

## **Class of 1943, Kinsley High School**

*Where they were from 1943-1948*

Information taken from the

**Twenty Year History Reunion Book**

August 10-11 1963

### *SUMMARY OF MILITARY SERVICE*

*52 members in the class and 42 wrote a short bio for book.*

*23 men in the class: 20 of them served in the military.*

*18 women in the class: 9 married men who served in the military, (9 unknown)*

*Army = 14; Army Air Corp = 5; Army Corp of Engineers = 1; Navy = 7; Marines = 1*

### **Lucylle Agnew**

After graduation, I worked for my parents. Had my first date with my husband, Harry Gifford, on December 4, 1945. We were engaged in May 1946 and married December 1, 1946. We moved to Elkhart, Kansas, but didn't stay long. We came back to Kinsley. (*Harry Gifford was inducted into the Army, February 28, 1941.*)

### **LaVera Beck**

Left Kinsley and went to work at Cessna in Wichita. Went to work at Coleman a year later and was there for about four years. I came back to Kinsley and went to work for Safeway.

### **Alfred E. Bockhorst**

Entered United States Air Force in June, 1943. Served 21 months in Europe with the 391 Bombardment Group as a bombardier. Honorably discharged from service May 30, 1945 after flying 65 missions over Germany on the point system with 146 points. Was the first man under 21 to get discharged on the point system. In June 1945 accepted position as assistant manager of the Western Light and Telephone Company's ice plant in Kinsley. In September 1945 advanced to manager of ice Plant. Worked as a carpenter on concrete elevators for Chalmers & Borton Construction Company starting in May of 1948.

### **Buford Brodeck**

Drafted in the Air Force in August of 1943, attended airplane mechanics schools in Lincoln, Nebraska and Niagara Falls, New York. Then went to Tampa Florida to McDill Field until I was discharged in 1946.

### **Lyman A. Buell**

Was in the U.S. Navy from November 1943 to June 1946. Married Shirley Holcomb on December 24, 1946. Attained rank of Pharmacist's Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Entered the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy in September 1945. Continued work at K.U. for the next four years.

### **Colleen Calvert**

Worked for Bell Telephone nine months in Wellington, Kansas. Then to Wichita, Kansas where I worked for Boeing Airplane Company until 1946. Moved to New York for 2 ½ years. (Husband: William C. Pierson served in Army Corp of Engineers.)

### **Jo Ann Coover**

Attended Colorado University and Washburn University. Met Jack Adams at Washburn University and married in 1948.

### **William L. (Bill) Craft**

Enlisted in the U.S. Navy in September 1943. Serving aboard the U.S.S. Alabama from early part of 1944 until April 1946 with all engagements in the South Pacific. I was discharged April 24, 1946. I was married to Merle Thennes on June 6, 1946. From January 1947 to August 1948 I farmed for my uncle, Leo Craft. Our first child, Richard Lee, was born July 11, 1947.

### **Edgar E. Crockett**

I was inducted in the U. S. Army in April 1944, spending eight months in the European Theatre Operation and being discharged in June 1946. Started farming and raising cattle along with my father on a farm two miles west of Kinsley. My mother passed away in April 1946 leaving us on our own, and with sorrow.

### **Pat Dean**

1943-1944 -- Secretary – Naval Research Lab. – Washington D.C.  
1944-1945 – Student at Wichita University  
1945-1946 – Secretary – Naval Research Lab. – Washington D.C.  
1946-1947 – Student at K. State – married Arthur B. March  
1947-1948 – Mrs. Student at K. State

### **Maxine P. Flynn**

I was married in 1942 to Alfred Holland (Bub). Our son Larry James Holland was born in September of 1943. I was then divorced in 1945.

### **Ray Gaskill**

The summer and winter after graduation I spent working on the farm with my parents and trying to impress on of the smaller female members of our class. Early in 1944 I decide the World War 2 had dragged on long enough and promptly marched off and joined the Marine Corps. Two years later the Marines had the situation well in hand and I returned home to Kinsley from the Pacific Theater. During my time in the service Joellen Taylor and I corresponded regularly and after my discharge I resumed “courting” her in earnest. After a stormy courtship and engagement of over a year, we were married in the Episcopal Church in Kinsley on November 14, 1947, and the best years of my life began. About this time I said good-bye to the farm and farm life and decided that I would be a city dude. Shortly before we were married I got a job with the Lindas Lumber Co. in Kinsley and spent the next four years

working there learning the lumber business. Jo and I settled down to married life in a little three room house on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and we had fun being young married folks for the next couple years.

### **Bruce Gifford**

Immediately after graduation I entered military service. During World War 2, I served overseas in the ETO with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force as a member of a combat flight crew. Was discharged in October of 1945. Still in 1945, I entered the Spartan School of Aviation in Tulsa, Oklahoma, studying aircraft maintenance engineering. Received my diploma from that school in 1947. Was employed in aircraft maintenance at the Municipal Airport in Dodge City, Kansas, through 1948.

### **Dorothy M. Hampton**

After finishing high school I spent the next three months visiting my father in Las Vegas, Nevada. It had been two years since I had seen him. We took in all the sights and spent some time in California visiting. On December 6, 1943 I was married to Gerald G. Belcher from Lewis, Kansas. We lived on a farm at Trousdale, Kansas, where he was employed. On May 1, 1944, the service called and the next five months my husband spent at Camp Hood, Texas. This is where I spent the next three months. On October 16 1944, he was shipped overseas. During this time I worked. On November 16, 1944, he was wounded in Holland after one month of action. The next three months were spent in hospitals in England arriving home February 1945 to be hospitalized the next ten months.

### **Dorothy Harris**

Attended Fort Hays Kansas State College, graduated in May, 1947 with a B.S. in Home Economics. Married June 1, 1947 to Kenneth Kraus, moved to a farm 6 ½ miles west of Hays, where we operate a dairy farm. (*Kenneth Kraus was inducted into the Army on April 15, 1942.*)

### **Evelyn Hatfield**

In the fall of 1943 I went to Southwestern College, Winfield, KS where I attended two years. September 1945 found me in the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade class room at Kingsdown Consolidated Grade School. I not only taught there two years but most important met Lloyd Stofer, who became my husband in August of 1947. We lived on the farm ten miles south of Kinsley the first year of our marriage. On our first anniversary we moved to Hutchinson which has been our home ever since. Lloyd was employed by Krause Plow Corp. at the time of the move. (*Lloyd Stofer was inducted into the Navy, April 7, 1944.*)

### **Ronald J. Heinz**

After graduating from high school, I stayed on the farm east of Kinsley with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Heinz, Sr. In the late summer of 1946, I started farming in eastern Colorado near Cheyenne Wells. We broke sod, planted wheat, etc. In 1947 harvested first crop in Colorado, and set up our headquarters on one of Dad's sections in our pioneer army hut. Also in spring of 1947 I met Lorraine Laudick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Laudick of Spearville, Ks. who was working with an insurance agency in Dodge City. We became engaged and were married in St. John's Church, Spearville on December 30, 1947, after which we lived in Dodge City until spring of 1948 when we moved to "headquarters" in Colorado. Late in the summer of 1948 I moved my folks to Colorado Springs. After wheat sowing that fall, Lorraine and I went to Colorado Springs and spent most of that fall and winter. While back in Kansas in November 1948 I was caught in a blizzard on my way to

Spearville from Kinsley and was stranded in my car for over 24 hours just three miles out of Spearville. When all let up a Santa Fe train had been stalled near me, so was picked up by them and taken back to Kinsley, then took next train to Spearville.

**Gerald Herrmann**

Drafted U.S. Army March 1943, Basic, Camp Polk, La.  
New Guinea, June – 1944, Philippines, December – 1944  
Drove a tank while in service. Discharged from Army in December 1945  
Married Billie Lund in August, 1947.

**Joe H. Herrmann**

Worked in Hamilton County after graduation from high school. Served in Air Force in European Theatre 22 months. Married in 1948 to Rosemary Miller.

**Edwin Heyen**

July '43 to Oct. '44 employed by L. W. Prunty Drilling Company of Oklahoma City, Okla. Oct. '44 to Sept. '45 Maintenance Crew of Kinsley for the State Highway Commission. Sept. '45 to July '47 U.S. Army. Married to Mae Mostrom.

**Thomas F. Hildenbrand S.**

1943-1947 U.S. Army Corp Engineers. Electrician for George F. Hildenbrand.

**Virgil Jarvis**

I have had a rather simple life since 1943. After graduation I went into the U.S. Army. When discharged, I went to work for Safeway; after a short time with Safeway, I went into plastering.

**Clay E. Korte**

July 1943 entered U.S. Navy  
May 1945 was discharged  
June 1945 entered the F.B.I., Washington, D.C.  
October 1946 resigned F.B.I. and returned to Kinsley, and was employed Elmore  
Chevrolet Co, Kinsley.  
January 1947 married Emma

**Fred Lancaster Jr.**

Entered service after graduation. Went to boot camp in San Francisco, then spent one year on patrol duty on the coast of California. In September of 1944 went overseas and spent eighteen months in the South Pacific until the war was over. Discharged May 1, 1944. Married to Virginia Douglas, Larned, Kansas. Son born February 17, 1947. Worked at Co-Op and Frizell Ranch in Larned.

**L. L. (Jack) Lancaster**

In May 1943, I graduated from Kinsley High School. In June 1943 was inducted into U.S. Army. Served with an artillery unit and spent almost two years in the ETO. March 21, 1946 was

discharged from the service. During my time in the service I met and made many new friends, also seeing quite a few Kinsley-ites. After discharged from the service, I worked at odd jobs until November 1947. I was then hired by the Sinclair Refining Co. as an agent for Kinsley.

### **Nick Lobmeyer**

From 1943 to 1945 I spent at home with my folks at Kinsley. In August 1945, a cousin and I rented a farm in Greeley County. (I still live on it.) This farm is 19 ½ miles from town, you guessed it, I learned to cook. In the spring of 1946 I had surgery at St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend, Ks. We also turned Sod Busters that year and cheated the cattle men out of 550 acres of grass. My cousin quit farming with me in 1947 and my brother Jim started. We cut the wheat crop that year and started me using black ink. We plowed a section of sod belonging to Dad by Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. The most important thing I've done was October 28, 1947, when I married the best looking girl in Ford County, Nellie Strecker. In 1948 we had two crops: a wheat crop and in August, Gerald was born.

### **Fairy McFarren**

Employed as receptionist at Pfiester Studio at Dodge City, Ks. until July 1944. Married to Fred M. Bolen on July 19, 1944. Fred was a Radioman in the U.S. Navy. We spent 16 months, from September 1944 to January 1946 on Martha's Vineyard Island, off the coast of Cape Cod in Massachusetts. We spent a year traveling in Kansas and Oklahoma while Fred was doing relief Agent-Operator work for the Santa Fe Railroad. In 1947 we moved to Pratt, at which time Fred accepted a position with the Business Equipment Company.

### **Jesse Molina**

Married Anne Chacon on November 16, 1943.

Served in Army three years, 2 ½ years overseas in Pacific.

I started to work for Santa Fe R.R. in 1947.

In 1947, Patricia, our first child, was born.

### **Soledad Molina**

I worked for Boeing Aircraft Co., was married and my first three children were born during this period of time.

### **Arnold Ploger**

After graduation I continued helping my father on the farm until I was inducted into the Army on January 3, 1945. I was in service until June 5, 1946. Served in the Pacific from July until time of discharge. Returned back to the farm. Went one semester to K.U, in the fall of 1946, quit school and took over Dad's farm along with my younger brother.

### **John J. Riisoe**

Farmed with my Dad in 1943 and 1944. In October of 1944 went to the Navy. Went through boot camp at Great Lakes. Finished boot camp February 10<sup>th</sup> and got married to Marjorie Shelley on February 11, 1945. I went through Basic Engineering School at Great Lakes and went aboard ship (D. D. 497) a destroyer, May 8, 1945 at Newport, R.I. While waiting to go aboard ship, I ran into Mr.

Swaim, our math and bookkeeping teacher. He was an Ensign at that time. Went to Cuba and through Panama Canal and while on liberty in San Diego ran into another former teacher, Mr. Royer who was stationed at the San Diego Navy Base. To Japan for invasion and then back to Charleston, S. Carolina. Discharged April 7, 1946. Took up farming with my father and in 1947 moved to the farm where we now live. We have been engaged in general farming and the raising of Angus cattle ever since.

### **Marjorie Shelly**

I took a job at the Kinsley court house as secretary to Francis Rankin, County Engineer. Enjoyed my work there and college plans faded away when Jon J. and I became engaged. When he was called into the service, we decided it would be wise to wait for marriage. The old saying “absence makes the heart grow fonder” proved true, and we were married on his first boot leave, February 11, 1945. I went to north Chicago with him and worked a short but very interesting time at Abbots Laboratory. He could only be with me on week-ends. Came home when he was restationed and worked as typist for Mr. Harley Thompson. John J. received a 21 day leave to help his Dad prepare for harvest, and I went back to New York with him till he was shipped out. Went to Kansas City to meet him when he received his discharge on April 7, 1946. Short honeymoon. John J. went into farming with his Dad.

### **Robert K. Stach**

Worked for Santa Fe Railroad October 1943 to February 1944. Entered U.S. Army March 1944. Went overseas E.T.O. September 1944 with the 100<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division. Served in the Army of Occupation at Stuttgart and Heidelberg, Germany. Discharged June 1946. Went back to Santa Fe Railroad and worked in Kansas, Colorado and Texas.

### **Donald L. Tate**

Entered U.S. Army soon after graduation in May 1943. I put in most of the time from August 1943 to January 5, 1946 in the E.T.O. My wife and I were married February 17, 1946. She is the former June T. Bailey of Isabel, Kansas.

### **Joellen Taylor**

In the fall of 1943 I enrolled at Kansas State University in the school of Journalism. After completing my junior year, I came home and started concentrating in another field. My mission was accomplished in 1947 when Ray Gaskill and I walked down the aisle together and he agreed to “love, honor and obey” till death do us part. This without a doubt was probably the number one moment in my life.

### **Kathleen E. Thennes**

Graduated in 1943. Worked at Duckwall’s in Kinsley until May 1944. Moved to Sublette, Kansas in August 1944. Worked in drugstore in Sublette 1945 and 1946. Married in 1946, moved to Texas, had one son, Joe David, bon in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1947. Moved to near Paris, Texas and lived there until 1950.

### **Doris Westphal**

During 1944 and part of 1945 I worked in defense plants. Worked at odd jobs after that. I was married to Oscar Harzmann December 31, 1947 at Haven, Kansas.

**Wilma Jean Westphal**

Went to Dodge City Jr. College the summer of 1943. Taught school south of Offerle that winter. I spent my winters teaching and summers in summer school. Also went to Hays summer sessions.

**Wanda Weyrich**

1943-44 Went to college at Hays State, Hays, Kansas

1944-45 Went to the University of Wichita at Wichita, Ks for one semester then went back to Kinsley and worked in the County Health Office until September.

1945-46 Worked for a year in Washington, D.C. for the Naval Research Lab.

October 6, 1946 was married to Wilbur D. Rehmert (Wimp.) (*Wilbur Rehmert was inducted into the Army on October 30, 1944.*)

November 6, 1948 our son Wylie Dean was born.

**Mary Ellen Whitton**

After graduation I worked for Ray Smith in his confectionary store. I worked a while in Wichita during 1944. On February 1, 1945 I started to work for A. L. Duckwell Co. in Kinsley.

**Elva June Winchester**

I worked in Seattle from April 1944 to February 1945. Entered Southwestern College, Winfield, Ks. Majored in Home Economics with minor in Physical Ed. Worked summers in Seattle with exception of 1947 which was spent in summer school at Winfield. Graduated from Southwestern with AB Degree in 1948. During college I belonged to the following organizations: Kappa Omicron Phi, Gamma Omicron Phi, Student Christian Association, Wesley Fellowship, Emma Wilson Guild, Christian Service League and Sigma Pi Phi. Served as member of Student Council during senior year, earlier as treas. of Student Christian Association. Received Sigma Pi Phi honors and was on Dean's Honor Roll. Was a member of college church choir. Worked as student librarian, student secretary to professor of religion and in the school cafeteria.

