

# Tigerville News

*"Remembering the Past – Celebrating the Present"*

**Twentieth Edition – April 2014 Ephrata, Washington Editor Beverly Mayer**

## **EHS-100 Reunion News Commemorative Gift**

There is a lot of excitement surrounding the plans for the EHS-100 Reunion. After months of trying to come up with a plausible plan for a gift to leave to Ephrata High School in commemoration of the 100-year celebration, the EHS student representative to the committee has come up with an idea that meets the approval of all involved and is sure to please former students of EHS. Chance Flanigan, who will graduate with the class of 2014, suggested removing the bell that hangs in the bell tower at the front entrance of the 1953 high school building and creating a "celebration bell" that can be used at various school sponsored athletic events and activities.



Chance is a very thorough young man and he had the project well planned before he approached the Ephrata School Board to enlist their approval of removing the bell from its current placement and gaining the board's acceptance of the bell display. Within hours of receiving approval Chance involved Rock Witte, Kent Devine and Dick Russell, members of the Ephrata School District staff, in the first step of the project, removing the bell. The bell will eventually be mounted on a cart which will be manufactured in the school's welding shop. Before the manufacturing begins Chance will be involving math teachers with drawing cart specifications. A commemorative plaque will be attached to the display.

According to Kathleen Allstot, advisor to EHS Associated Student Body officers, "The 100-year reunion committee, along with EHS student body and senior class members, will collaborate on having the bell cleaned, mounted on a movable framework and put back in use." She indicated that, "At this point the bell's origins are murky, but since photos of earlier EHS schools show bell towers, it is assumed that the bell came from the earlier schools and was installed in the "new" building in 1953. Without a clapper or any way to toll the bell, it has been mute for some time." Life-time community member and 1938 graduate of EHS Bill Robinson indicated, "I can't be certain where it came from but I know it has to be older than I am."



Chance is aiming high, he plans to have the bell ready to commemorate and celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2014 on the evening of June 6<sup>th</sup> at Kiwanis Field. He is a successful, enterprising young man – he'll get it done. The bell will be on display during the opening ceremonies of the EHS-100 Reunion on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Commemorative Coin

A commemorative coin has been created in celebration of the Ephrata High School 100-Year Reunion. The coin will be available for purchase during the reunion weekend of June 7 to 9. Cost of the coin is \$10.00. Proceeds derived from the sales will go to the Ephrata High School Alumni Association to be used toward scholarships for future EHS graduates.



The coin is 1.75" in diameter and of antique brass with most of the surface painted as detailed in the color legend. The antique brass color in the legend and artwork shows differently than the finished color of the coin. The coin is coated with an epoxy finish to give it extra brilliance and will come in a plastic protective pouch. Special thanks to Don Burrows – EHS '60 for his assistance with the design of the coin. Contact Marsha Crawford Hart – EHS '73 at [mkhart2@frontier.com](mailto:mkhart2@frontier.com) for further information.

## [www.ehs-100.com](http://www.ehs-100.com)

The EHS-100 Reunion committee can't stress it enough.....all information regarding the June reunion can be found at this site. It is necessary to continually point this out as every day we hear from former students of Ephrata High School who are just now finding out about the reunion. We are happy for the continued interest in the reunion. The numbers are growing every day with regard to attendance. Check out the website's Register Now page and check out the numbers! They change every 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month until the pre-registration deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Involvement by class members in getting out the word to their classmates is very important. Start a chain reaction and inform your class about [www.ehs-100.com](http://www.ehs-100.com). The reunion committee appreciates any and all co-operation in that direction. Also, check out the registration page to see who of your class will be attending. Plan a get-together just for your class. Several restaurants in Ephrata have rooms for small-group gatherings and will be happy to help with planning. Go to Contact Us page on website to request information.

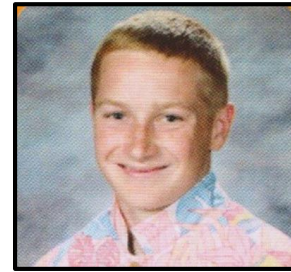


**Attention: If you have pre-registered but have not received your express pass document please contact Bev at [sagehen@accima.com](mailto:sagehen@accima.com).**

## Ephrata High School Past and Present

### Tiger Tales

Student Body News with Chance Flanigan  
ASB Representative to EHS-100 Reunion Committee



**Commemorative Bell:** As you may have already read, I am engaged in spearheading the development of a gift to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first class to graduate from Ephrata High School. Plans are moving forward and I plan to have the project completed when graduation and reunion times arrive. This project will involve several different people; we have only 66 days from April 1<sup>st</sup> to do the job. I believe this is a commemoration that will be recognized for years to come.

**Lighting around school:** Another project that I have taken on is to lay the foundation for installing better lighting on the EHS Campus. I have noticed several dark spots that are detrimental to school safety. After presenting a power-point presentation to the school board they agreed that the matter should and will be addressed. I was supported in this project by district employee Rock Witte and classmate Matt Mortimer.

**Spring sports season is off and running:** Just like these earlier EHS track team members pictured



at left, current track participants began the season hoping to make their mark on the record books of the school. For the last six years the boys track team has been the dominate team in eastern Washington class 2A track circles. Six times, league champions – six times, district champions. They have won 47 straight dual league matches and looking for more.

The 40-girl track team is looking to be competitive this season. Competition has been completed with Ephrata's annual Ray Cross Invitational (30 teams). The Tiger boys won the meet for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row and the Lady Tigers placed 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Moses Lake. At the Best in Basin Competition in Quincy (6 Basin teams) the boys and girls team both outscored their fellow competitors by double to win.

**Spring break over:** Sports team will be back in action beginning April 7<sup>th</sup> with the girls' golf team hosting a match at Lakeview Golf and Country Club. The golf squad recently won the 2A-1A title at the Apple Tree Golf Course in Yakima.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> the Othello Huskies will take to the courts against the Tiger netters. The boys' tennis team lost three state participants from last year but is looking to rebuild around a young group of athletes who have experienced success on the courts. The girls' tennis team is stronger in experience and look to be competitive. Early season finds each team is at 1 and 1.

The fastpitch team is looking forward to a double-header with East Valley on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The girls are currently 3 and 3 on the diamond. The 14-member roster is young – two seniors, five juniors, three sophomores and five freshman will shift between varsity and junior varsity.



Boys' soccer team is scheduled to take on Prosser at home on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The team currently has a non-league record of 4-2. The team has built up in size to a 46-member roster and competition on the team, as well as on the field against opponents, is likely to be high.

The Tiger baseball team is looking to improve on last season's record. Their last victory was against the Eastmont Wildcats; putting the team standing at 2 and 3.

The boys' golf team will be in action on April 14<sup>th</sup>, hoping to repeat their successful 2013 season. Both golf teams have the experience to make that happen as both squads are returning players who competed at state last spring and both are expected to compete well in the Central Washington Athletic Conference.

**In addition to sports:** Musicians, vocalists, actors, artists, club and organization members, and ASB officers are an important aspect of providing a well-rounded experience at Ephrata High School. For me it is a balancing act between academics, student participation and athletics. Added to that is my membership on the EHS-100 Reunion committee. I am committed to being a good representative of the student body.

Just before spring break the Associated Student Body elections were held. The names of the new school leaders will be announced in my May column. At this time try-outs for the cheer squad have also been held. The names of successful candidates will also be included in the report. The ASB sponsored Variety Show was held with great success.

Currently, the Future Business Leaders of America EHS members are gearing up for an up-coming State Competition. The drama department has held tryouts and the cast chosen for their next production showing on May 29, 30, and 31. Play practices are scheduled up to that date. The Future Farmers of American group is busy at their greenhouse and out at the FFA barn.

The Music Department has involved its many students in a variety of ways. They recently participated in choir competitions and held their Spring Choral Concert. Just before spring break they went on tour to share their musical talents. Pre-qualified choir members will be participating in the State Solo/Ensemble Contest April 24 to 26.

The Tiger Band held a spring concert and attended the Large Group Band Festival. The band is looking forward to participating in the Lilac Festival in Spokane and the Ephrata Sage 'N Sun Festival.

On May 27 and May 28 the Fine Arts Festival will be held showcasing the works of students of the Art Department. In conjunction will be the Fine Arts Choral Concert on the first night and the Fine Arts Band Concert on the second night. The ten finalists of the poster design contest sponsored by the EHS-100 Reunion committee will be on display.

In anticipation of graduation exercises on June 6<sup>th</sup> for the class of 2014 several activities are in the works. The senior parents are sponsoring the annual Mr. Senior contest on May 11. Funds earned go to support the graduation party to be held the night of graduation. May 12<sup>th</sup> the Senior Reception will be held to honor graduates and their parents. The evening's entertainment includes a special photo showing of the 2014 graduates in their earlier days. The seniors will also participate in up-coming award and scholarship assemblies.

## **Ephrata Present**

### **The Year Rainmaker Hatfield Came to Town**

Most everyone is familiar with the adage of "April showers bring May flowers". What if there were no April showers? What could be done? This is a story about people who lived around the Grant county seat in 1920; they wanted rain, and in fact, they were willing to try any old scheme to get it, even employing a professional rainmaker. According to the May 13, 1920 issue of The Big Bend Empire, in Waterville:

"The Ephrata Commercial Club has entered into negotiations with Chas. M. Hatfield of Los Angeles, who claims to have had success in rainmaking in other sections. The fact that the commercial club of Ephrata became interested in Mr. Hatfield's proposition made it possible to guarantee \$6,000 to Mr. Hatfield. Under the contract with the Commercial Club he is to receive for first inch nothing, for second inch \$3000; third, \$3000 additional with a time limit of June 10. We understand that Mr. Hatfield is now on the ground and busy with his experiments."

Charles Mallory Hatfield was already a famous figure throughout the West by 1920. The dapper 45-year-old sewing machine salesman had a strong resume, he claimed, of creating conditions which would result in rain for the parched corners of the world. His method included mixing a concoction of 23 chemicals (to this day the ingredients remain a secret) and setting this stew in vats atop 20-foot-high towers near bodies of water.

Hatfield's place in the history of "pluviculture" earned him an entire chapter in Clark C. Spence's "The Rainmakers" (1980). One editor is quoted in this work on the odoriferous impact of Hatfield's towers, writing they smelled like "a limburger cheese factory has broken loose... these gases smell so bad that it rains in self-defense." Electricity was also used in the process.

He was active in "pluviculture" from the turn of the century to the 1930s. His work took him all over the arid regions of the world, but much of his activity took place in his home area of Southern California. Although he was self-credited with a large number of success stories, he met his match in Ephrata.

The rainmaker had set up his operation in the east side of Moses Lake and became an instant regional media sensation. He erected a tower constructed of 4-by-4s about 16 feet square and over 20 feet high, with vats containing his 23 top-secret ingredients. Sure enough, the area was rained on, but less than an inch.

Weathermen pointed out that the distribution of the wet stuff was too vast to give Hatfield any credit. They said the rainmaker took a long chance and won. But it was still far short of what the inventor promised.

The Wenatchee World seemed to take a special interest in covering this story. After Hatfield's June 10 deadline passed without reaching the desired goal, legendary World publisher Rufus Woods paid a visit to Moses Lake to conduct an interview.

Some of the rainmaker's observations made during the interview concerning the Ephrata-Moses Lake area included: "The conditions in this country are the hardest to make a showing in of any place I have been. When I get my forces at work, so often the wind comes up and blows them all away."

"I have operated from Dawson to Mexico and Texas but this is the driest atmosphere I have ever had to deal with."

"It is harder to produce one inch here than it is five in California. I gave these people a better contract than I should have had I known the conditions in this locality."

Hatfield also made a political prediction: "It is only a matter of time till the government will come to me...I know all these weather men poke fun at this. But they always tell what can't be done when I am starting. It's the same old hash, they go for me at the start. But results are what count. I have never failed to produce the record rainfall in every place I have operated."

But fail he did at Moses Lake and he quietly dismantled his tower, collected no fee and set out for the next customer. His pluvicultural career was over by the 1930s. He died in 1958.

## IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO THE HATFIELD STORY.....

Reported in the June 4, 1948 edition of the Grant County Journal: "The worst flood in the history of Ephrata struck the city at 9 p.m. last Thursday when a cloudburst in the hills west of town sent an eight-foot wall of water roaring down the creek. The creek, which is normally dry most of the year, carries the drainage from three canyons west and northwest of town and then makes a right-angle turn at the bridge at the western edge of the town and runs north to a drainage basin.

Damage running into thousands of dollars occurred at the courthouse when a flash flood inundated the basement. The concrete floors in both the county engineer's office and vault have pushed up and broken in a number of pieces. The heating plant and motors located in the sub-basement, which were entirely covered with water, will have to be replaced.

All of the wooden furniture in the county agent's, county engineer's and county sheriff's offices is ruined. Almost \$2000 worth of photostatic equipment and films was lost when the photostatic room was flooded.

The greatest loss in the county auditor's vault was the original tracings of the plats in Grant County. Most of the permanent records were above the high water mark of two feet.

County Assessor John Powers and his deputies are cleaning mud from the thousands of addressograph plates stored in the basement.

### Field Maps Escape

Most of the field maps and road records escaped damage in the county engineer's office. All of the blueprints can be dried out and used. Only the older records stored in the bottom shelves of Sheriff Gilman's office were destroyed.

Some damage was done to the walls and floors in the sheriff's office. Several mattresses were lost in the county jail and almost all of the county sheriff's supplies and forms.

County officials, assisted by county commissioner George Sparks, have worked all week to rehabilitate the basement of the courthouse. Tuesday the prisoners were moved back into the jail from the city jail and Sheriff Gilman opened his office for business.

### Major Dirt Removed

The greatest damage to the city is the quantity of dirt deposited on the streets, in the meter boxes of the water system, and settlings in the storm and sanitary sewer systems and in many basements. Most of the major dirt has already been removed from the city streets by the 13-man crew assisted by many private individuals who have borrowed the fire hose from the city to flush the streets.

Streets which will receive a permanent seal coat in the next few days are being cleaned first. Arnold Pontius, city engineer, said "The other streets will be cleaned as soon as the crew can get to them. It is the aim of the city to have every trace of the flood removed by the last week in June when the Miss Washington Pageant and Columbia Basin Jubilee will be presented in Ephrata".

"No contamination of the city water resulted from the flood," Pontius stated. "One of the two pumps had to be repaired because the motor became saturated".

### Fire Hose is Damaged.

Severe damage has resulted to the city fire hose due to its use for flushing streets. Enough is on hand however in case of need and the city has sent in an order for more.

"Citizens who wish to rid themselves of the dust nuisance may borrow a hose and flush their own street," the city engineer said.

Mr. Pontius estimates that it will cost the city almost \$4000 to remove all traces of the flood.

Citizens of Ephrata are indebted to Mayor McCosh of Moses Lake who sent two trucks and several men to Soap Lake for pumping equipment and to Quincy for several 100 feet of hose sent over Thursday evening to assist with the flood disaster. The Bureau of Reclamation put their equipment to work cleaning streets

immediately. All private contractors came to the rescue including the M. E. Nelson construction company who unload equipment from his trucks, Charles Messar furnished truck and equipment. Burd and Bush were on the job with their shovel and truck and Elmer Olson assisted with his equipment. Besides, many businessmen donated their time and work to cleaning the mud from the streets.

The city crew worked 22 hours the first day and 14 hours the next two days in attempting to restore the streets and business district.

#### Phone Company Cable Ruined

The worst damage that the telephone company received from the flood was when the big cable at the courthouse became soaked through with water and mud. Only temporary service has been restored to the courthouse. "Many phones were out of order due to the lightening," Pat Mansfield, manager, said.

Glen Smothers, of the P.U.S. estimates their loss at between \$5000 and \$6000 due to the electrical storm and cloud burst May 27. Every transformer fuse except two blew out in the Wheatland and Sagebrush Flats districts and all but one at Grant Orchards. "Four poles washed out on the hill west of town and haven't been found yet," said Mr. Smothers. There was extensive damage to the P.U.D. system in all of the surrounding towns, including Quincy, Marlin, Wilson Creek and Ephrata.

Repair crews worked day and night from Thursday evening until Sunday in order to restore service to the county.

#### Sagebrush Flats Hard Hit

In Sagebrush Flats west of town where the cloudburst struck, the McAfee's house was partly flooded, most of the trees in the Stover Canyon were blown down and J. M. Stover's barn and tool shed were completely demolished. The barn on the B. F. Boruff's ranch was also wrecked.

Only about a fourth of the flood struck the town of Ephrata; at least half of it flowed west toward Waterville and the rest followed the natural channel of Iron Springs Creek down to the flat north of town. "The dike built by the county and city at the mouth of Ephrata canyon, the paved streets, and the storm sewer system all helped in preventing more damage," said Mayor Drittenbas