it. It doesn't fit well anymore, by the way. I took the [Cramer Student Athletic Trainer](#) correspondence course during the previous summer so I knew how to tape ankles and knees and some other "athletic support" activities - in fact, [Bugger \(EJ\) Thurman](#) suggested I get a t-shirt for the games that said "[Athletic Supporter!](#)" Think about that if you don't get it yet. I was also basketball manager a couple of years before that - my main duty was sweeping the floor at half-time and making sure the basketballs were all aired up properly. But I also called in the final scores and high-scorers for both women's and men's basketball games to the [Enid Morning News/Enid Daily Eagle](#) after the games were over - late at night by the time the games were all over, but someone at the sports desk was always ready to take my call, which I placed from the darkened school offices.

My "Manager" and "Trainer" KHS letters are shown below, as well as my 1966 KHS class ring (Josten's; which I only recently re-discovered). I found it hidden in the small cedar chest I made for my Shop I (Woodworking) project. Photos of some Woodworking projects are shown on p 60.



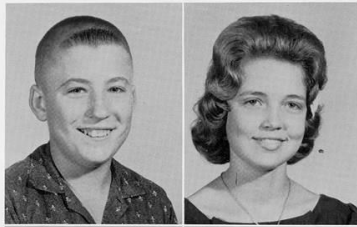
By the way, we also had [Home Economics](#) classes, with a Home Economics room at the S end of the school between the science lab and the gym/auditorium stage. It had a full-size well-equipped kitchen, sewing machines, irons and ironing boards, dress forms, and probably lots more. I am not sure how many years of home economics courses were offered, but certainly multiple years. Back in those days, it would have been as impossible for a guy to take a home economics class as it would have been for a girl to enroll in Woodworking. And yes, times DO change, most often for the better.

Because of its strategic position adjacent to the backstage area of the gym, it served as a dressing room/staging area for onstage school productions.

Class Yearbook Photos of High School

Freshmen

Arrel Toews
Mary Vaden



Allen Bese
Betty Randolph



Martha Fox
Jean Bittner
Connie Meyer



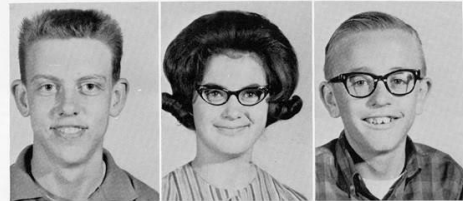
Ellis Toews
Jeri Thesman
Dwayne Mangus



Arrel Toews Jeri Thesman Ellis Toews Allen Bese

Sophomores

Ellis Lee
Connie Meyer
Leonard Schultz



Martha Fox
Betty Williams
Donna Bittner



Dwayne Mangus
Betty Randolph
Stephen Burdick



Ellis Lee
Betty Randolph
Allen Bese



Arrel Toews
Connie Meyer



Jack Toney
Jeri Thesman
Terry Sears



Jean Bittner
Ellis Toews
Betty Williams



Leonard Schultz
Martha Fox
Tom Randall



Juniors

Dwayne Mangus



ARREL TOEWS
 Class Pres. 2; 4-H 1, 2, 3, 4; Alva Sch. 1, 2, 3, 4; Ann. Queen Attdnt. 2; Athletic Trainer 2, 4; Plays 3, 4; Ann. Staff 3, 4; Ann. Editor 4.

BETTY WILLIAMS
 B. B. Queen Attdnt. 1; Alva Sch. 2; Span. Club 2; Chorus 2, 3; Plays 3, 4; Class Off. 3, 4; Ann. Staff 4; Athletics 1, 3, 4; Paper Staff 4; Honor Soc. 2, 3, 4; Music Conts. 2, 3, 4.

BETTY RANDOLPH
 Alva Sch. 1, 2, 3, 4; Class Off. 1, 3, 4; Chorus 1, 2, 3; Plays 3, 4; Pep Club 2, 4; Ann. Staff 4; Honor Soc. 1, 2, 3, 4; Paper Staff 4; Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; 4-H 1, 2; Pep Club Pres. 4; Music Conts. 1, 2, 3; Ann. Queen Attdnt. 2, 3.

LARRY JACK TONEY
 Football 4; Basketball 4.

ALLEN BESE
 Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; Class Officer 1, 2, 3, 4; Plays 3, 4; 4-H 1, 2, 3, 4; Masonic Awrd. 1, 3; Chorus 1, 2; Ann. Staff 1, 2, 3, 4; Alva Sch. 1, 2, 3, 4; Sportsmanship Awrd. 3; Citizenship 3; Best All Around 3; Most Pop. 3.

JEANNETTE LANE
 Bible Club 3; Plays 4; Honor Roll 1; Athletics 1, 2.



TOM RANDALL
 Athletics 3, 4; Plays 3, 4.
JERI THESMAN
 Ann. Queen Attdnt. 1; Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; Ann. Staff 4; Paper Staff 4; Plays 3, 4; Alva Sch. 1; 4-H 1, 2; Class Off. 1, 2, 3, 4; Music Conts. 1, 2, 3; Chorus 1, 2, 3; Pep Club 2, 4.

CONNIE MEYER
 Alva Sch. 1, 2, 3, 4; Plays 3, 4; Masonic Awrd. 1; 4-H 1, 2, 3, 4; Pep Club 4; Class Off. 4; Crisco Awrd. 3; Music Conts. 1, 2, 3; Chorus 1, 2, 3; Ann. Staff 4; Honor Soc. 1, 2, 3, 4; Paper Staff 4.

TERRY SEARS
 Chorus 1, 2; Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; Plays 3, 4; Ann. Staff 3; Alva Sch. 3; Ann. Queen Attdnt. 3.

DWAYNE MANGUS
 Athletics 2, 4; Plays 3, 4; 4-H 1, 2.

MARTHA FOX
 Plays 3, 4; Alva Sch. 2; Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; Pep Club 2, 4; Pep Club V. P. 4; Music Conts. 1, 2, 3; Chorus 1, 2, 3; Paper Staff 4; Ann. Staff 4.

DONNA JEAN BITTNER
 Span. Club 2; 4-H 1, 2; Athletics 1, 2, 3, 4; Plays 3, 4; Ann. Staff 4; Paper Staff 4; Alva Sch. 1, 2; Chorus 1, 2, 3; Solo Music Conts. 1, 2, 3; Pep Club 4.

ELLIS TOEWS
 Class Off. 2; 4-H 1, 2, 3, 4; Alva Sch. 2, 3, 4; Ann. Staff 2, 3, 4; Plays 3, 4; Mathematics Awrd. 2; Sc. Symposium 2, 3, 4.

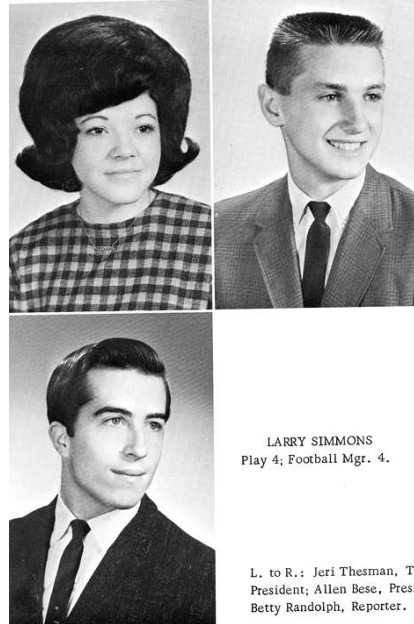
LARRY SIMMONS
 Play 4; Football Mgr. 4.

L. to R.: Jeri Thesman, Treasurer; Betty Williams, Vice-President; Allen Bese, President; Connie Meyer, Secretary; Betty Randolph, Reporter.

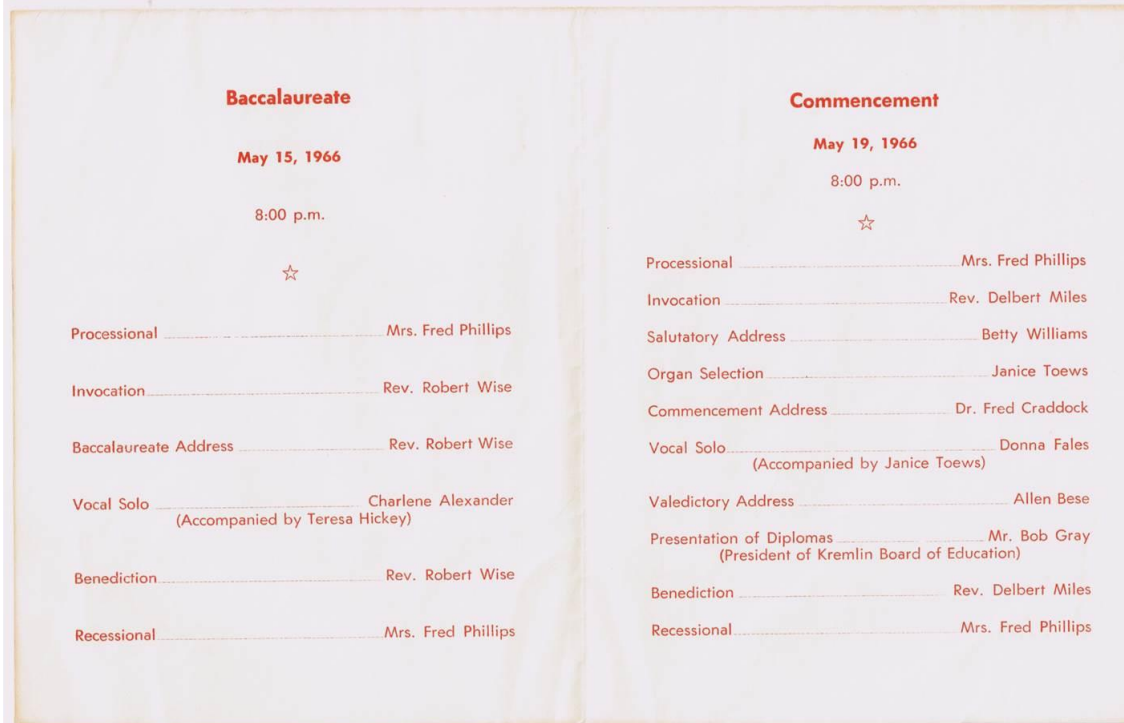
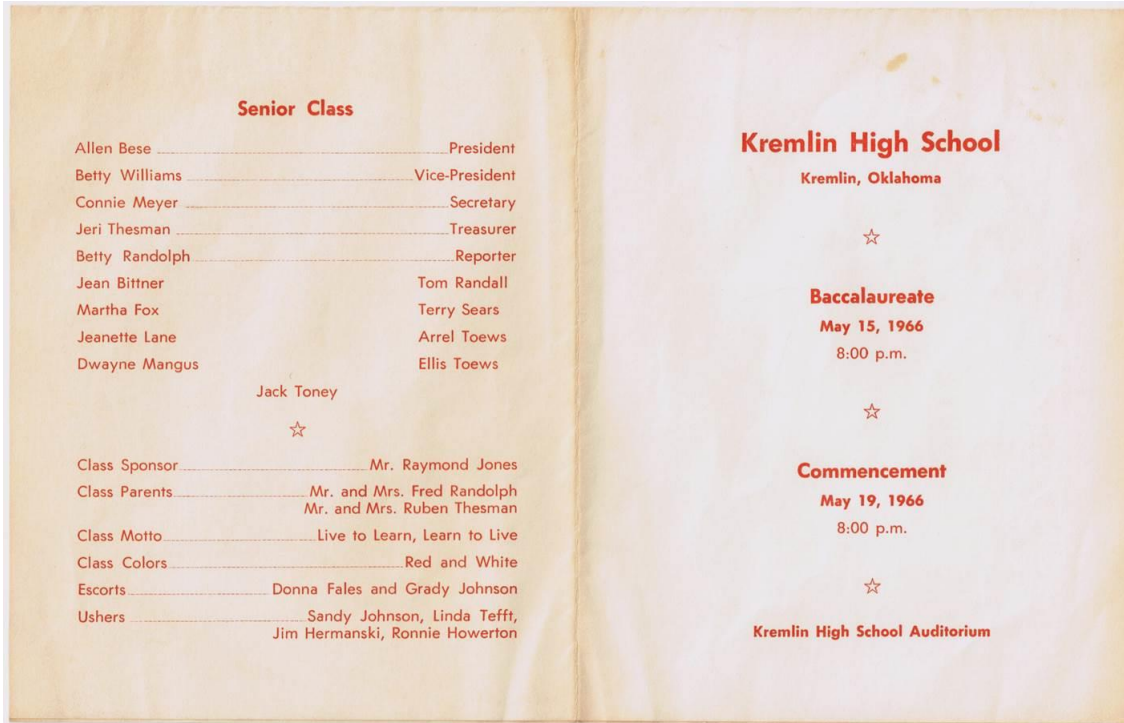
Seniors



Arrel's Senior Glamour Shot



And finally, the program for our **Baccalaureate and Commencement Ceremonies** is included below.



The **KHS Class of 1966 Seniors** photo is shown below:

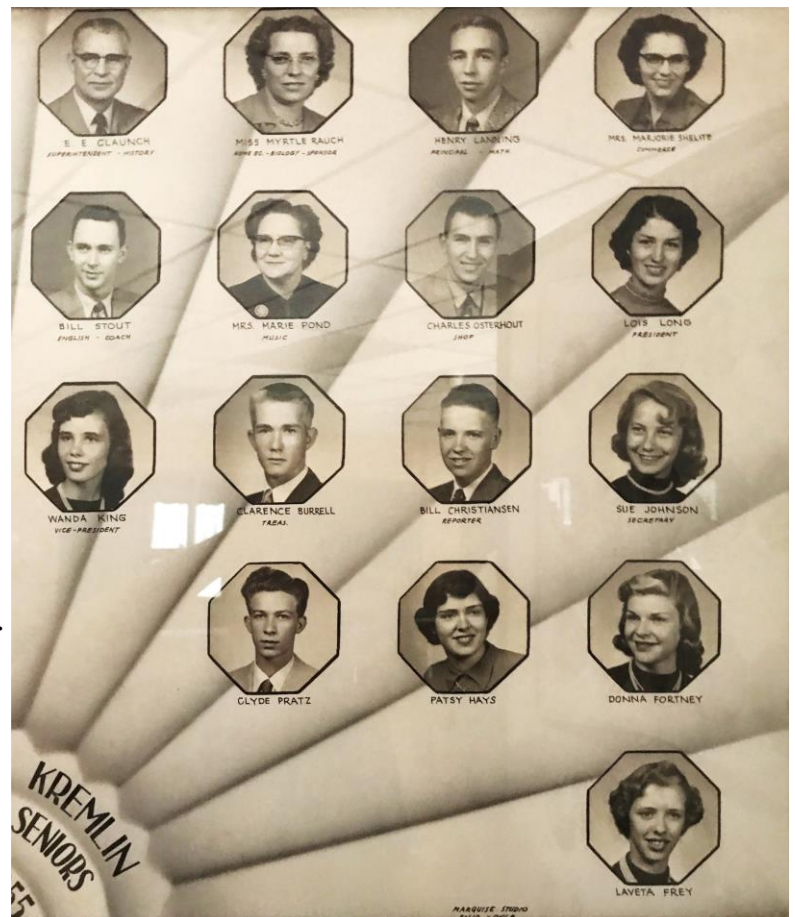


Raymond Schultz and **Ellis Lee** left school before graduating to join the US Navy, we think during their Senior year. They are thus not shown in the panel above.

For some historical perspective, KHS Seniors in **1955** are shown at R.

1954-55 was my first year of school.

Bill Christiansen was older brother of Richard. Patsy Hays (Stout) was older sister of Janet and Robert Hays and daughter of Jimmy and Dorothy Hays.

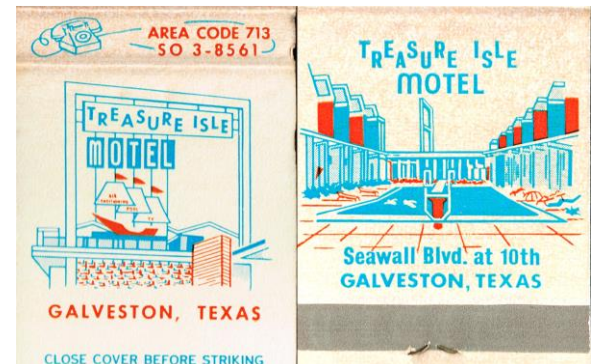


Our Senior Class Trip to Galveston TX



Following graduation, our class enjoyed the traditional **Senior Trip** - to **Galveston TX**, with a stop on the way home in **Houston**. As near as we can remember, travelers included Mary Ann Bese (she drove their Chevrolet station wagon) and Sophie Thesman (must have taken their car as well) as chaperones - no teachers at all! We traveled in the family autos of our two guardians. Classmates besides myself included Ellis Toews, Allen Bese and Terry Sears for the guys and Betty Randolph (Strickland), Jeri Thesman (Ruttan), Connie Meyer (?), and Martha Fox (Sands).

We stayed at the **Treasure Isle Motel** (10th & Seawall Boulevard) and the beach was right across the street (and a few concrete steps down the seawall). Ellis remembers us going to the coffee shop for coffee and rolls or a more filling breakfast and flirting with the foxy waitress usually on duty. 'When we went to Galveston on our senior class trip in 1966, the motel we stayed in had a cafe that we often ate in. There was a cute young lady that we always flirted with. Then when we were at U of Houston in the summer of '69, we made several trips to Galveston. One time we returned to that very same cafe which was part of that motel. Lo and behold that same cute waitress was still there. We asked her if she remembered us from our senior trip in spring of '66. She didn't remember us but she was delightfully dumbfounded that we still remembered her.'" This motel was a Galveston institution, albeit an increasingly shabby one, until a year or so ago when it was replaced by the uppity boutique **Hotel Lucine**.



On the way home, we stayed at least one night in Houston at the downtown Intercontinental Hotel, a big hotel (and big deal) for us back in those days. Maybe we also did an Astros game in the Astrodome?

Senior Trip photos for 1965 and 1966 are shown below. Both classes stayed at the same **Treasure Isle Motel** in Galveston TX.

Class of 1966 Senior Trip

(L/R): Betty Randolph,
 Connie Meyer, Martha Fox,
 Jeri Thesman, Sophia
 Thesman, Mary Ann Bese,
 Terry Sears, Allen Bese,
 Ellis Toews, Arrel Toews



Photo of Class of 1965 Senior Trip, which also went to Galveston TX the prior year:

(L/R), back, bus driver, Dwayne Janzen, Merlin Rodgers, Lee Wuerflein, Marge Kirkpatrick,
 Katherine Hermanski, Gloria Dane, Delbert Clary, Duane Williams, Mike Shriver, front, Richard
 Rockwell, Bobo Fox, Shirley Wuerflein, Janet Kirkpatrick, Velma Hermanski, Rita Sue Thesman,
 Paul Nordyke, Dennis Toews



A Few Personal Memories of Kremlin School Days

My first memory of high school wasn't really about high school at all. [Kitten Salyer](#) (given name was [Carolyn](#), but Kitten was perfect) was in the 8th grade, and I was a confused pubescent freshman in study hall diagonally across the hall from the 7th/8th grade classroom, sitting in a certain seat close to the door so everything lined up just right and Kitten and I could look at each other through both open doors and across the hallway, winking and smiling at each and me at least getting goosebumps and ummm, quite a bit more too! She was a really hot little number, the first girl (woman, I mean!!) to stick her tongue in my ear and then blow some hot air in there as well - I thought I was literally gonna die, or at least melt down to a molten heap the first time she did that - on the bus coming back at night from somewhere, and she did it just a little west of where our house is now on the blacktop, heading back to Kremlin (my Dad was driving the bus, by the way). I should maybe "erect" a shrine near that spot someday. She came from Enid and lived with [Bob Wise, our Methodist preacher](#), and his wife because she was always in trouble in Enid; the idea was that small-town living would help her turn her life around. Sort of an informal foster-parent arrangement, I think. Maybe he helped her out and maybe not, but she was a pretty nice gal (and pretty nice to me too). I remember thinking that she had to have eyes only for me, then going to Enid with Mom and Dad one Saturday morning and driving through the railroad underpass on North Grand Boulevard and seeing in big letters spray-painted on the railroad bridge above "[Kitten Salyer and the Switchblades](#)" and I kid you not. A pretty sobering trip to Enid for me, that was. Kitten wasn't around for very long, and of course nothing real ever came of it anyway, but still some interesting and lasting memories for me. By the way, she could open beer bottles with her teeth, and although I saw Ellis Dean do this during his college days, that's pretty good for an 8th grader, I think.

Well, I also remember when we were juniors or maybe seniors, Ellis and I were in charge of the [pop and candy machines](#) in the hall of the high school. This duty involved keeping the vending machines loaded - this meant both pop bottles and nickels for the tube that fed the coin return in case you used a quarter instead of a dime or two nickels to get your pop (10¢/bottle). The extra pop and candy were in a little hall storage closet across from the Superintendent's Office that was kept locked, and we had keys to this room and to the pop and candy machines. We also got to go to [Tydings Wholesale on N Grand in Enid](#) to buy the boxes of candy, so we could always get our favorites for the vending machine. We could also enjoy a few bars "on the house" if we were careful, but not too many so Claude Gist would get suspicious. But the best part of this duty was that we could quite easily raid the coin boxes to help finance our trips to Enid for [movies](#) or [Sonic Broilburger Jrs](#) or [stock car races](#) or whatever - this we did routinely and repeatedly - we'd just go over to the machines, shake out a big handful of change, lock it back

up, then get in the pickup and head for town, counting the loot on the way. Why would anyone be suspicious when we were supposed to empty those coin boxes, eh? No idea how much we made off with, but I do know not one penny was ever repaid (yet, at least). If and when the coin boxes got pretty full, we'd count and turn in the money to Claude Gist.

By the way, the [Sonic Broilburger Jrs.](#) (which were regular-sized burgers that had a delicious hickory-smoked red sauce with chopped pickles and onions mixed in - nice!) were 22¢ each, fries 15¢, and an ice-cold Pepsi-Cola 15¢ at that [Sonic Drive-In](#) on N Grand in Enid - so even with tax, you could get a great supper there for less than \$1.00! Movies were 75¢ (I was pretty upset when we had to pay 85¢ to see the premier of [Ben Hur!](#)). Yep, way back when [Charlton Heston](#) was just a young man!



[Allen Bese](#) was the star of my high school days. He was actually the closest thing to a BMOC during our Kremlin School days - athletic, smart with good grades, quite clean-cut and very good looking so a bona fide babe-magnet on top of all else - from mid-grade school when he arrived all the way through high school. Our senior year, he was chosen [Most Popular](#), [Best All Around](#), and [Most Athletic](#) - there were no other categories, so basically a grand-slam for Allen. I was good friends with him all the time we were in school together, but I always considered [Ellis Toews](#) my best friend - we started grade school together and graduated from Tabor College together, so 16 very good years growing up together! I still treasure his friendship, along with that of his older brother [Dennis](#), to this day.

Impressive young ladies I can still recall quite well include [Linda Tefft](#), [Donna Fales](#), [Diana Davis](#), [Jeri & Rita Sue Thesman](#), [Connie Meyer](#), [Betty Randolph](#), [Jeanne Bittner](#), [Betty Williams](#), [Ruth Ann Gray](#), [Carol Randall](#), [Linda Gilliland](#), [Martha Fox](#), [Linda Peck](#), [Jeanne Tefft](#), [Suzie Foltz](#), and [Lilo Offenber](#). I was too terrified to even think about doing anything with any of them, so never bothered to ask them out or try much at all, but still lots of good times! I have lost touch with pretty much all of them except for sisters [Jeri Thesman \(Ruttan\)](#) (sadly no longer with us) and [Rita Sue Thesman \(Schmidt\)](#), whose friendships I also treasure.

[Last Day of School Awards Ceremony and school-wide pot-luck picnic](#) for all grades and parents was a pretty big operation and a very big day for all of us. Water balloons were legal on

this one day - we filled them at the faucets on the side of the school building and aimed mostly at the girls! Usually some firecrackers too, I think. Lots of great food, including fried chicken, sandwiches, deviled eggs, baked beans, mac & cheese, and lots of brownies, cookies, cakes, and pies. It felt great to know we wouldn't have to be in school for the entire summer - until we remembered that 2 weeks of [Daily Vacation Bible School](#) was starting the very next week. But still a very good feeling to get up on a weekday morning and go outside to play with our tractors and trucks under the locust and elm trees behind our house with school not even a distant memory.

When we were in grade school, I remember lots of high school guys walking to [Rathmel Grocery for lunch](#) - and [a smoke too!](#) [Bill Rathmel](#) sold them bread and bologna and let them store it in his large vintage wooden refrigerator. You could buy cold pop, candy bars, and ice-cream bars from the cooler and freezer too. I don't remember going there for lunch when we were in high school, but went there often since it was also the [Post Office](#).

I guess the final thing (for now) is that we almost **NEVER** got out of school for bad weather. There could be a blizzard howling outside and we'd get up early to listen to [KCRC \(1360 AM\)](#) on the radio for [school closings](#). The announcer would read a very long list of schools closed - and basically every school we ever heard of was closed, but no mention of Kremlin Schools! Not only was this quite annoying to us, but my Dad and others had to drive the buses to pick up all the students on all those dirt and shale roads. Sometimes, a bus would even be pulled up in front of



the school by some farmer in his tractor. By the way, at the time, KCRC was located on E Willow and they had 3 large transmission towers - this was the namesake for the [Three Towers Restaurant](#), for many years an iconic food place on Rock Island Boulevard, just N of those three towers! They were justifiably famous for their

["Three Towers Salad Dressing."](#)

A hand-written version from [my Mom](#), is shown at r. I also have a virtually identical hand-written

version from [Mary Ann Voth](#).

3 Towers[?] Salad Dressing
 Mix together:
 1 c. buttermilk
 1t. (rounded-heaping) prepared mustard
 2T. sugar
 1/4t. garlic powder
 1t. salt
 dash pepper
 dash paprika (sprinkle some on top of each salad for color)
 Gradually stir above mixture into 1 c. mayonnaise.

Remembering Max Wofford

Max and I were good buds all through grade school (he was 1 year younger). His [Mom, Virginia](#), ran a [beauty parlor in Kremlin](#) in an added room in their house on the Kremlin-Hunter blacktop (E edge of Kremlin), and she'd give us empty hair spray cans (she had lots of different spray cans in her shop) and we'd throw them into the smoldering trash barrel beside the house and run down the driveway to get away before they exploded. Sometimes we'd secretly score a partly full can when she wasn't in the parlor, with even more impressive results. [Max's Dad, OB](#), worked in the [Champlin Refinery](#) in N Enid. We'd often go hiking in Zaloudek's pasture and down to the Sand Creek Bridge almost a mile E of Kremlin, a few times happening upon [Pam McDonald](#) and [Linda Peck](#) down underneath the bridge. Max's parents, OB and Virginia, divorced when he was in the 7th grade and I was in 8th grade - he told me this quietly before anyone else knew and it really affected him (keep reading). I was quite surprised and didn't know what to say or do, just telling him "I'm sorry" and "I hope you'll be OK." Near as I can recall, this was the first time anyone bared their soul to me and, looking back, I think this was a small step in my extended journey of "growing up" and maturing and learning some of life's hard lessons. His Mom married some other guy quite soon and they all lived just E of N Enid, so Max had to leave Kremlin School against his wishes. A significant result of all his unhappiness was that he got sent off to military school, which he disliked even more. I lost track of him after a few years, but never forgot about him. He re-surfaced for me when I learned he met his bloody demise on 2 April 1984, shot dead by sheriff's deputies in a field E of Bison at the age of 35. His [obituary](#) on FindaGrave.com gives a blow-by-blow (shot-by-shot) account of his last day on earth. See also links pasted below: <http://www.abandonedok.com/max-wofford-hideout/>
<http://newsok.com/article/2063216>

I have to wonder if all his troubles and misbehavior had their roots and origins in the breakdown of his parent's marriage and the resulting destruction of his home life as he knew it. Max's older brother [Errol](#) and his wife [Sonya](#), by the way, ran the ["Soapweeds and Cactus"](#) western store on the W side of the Enid square, next to the [H Holden Studio](#) and [Edna Mae's law office](#). [Max](#) is buried in the [Enid Memorial Park Cemetery](#) along US-81 N of N Enid.



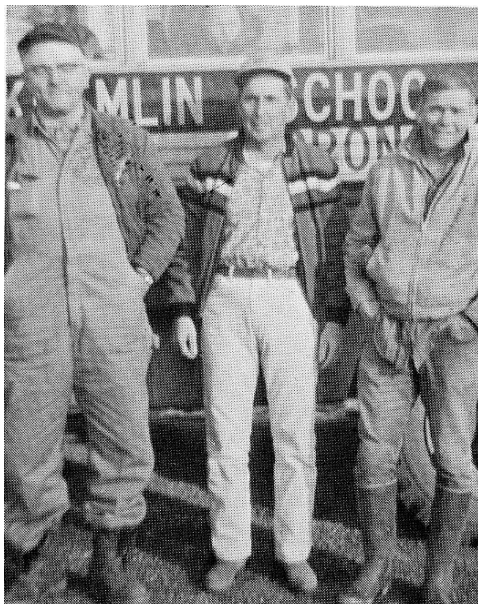
There were 3-4 **school buses** of varying sizes and ages and so 3-4 bus routes. Photos below show the **Toews Brothers - Galen, Arrel, Myron** heading for the school bus driven by our **Uncle Jake Voth, Jr.** (mid-1950s). Note our Border Collie sheep dog **Mitzi** in both photos and a few of our sheep in the corral. Kremlin elevators are barely visible in the foggy background.



School bus drivers through the years included my Dad, **David A Toews, Jake Voth Jr, Bobo Fox, Ronnie Bittle, Leonard Reim, Bill Hole, Johnny Voth,** and **Ronnie Lizar** (he had a wreck with the school bus at the Coke Plant corner, turning the bus over onto its side, although nobody was seriously injured; Ellis, Janice, and Eldon Toews were onboard). My dad drove the **activity bus** for many years to all the basketball and football games, including some fairly long trips (Greenfield, OK the first year we played 8-man football, my senior year). **Earlier bus drivers** (1957-58) were **Fred Phillips, Reuben Thesman,** and **Junior Peck** (Linda's dad), with **Fred Phillips** (lived right across from the school) and **Jim Peck** the long-time **custodians**.



David Toews, Ronnie Lizar & Jake Voth Jr



Leonard Reim, David Toews, Bobo Fox



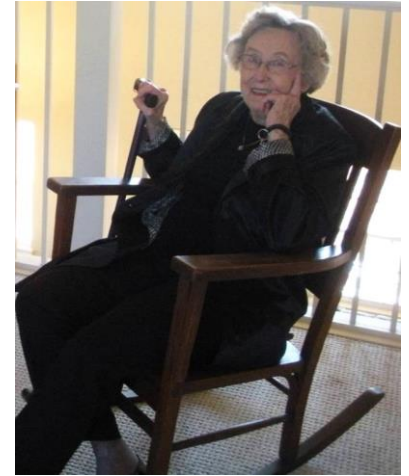
Leonard Reim, Johnny Voth, Bill Hole, David Toews



School Cooks Lizzie Kirkpatrick & Sara Toews

Ladies Lounge of the S&H Kress store in Enid. Sarah lived a long and full life, passing away in 2016 at the age of 98.

Cooks included Mrs. Frank (Rhoda) Seapy, Mrs Simon (Edna) Johnson, Mrs Johnny R (Sarah) Toews, and Mrs John (Lizzie) Kirkpatrick. Sarah Toews is shown sitting in a rocker in the loft of our Houghtaling Farm home - this rocker was previously used in the



Rhoda Seapy & Mrs Simon Johnson (1958)

School Board Members during high school days (R) included JC Mitchell, Mose Thesman, Fred Randolph (Betty's Dad), Bill Toews, Robert G (Bob) Gray (Ruth Ann's Dad), George Bese, and possibly others.



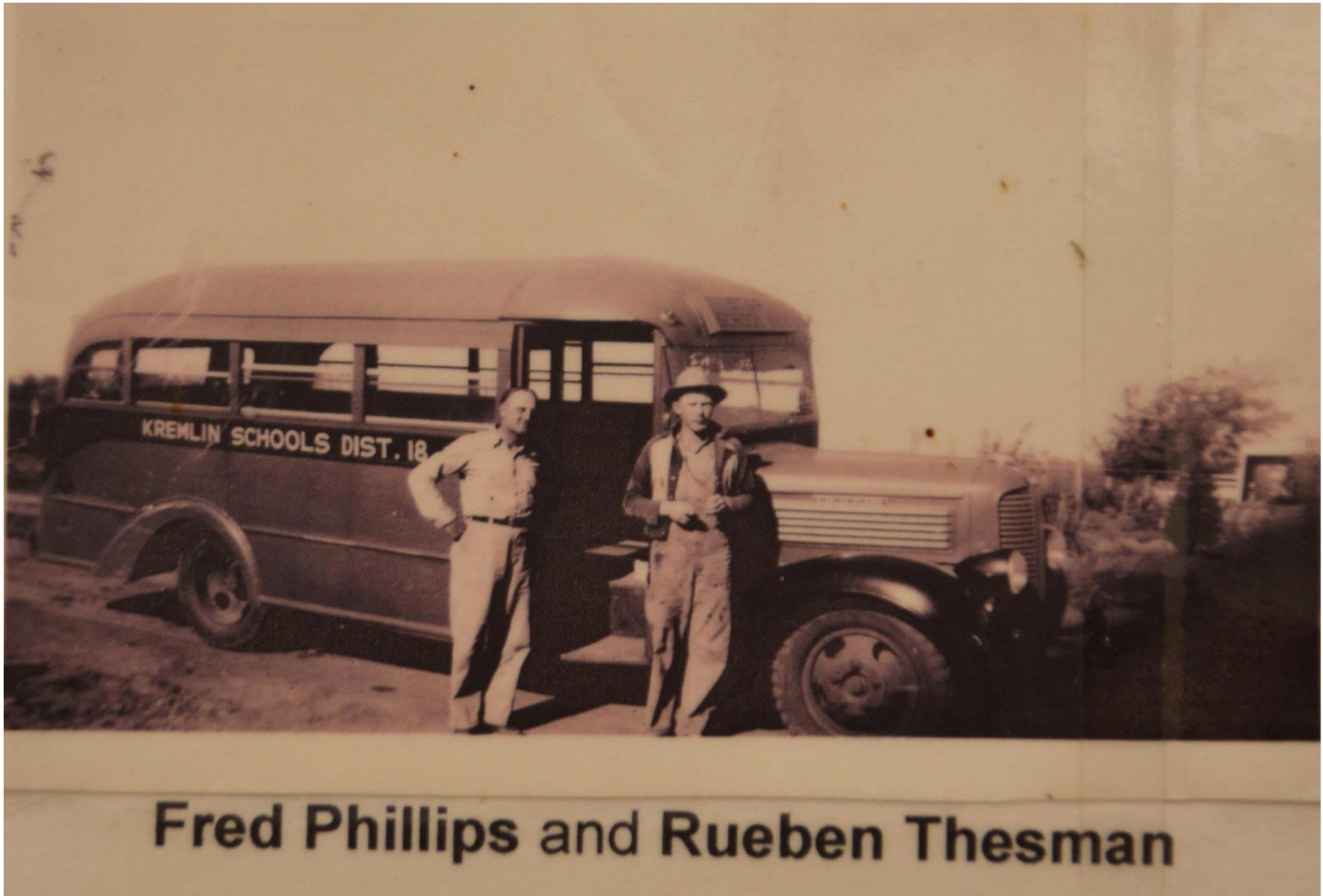
Board of Education

An earlier board (1957-58; photo below) consisted of Bernard Hermanski (Jimmy and Velma's Dad), Uncle Henry G Toews, Fred Randolph (Betty's Dad), Howard McDonald (Rick's Dad), and Francis Ruth.



Mr. Bernard Hermanski, Mr. Henry Toews, Mr. Fred Randolph, Mr. Howard McDonald, Mr. Francis Ruth.

School bus drivers [Fred Phillips](#) and [Ruben Thesman](#) in front of Kremlin School, looking W (date unknown). Note the open garage of Fred Phillips at far R (this was the garage directly across from the school where the infamous "panther" hung on the back wall for many years while I was in school - keep reading!). FWZ BLDG



Perhaps [Fred Phillips](#) deserves a bit of additional attention in Kremlin lore. He and his wife [Jewell "Vivian" Phillips](#) lived directly across from the original brick portion of the schoolhouse - from W classrooms, you could look directly at their house, and in fact, into the always-open garage. Fred was one of 3 town councilors in 1939 (see our ["Kremlin Life"](#) history, available on this website), and he was a school bus driver plus long-time custodian/janitor, also keeping the basement steam boiler stoked to warm the school in winter. He also served on the school board, so overall, a highly respected Kremlin citizen! His wife Vivian taught music lessons, both piano and voice, to many Kremlin youth.

Two photos of students "posing" in front of a Dodge Kremlin School bus are shown below. Note the Farmers Grain Company single 4-silo elevator at back L, and the students' utter lack of any desire to pose properly. Photos courtesy of Dick Chelf from the scrapbook of his mother [Lillian "Tillie" Chelf](#). Lillian's husband and Dick's father was longtime Kremlin School administrator, teacher and school board member, [Leonard Chelf](#).



Although the term "urban legend" might be technically inaccurate, the **Kremlin Black Panther** of the **early 1950s** is almost certainly the most cherished of Kremlin folklore. The legend is recounted on the next page by one of the culprits, **Howard Kirkpatrick**, as related in **Story Matters** (2016), a compilation of Kremlin School memories compiled by Peggy Harris. I was not quite in school yet in 1952, but remember Mom & Dad and others talking about "The Panther" a great deal. Myron has scanned this **Kremlin School "Story Matters" anthology** & can provide a copy if requested. Some good memories and stories!

Photos below (1952) show Merle Phillips, Gene Fawcett & Howard Kirkpatrick with their "Black Panther." Note Columbia School in background. **Merle Phillips** is the son of **Fred Phillips** and photo was taken in front of their home across from Kremlin School. **Howard** is the son of **John &** (sometime school cook) **Lizzie Kirkpatrick**.

STORY MATTERS

Each student in Mrs. Chelsea Edington's and Mrs. Deanna Chesser's language arts classes at Kremlin-Hillsdale was requested to visit with a graduate of Hillsdale, Kremlin, Kremlin-Hillsdale, or a person who has worked at KHS. Our purpose was to collect stories about the lives of those who have passed through the halls of our schools. We asked that our narrators be at least one generation older than students. Each pupil recorded a story, and you are about to read the tales that were printed and submitted for publication.

Every person has at least one story to tell, and now you have the privilege to read about a small part of another's life. Our intent is to capture narratives of the daily lives from those who are associated with our community. Soon, a new school building will take on its own identity, and new chapters in history will commence. Until then, let us enjoy our past.

We thank all students who interviewed, all parents who assisted their students, and all who allowed the rest of us into your personal lives. Your stories are interesting, inspirational, and entertaining. We appreciate your sharing them with us.

Many people's collaboration helped make this project successful. Thanks to all who were involved.

We recognize **T&M Printing, Inc.** for the generous donation to help us publish our book.

Peggy Harris
2016

L (Dorothy Voth Gray scrapbook); R (FWZ Building)



HOWARD KIRKPATRICK, 80, relates a historic tale about the cat caper to COOPER COFFEY, 13

**Recorded by e-mail from California
Graduated from Kremlin High School**

My fondest memory of the time I lived in Kremlin was the "CAT CAPER." In 1952 there had been reports of a panther attacking cattle around the Pond Creek area so my three high school buddies decided we would add to that rumor. Merle Phillips, Gene Fawcett, and I decided one evening to build a cat. We drew an outline of a panther on a piece of card board, painted it black, nailed it to a board, and pulled it across the road the next evening after dark. The plan was as simple as that. We wanted to scare one of our friends when he came to the ball game at the high school that night.

We didn't even know what a panther looked like so we had walked to my brother's house to look at a picture of a panther that he had hanging on the wall of his home. We made a good outline of a panther but it did not have a tail. After building it and gluing on a piece of mirror for an eye, we decided to test it. We drove out about one half mile east of Kremlin on the blacktop where the bridge crosses the creek. We pulled the cat in front of three cars, but it didn't seem to have any effect so we just threw it under the bridge and went home.

All of us had gone to bed, and we were listening to the basketball game on the radio when the reporter broke into the broadcast and announced that the panther had been seen one mile east of Kremlin. It was black and had a big bushy tail.

It seems that the last car we had pulled it in front of stopped at the home of F. W. Zaloudek, and he called the highway patrol. When we heard this announcement, I jumped in my 1936 Chevrolet and picked up my friends. When we arrived at the bridge, Gene Fawcett, who was barefoot, ran down to retrieve the "cat" while Merle and I turned the car around so we could make a quick get-away. We threw the "cat" over the front fender and headed back into town. We had just turned off the main road when the highway patrol crept by with its spotlights searching the area for the deadly feline.

The next morning the incident was the main news item. People were listening on their radios and telling how they had lost a calf or a sheep. The lead story in the *Enid Morning News* was about the panther. Other newspapers across the country were writing stories about it.

Every kid in school was talking about the "cat." Only Mrs. Welty, our math teacher, told everyone to quit talking about it and get back to our lessons. She said, "It's probably across the street under Merle's bed," but only the three of us knew that she had guessed correctly. We were scared that our practical joke had gotten out of hand so we confessed to Mr. Braley, our coach, to ask what to do. He said, "Just tell the truth and everything will be fine." When we did say it was a joke, no one believed us. People from all over three states were coming in to track the panther. One fellow had found Gene's barefoot print and said that he'd tracked the panther a half mile up the creek.

After a few days the story all quieted down and things returned to normal. However, a practical joke by three high school boys turned into a sensation that has gone down in Kremlin history. Now the story will be passed down to future generations.



I am including on the following 2 pages the [Senior Class panels](#) for my older brother [Galen](#) (Class of **1963**) and younger brother [Myron](#) (Class of **1969**), as well as the Senior Class panels for their [first-grade years](#) (**1951-52** and **1957-58**, respectively). A nice perspective on how Kremlin School days began and ended!

[Myron Toews](#) has photos of all the [Kremlin Sr Class panels](#) (click on individual decades) and can provide them if requested. They are also available on [this website](#).



KREMLIN SENIORS
19  69

 JACK GORDON SUPT.	 MERLIN RODGERS PRIN.	 DWAYNE JANZEN SPON.	 JANE ESTILL PRES.	 JOHNNY JOHNSON V. PRES.	 JANICE TOWES SEC.	 MIKE WIGGINS TREAS.	 MYRON TOWES REPORTER	 JERRY LONG SPON.			
 SHARON STEERS	KREMLIN SENIORS 19  69								 DIANA TURNER		
 LARRY TOWES	 GLENDA MITCHELL	KREMLIN SENIORS 19  69								 LENNIE FOX	 BOB STUBBLEFIELD
 GARTH LIMING	 JOHN FOX	 EARL DYCK	 CAROLYN OUTHIER	 JOHN ZOOK	 PAT KRUSE	 WAYNE GOLL	 MONTIE WALTON	 MONTIE HOFFSOMMER			
 DWAYNE SIEGMANN	 WARREN OSWALD	 RODNEY REGIER	 DOUG LONG	 SUZANNE SHAKLEE	 ROGER SIEBERT	 KANDY JOHNSON	 GALE MESSENGER	 GARY SCHULTZ			

...KREMLIN...

..1958...  *Finished, Yet Beginning...*

 Charles Ruck	 Jack Fisher	 Janice Toews	 James Toews	 Dorothy Toews	 James Toews	 Tom Toews	
 Jack Outhier	 Leda Owen	...KREMLIN... ..1958...  <i>Finished, Yet Beginning...</i>				 Harold Toews	 Pat Toews
 Walter Toews	 Arnold Toews	 Tom Toews	 James Toews	 John Toews	 Richard Toews	 Leda Toews	
 Tom Toews	 Tom Toews	 Tom Toews	 Tom Toews	 Tom Toews	 Tom Toews	 Tom Toews	

Concluding Note to Readers

This document is available on our toewsbrotherskremlin.info website, along with other documents on Kremlin history, Kremlin railroads and train wrecks, and one-room schools of Garfield County OK. Please take a look and explore what we have available.

Anyone reading this story is invited to send additional memories, photos, or corrections and other suggestions for editing. This will always be a work in progress, and I will welcome and appreciate any input, both positive and negative, from anyone and everyone. It's easy to add anything anyone might send or suggest.

Contact: Arrel Toews atoews@hotmail.com

Thanks to my brother [Myron Toews](#) for scanning many of the Kremlin yearbook photos and providing other photos as well, including those from the wall displays in the FW Zaloudek Kremlin Community Building (FWZ BLDG), and to [Ellis and Dennis Toews](#), [Vic Rempel](#), and [James Buller](#) for verifying and/or correcting and/or expanding my memories. Their stories and other input were invaluable! [Myron's assistance and advice have been invaluable to me in many ways.](#)

Feel free to click on the [embedded web-links](#), which are [underlined in purple](#).

Things I have somewhere and need to find:

[More grade school report cards](#)

Arrel Toews
updated 7 November 2024

Appendix I: Roster for Kremlin High School Class of 1966

Our class roster is below with available contact information or other

Allen Bese	allenbese@icloud.com	Boulder CO
Donna Jean Bittner	deceased 5 October 2010	Enid OK
Martha Fox (Sands)	Martha0313@att.net	OKC OK
Jeanette Lane		
Ellis Lee		
Dwayne Mangus		
Connie Meyer (Kuznekoff)		Waldwick NJ
Tom Randall	deceased 15 January 2021 Stillwater OK	alternative burial site
Betty Randolph (Strickland)	bestrick@aol.com	Alabaster AL
Leonard Schultz	Lenraysch@aol.com	Enid OK
Terry Sears	terrysears10@gmail.com	Enid OK
Larry Simmons		
Jeri Thesman (Ruttan)	deceased 6 August 2018	Kansas City MO
Arrel Toews	atoews@hotmail.com	Carrboro NC
Ellis Toews	ellistoews@hotmail.com	Edmond OK
Jack Toney	jack.toney@yahoo.com	Okeene OK
Betty Williams		

CLASS SIZES DURING ARREL'S KREMLIN SCHOOL DAYS														
Year	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	FR	SO	JR	SR	TOTAL
1954-55		12	19	14	14	11	13	13	19	21	10	25	9	180
1955-56		4	11	15	11	12	10	12	10	22	16	10	21	154
1956-57		7	2	9	13	10	12	11	13	24	20	19	10	150
1957-58		11	8	2	9	12	10	15	10	17	17	19	18	148
1958-59		9	10	8	2	9	11	11	15	25	16	16	17	149
1959-60		15	6	11	7	5	7	13	11	27	22	14	13	151
1960-61		5	14	5	9	6	4	8	12	19	24	20	15	141
1961-62		10	5	13	7	10	6	3	9	14	22	24	18	141
1962-63		11	8	8	12	6	8	6	2	10	16	20	28	135
1963-64		7	9	10	4	13	5	8	5	12	13	17	18	121
1964-65		8	8	8	11	3	12	5	8	18	10	15	17	123
1965-66	17	13	6	9	10	9	5	11	5	24	20	12	15	139

Appendix II: Other Senior Class Trips

The **1945 Sr Class** took a **senior skip day trip to Oklahoma City**. Materials below from a 50-year reunion organized by **Leora Rempel Thesman** and **Jake A Voth Jr** in 1995.

OUR SENIOR SKIP DAY -April 25, 1945

Left Enid at 4:00 o'clock, A. M.
Mr. Chelf - Matilda, Arlene, Eldora, Bettie, Leora
Mike - Lila Mae, Sally, Carolyn, Lawrence

Stopped at Bridge to eat breakfast--no skillets- went on to Oklahoma City. Ate breakfast in Sanders Cafe- went south of Okla. City where tornado had struck -took pictures at sign and houses - came back to town- got separated from Mike's car- walked to stores- found other kids again-shopped-bought souvenirs, cards- went to Lincoln Park- looked at animals- began to rain- went to car-rained and hailed- went to little store-got paper plates and pop went back to park--found old deserted shack--ate dinner there -after dinner went to look at animals(quit raining in the meantime.) and was pretty nice. took pictures- Bettie slid down the hill into a mud puddle - cleaned her dress- or rather her-- then left park--went to Capital--(ran around) Matilda, Arlene, Eldora, Bettie, Lawrence, Leora, and Mike- couldn't find a door out, went to Basement , finally ended up on the roof-took pictures--stayed there a while and went to Historical Building (Mike, Lawrence & Leora got chased out). Then went back to town and sat a while-- went to Municipal Building-got chased out-- Eldora, Arlene, Matilda, Mike, Bettie & Leora rode the trolley. Then ate ice cream after that we girls went to Santa Fe Depot-came back and sat in Mikes car and ran around on the Municipal campus waiting for Mr. Chelf and the other kids--wanted to go motor boat riding but it was all closed so we went home at 10:00 o'clock tired but happy!!! Had a lot of fun!!



1950 & 1951 - Senior classes of 1950 and 1951 took a joint Jr/Sr bus trip (20-24 May 1950) to Carlsbad Caverns and White Sands NM, stopping in Dallas TX as well. They also spent an evening in Juarez Mexico. Photo pages from 1950-51 Bronc yearbook, provided by Myron Toews, are shown below. It was common in those days for juniors and seniors to take shared trips every other year, and this was true of other area schools as well.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR TRIP

MAY 20-24, 1950



OUR BUS
BUS DRIVER--TOMMY NOBLE



TURNER FALLS
A SHORT STOP ON THE WAY



OUR CABINS AT EL PASO
WE WENT TO JUAREZ AND SPENT THE EVENING. ALSO THE MONEY



WHITE PLAZA HOTEL AT DALLAS
"WE MADE A SIGN FOR OUR BUS"



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CARLSBAD



WHITE SANDS



CABINS AND LAKE AT CARLSBAD
BOAT RIDES, SERENADES AND SHORTS

56



ENTRANCE TO CAVERNS
OUCH! STOP PUSHING



57

This class included Gerry Toews Reimer, Carl Hays, Joan Zaloudek and Johnny Voth. Carl remembers being in charge of organizing the trip, and more importantly, fund raising. He says they raised a nice chunk of money selling ads to be placed on the E wall of the Community Hall (see photo p 89 in our [Kremlin Town History](#), also on this [ToewsBrothersKremlin.info](#) website. I remember those ads quite well and hope many other readers will as well.

1956-57 - Memories of **Mick Zaloudek** note that both Jr and Sr classes took the Rocket passenger train to Chicago for their trip. Three other schools also had cars on that train, one of them Pond Creek. Many notable seniors in this class - see roster on p 71. The photo below, taken just W of the railroad tracks and N of Zaloudek's tin elevator, shows students and supporters waiting for the Rocket to arrive. Looking S



1959 - James Buller says his sister Loretta also took the Rocket to Chicago for their Sr trip - it actually stopped in Kremlin to load the class and school was dismissed so the entire student body and staff could participate in the send-off!

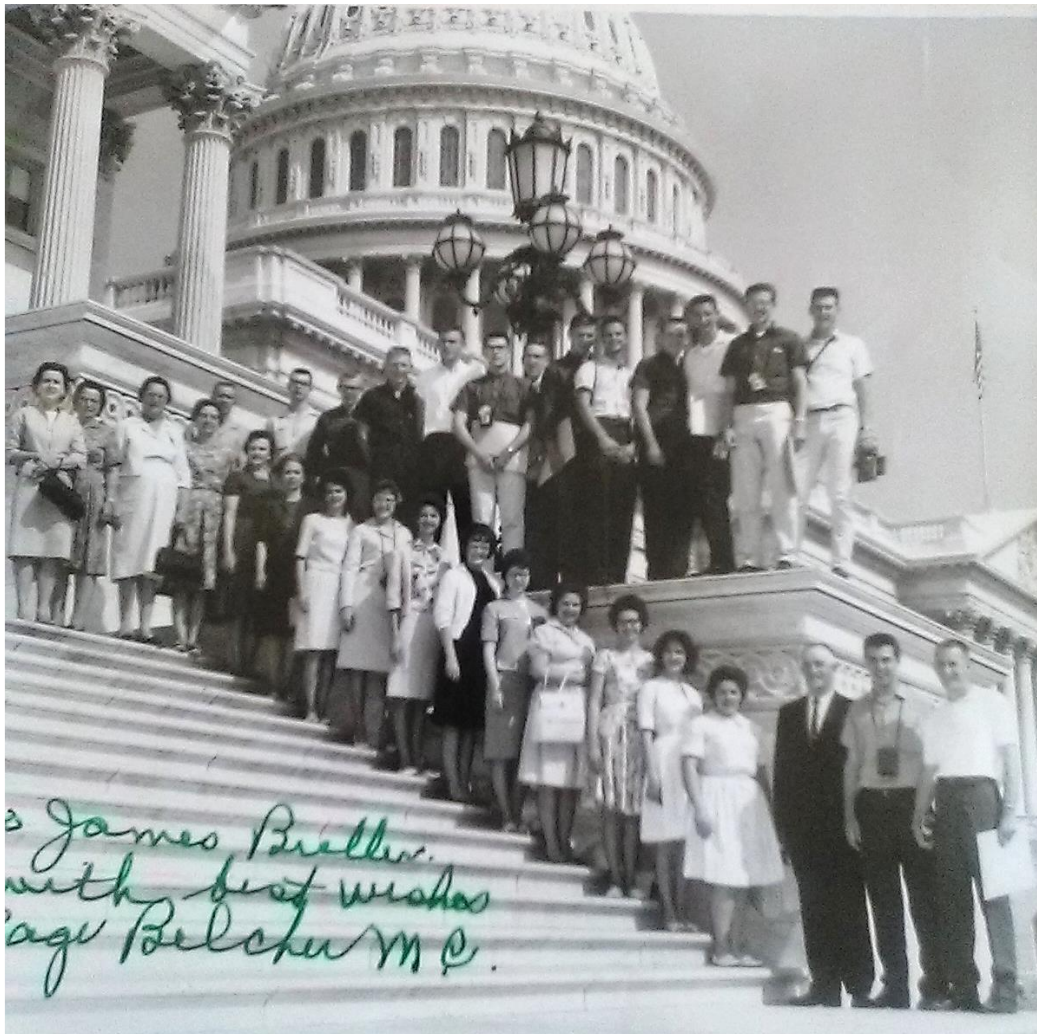
1963 - Galen Toews, James Buller, Mike Lorenz and others take the train to Washington DC (see following page).

1965 - Dennis Toews, Rita Sue Thesman, Shirley Wuerflein, Janet Kirkpatrick, Bobo Fox et al. travel to Galveston TX - see photo p 80.

1966 - Arrel & Ellis Toews, Jeri Thesman, Betty Randolph, Connie Meyer, Martha Fox, Allen Bese, Terry Sears also travel to Galveston TX (same Treasure Isle Motel as in 1965!). see p 79-80.

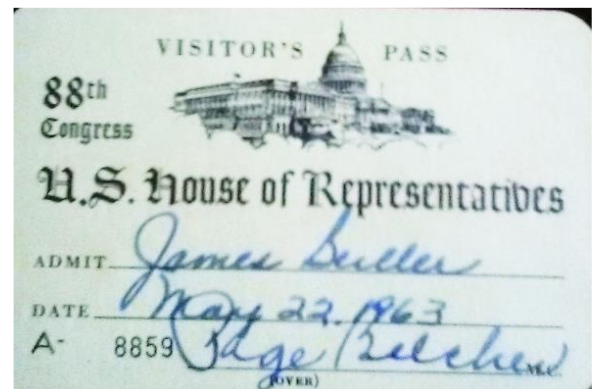
1969 - Myron & Janice Toews and many others travel to Houston (Astros game in Astrodome); Arlington (GM assembly plant, Six Flags Over Texas), San Antonio (Alamo, Battleship Texas) & Galveston Beach. Newlyweds Dwayne & Gloria Janzen were among sponsors, perhaps even their honeymoon? See p 99.

1963 Senior Class trip was by train to **Washington DC**, with brief layovers to change trains in Memphis and Chattanooga TN, along with some stops for meals. In addition to extensive touring of the DC area, including Mt Vernon, the group was hosted at the US Capitol by **Congressman Page Belcher** (Rep), who represented the OK district that Kremlin was located within for many years. Our mother **Rosa M Toews** served for many years as legal secretary to the Enid law firm of Belcher, Belcher & Collins, of which Page was senior partner. He took our Mom and Galen to lunch in the Congressional Dining Room, where they enjoyed its famous bean soup.



This class included **James Buller** (who supplied photos), **Galen Toews**, **Mike Lorenz**, **Danny Zaloudek** & numerous others. Congressman Belcher is at front beside teachers **Dwayne Janzen** and **Paul Smith**. See photo panel p 91 for full IDs.

Rosa Toews is 5th from L on steps. Galen is above her L, to her R, James Buller, Ronnie Toews, Mike Lorenz, Dave Bittle. Skip 3, then Danny Zaloudek, Richard Gray, Jerry Sanders.



Top: [Senior Trip yearbook supplement page](#) prepared after the [1969 Sr Trip](#) by 1969 Bronc editor [Myron Toews](#). Sunbathing newlyweds [Dwayne & Gloria Janzen](#) lower R. Bottom: Astrodome scoreboard showing "KREMLIN OKLA SENIORS 35" (5th line in R board).



Senior Trip

The Senior Class of 1969 left Kremlin Friday night, May 23, headed for Houston. Saturday the Seniors toured the Astrodome and attended a game that night.

Sunday the Seniors arrived in Galveston in time for an afternoon swim at the beach. The class spent a couple of days there playing on the beach, burning under the sun and riding motorcycles.

At Arlington the Seniors toured the General Motors Assembly Plant and then went on to Six Flags over Texas. Thursday the Seniors returned home, tired and sunburned. It was an enjoyable trip.

Who's that behind those Foster Grants?

No, Dave. That's not your bus. It's Al's.



Appendix III: Kremlin School Alumni 1933-66

from 1967 Bronc yearbook)

Kremlin Alumni

1933

Roy Buss
Della Anderson
Sybil Felton
Edwin Landon
Helen Bowers
Charles Herbison
Marie Wuerflein
Abe Ediger
Grace Dodds
Clarence Sperling

1934

Kirk Smith
Erma Beck
Lawrence Eger
Ralph Momsen
Florence Smith
Ellis Roberts
Esther Schuelein

1935

John Wuerflein
Irene Zaloudek
Helena Janzen
Eugene Gearheard
Ruby Momsen
Maralee Smith
Arthur Johnson
David Toews
Carl Platt
Betty Buss
Walter Buller

1936

Junior Fox
Rosa Voth
Menno Voth
Anna Ruth Janzen
Bernice Johnson
Lynda Ediger
Albert Ediger
Marcella Reim
Elenor Bowers
Cornelius Sperling
Herbert Thesman
Natalie Smith
Hazel Cooper
Cecil Beck

1937

George Schrahl
Florence Richey
Leon Humphrey

1938

Juanita Estes
Tola Hardy
Opal Estes
Margaret Coakley
Johnnie Janzen
Alice M. Seapy
Henry Ediger
Robert Herdman
Helen Siemens

Anna Voth
Ruben Thesman
Barbara Stains
Carrol Schuelein

1939

Johnny Ediger
Henry Janzen
Elmer Voth
Frances Hardy
Herman Wuerflein
Frances Fitz
Lenora Heisler
Alvin Johnson
Eva Smith
Lester Schrahl

1940

Buster Herdman
Lee Hardy
Orlando Balzer
Julius Balzer
Wesley Kroeker
Adina Ediger
Warren Estes
Marvin Petty
Forrest Peck
Kenneth Gearheard
Gladys Thesman
Abie Janzen
Leo Beck
Victor Goll
Glenda Hammond
John Siemens

1941

Frank W. James
Virginia Herbison
Jack Gearheard
Vivian Estes
Robert M. Hole
Leonard A. Stucker
Doris Herbison
Joel G. Toews
Donna Herbison
Vernon Balzer
Arrel Reed
David Heinrichs
Rosemary James
Homer Easterly
Harold D. Emmerson

1942

Cornelius Ediger
Anna Mae Estes
George English
Ruth Lucile Hays
Arthur Gilliam
Wilbur Fitz
Harold Wojahn
Belva Marie Reim
Jacob Regier
Alma Thesman
Hazel Herdman

1943

Charles Seapy
Oliva Fern Reed
Ernest Voth
Dorothy Simpson
Mary A. Kirkpatrick
Alma Kroeker
Don Fitz
Betty Stegeman
Frances Kirkpatrick
Leo Petty
Marvin Janzen
Lee Roy Stucker
Goldie Belle Hole
Velma Lea Johnson

1944

David Toews
Eugene Martin
Robert Turner
Jean Darden
Carrol Evans
Robert Chester
Esther Braun
George Beck
Marion Phillips
Aganetha Regier
Calvin Toews
Maxine Hays
Johnny Regier
Robert English
Mary Goll
Jacob Thesman

1945

Leora Remple
Lila Mae Johnson
Sally Guffey
Lawrence Johnson
Betty Tribble
Eldora Janzen
Matilda Kroeker
Ivan Emmerson
Ruby Voth
Arlene Renken
Jacob Voth
Carolyn Chester

1946

Betty English
Wilbur Janzen
Bill Johnson
Robert Voth
Mary Bittle
Alvina Barkman
LeRoy Tefft
Louis Kirkpatrick
Helena Toews
Tena Voth
LeRayne Tefft

1947

Twyla Dickman
Glenna Johnson

Helen Hardy
Eugene Fields
Edna Mae Braun
Betty Jo Guffey
Phyllis Johnson
Mary Lois Dodds

1948

Dora Kirkpatrick
Walter Johnson
Ramona Hays
Mary Jo Webb
Darlene Weaver
John Barkman
Lavina Ediger
Leona Edwards
Roma Siler
Ikie S. Regier
Bonnie English

1949

Bertha Thesman
Joy Faye Guffey
Ralph Burcham
Helen Kroeker
Floren Johnson
Louis Janzen
Billie Riggs
Doris Miller
Franklin Janzen
Deloris Miller

1950

Gerry Lou Toews
Carl Hays
Ida Belle Kirkpatrick
Lauren Bittle
Joyce Johnson
Douglas Kirkpatrick
Patsy English
Paul Long
Joan Zaloudek
Richard Simpson
Johnny Voth
Leon Smith

1951

Lois Edwards
Avis Dickman
Gene Rickabaugh
John W. Richey
Virgil Breckenridge
Robert Schroeder
Evelyn Johnson
Lendoll Bagshaw
Mary Ann Zaloudek
Robert Hayes
Jack Rickabaugh
John Regier
Doris Lee Seapy
Jacob Barkman

1952

Eldon Rickey
Dorothy Miller
Virgil Schiffman, Jr.
Shirley Johnson

Corbin C. Baker
Bertha Toews
Dorothy Braun

1953

Louisa Toews
Wayne Johnson
Mary Johnson
Howard Kirkpatrick
Bernice Thesman
Sandra Lorenz
Gene Fawcett
Martha Long
Bill Zaloudek
Merle Phillips

1954

Don Chelf
Dorothy Voth
Rene Toews
Dorothy Rickabaugh
Mary Helen Coakley
Dean Ruth
Clyde O'Connor
Rubena Toews
Sylvia Kirkpatrick
Darryl Hays
Wanda Travis
Larry Sowle
Glenda Bittle
Victor Spellman
Dorothy Long

1955

Lois Long
Wanda King
Clarence Burrell
Bill Christiansen
Sue Johnson
Clyde Pratz
Patsy Hays
Donna Fortney
Laveta Frey

1956

Mick Zaloudek
Johnnie Frisk
Rosalie Robertson
George Bittle
Wanda Miller
Jack Zaloudek
Leon Edwards
Bonnie Thesman
Jere Johnson
Rita Ruth
Sonny Lorenz
Connie Fisher
Bob Zaloudek
Judy Zaloudek
Dan Guffey
Celia Selix
Robert Chrisman
Sandra Sanders
Robert Frank Books
Don Guffey
Rex Hays

1957

Warren Johnson
Edna Sanders
Linda Masoner
Wanda Jenkins
Dwayne Janzen
Alresa Parkins
Jack Smith
Judy Kunkel
John Long
Carolyn Guthrie

1958

Carolyn Bittle
Dean Fisher
Bonnie Frisk
Lonnie Ruth
Barbara Lorenz
James Hess
Bob Lorenz
Jackie Outhier
Linda Owen
Darrell Pralle
Pat Robertson
Wilford Toews
Leonard Selsor
Tom Zaloudek
Robert Rickey
Gene Fox
Richard Brown
Dixie Farmer

1959

Winston Guthrie
Jerry Lorenz
Sharon Wofford
Shirley Mauk
F. Donald Sanders
Raymond R. Kasper
Christine Christiansen
Eileen Miller
Delbert L. Ross
Walter W. Jenkins
Jimmy Henke
Viola Regier
Claude Smith
Loretta Buller
Jim Zaloudek
Carol Frey
Tom Long

1960

Jackie Lee
Charles R. Lloyd
Robert Dale Gray
Betty Jo Kirkpatrick
Carol Hermanski
Floyd Siebert
Billie May Clary
Jerry Wells
Dona Kimmell
Betty Robertson
Don L. Selsor
Janet Lorenz
Peggy Sanders

1961
 Dick Chelf
 Charles Leblo
 Errol Wofford
 Louise Wright
 Frank Henke
 Richard Pralle
 Jim Fox
 Lee Steele
 Tondelayo Bittner
 LeRoy Guthrie
 Bob Long
 Diana Toews
 Tommy Smith
 Clifford Lorenz
 Paul Randolph

1962
 Carl Siebert
 Bud Sears
 Ronnie McDonald
 Linda Randolph
 Ted Dickman
 Ginger Semrad
 Roy Sanders
 Sharon Hicks
 Larry Stegeman
 Jim Masoner
 Kay Beaver
 Irvin Hays

Mary Fortney
 Virgil Kasper
 Peggy Smith
 Tim Reid
 Brenda Light
 Jack Light

1963
 Galen Toews
 James Buller
 Velda Clark
 Mike Lorenz
 Mary Hole
 Jim Craig
 Judy Stains
 Donald Bittner
 Nelda Pralle
 Roy Hermanski
 Kerry Burke
 LaDonna Brewer
 Gary Shepard
 Linda Reim
 Dave Bittle
 Jerry Smith
 Jeanne Guthrie
 Kenneth Marler
 Donna Beebe
 Ronnie Lizar
 Danny Zaloudek
 Doris Long

Ronnie Bittle
 Joy Fox
 Glenn McCreary
 David Eger

1964
 Helen Wuerflein
 Jim Johnson
 Jo Ann Toews
 Cathy Smith
 Richard Christiansen
 Shirley Sanders
 Billy Hole
 Delma Roberts
 Rick Lorenz
 Linda Reinhart
 Pat Kimmell
 Wayne Meyer
 Donna Richey
 Howard Gault
 Carolyn Mangus
 Larry Howerton
 Belvia Clary
 Billy Vaden

1965
 Bob Fox
 Rita Thesman
 Velma Hermanski
 Shirley Wuerflein

Dennis Toews
 Linda Endsley
 Clifford Kasper
 Terry Johnson
 Mike Shriver
 Janet Kirkpatrick
 Barbara Schultz
 Paul Nordyke
 Richard Rockwell
 Marilyn Brewer
 Delbert Clary
 Ida Steele
 James Williams

1966
 Allen Bese
 Betty Williams
 Connie Meyer
 Jeri Thesman
 Betty Randolph
 Terry Sears
 Tom Randall
 Larry Simmons
 Ellis Toews
 Jean Bittner
 Arrel Toews
 Martha Fox
 Jack Toney
 Jeanette Lane

