



Tigerville News

"Remembering the Past – Celebrating the Present"

Eleventh Edition – June, July 2013 Ephrata, Washington Beverly Mayer

EHS-100 Reunion Report

Keep Spreading the Word. Communication on Facebook and the internet seems to be doing a good job of connecting up and notifying EHS alumni and former administrators, teachers, and support staff regarding the 100-year reunion. The latest far-reaching "Contact Us" on the reunion's website comes from Janice Amo Stefaniw who indicated that she plans to attend the reunion from Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand! It would certainly be amazing if someone beats that distance on their trip to Ephrata for the weekend of June 7-9, 2014. The reunion committee is grateful for the co-operation of former EHS class leaders and their class members in the reunion's notification process.

No EHS-100 Reunion committee meeting in July. The EHS-100 committee has decided to "take a vacation" from the scheduled July meeting. Meetings will reconvene in August to gear up for several projects and activities which will begin in earnest in September. The committee will not be totally inactive; we intend to have an information table on the lawn of the Nat Washington House during the Basin Summer Sounds Music Festival on July 19 and 20 which takes place at the Grant County Courthouse. The Washington House will be a prime location to make contact with alumni who return to Ephrata each year to take in the festival billed as the "Best FREE Music Festival in Washington!" For more information: www.basinsummersounds.com.

Got an Idea? Is there a project or activity that you would like to see as part of the EHS-100 reunion? Want to hold a tailgate party and get the old football heroes together? Put together a baseball game with the old-timers and honor state champions? Sponsor an afternoon tea and honor former teachers? Find a jukebox and hold a KOVE night? How about a "fun run" up Beezley Hill? Please feel free to share your ideas on the "Contact Us" section of this website. The committee is eager to hear from you!

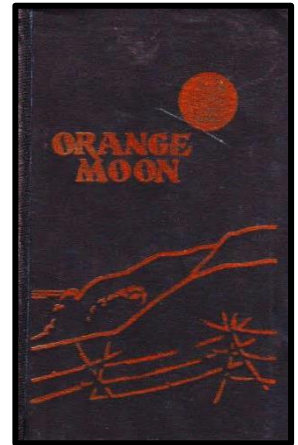
EHS Annuals for sale. The EHS-100 Reunion committee is offering annuals from past years on a first-come basis. A total of 54 annuals were contributed to the EHS-100 Reunion from the Grant County Genealogical Society and the Doug and Madalyn Miller family (Miller's Photography). Funds from the sale of the annuals will be divided between the society and reunion and be used to support their causes.

Cost per annual is \$10.00 plus \$5.00 shipping costs for mail delivery. Place your order soon to ensure that you have first choice; most years are one-annual only. Years available include: 1947, 1948, 1949, 1951, ~~1953~~, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1987, 1988, 1989, ~~1993~~, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, and 2006. Go to "Tiger Talk" at this website for information and order form; "Contact Us" section for questions regarding the annuals.

First EHS Annual – The Orange Moon 1922-23

“Foreword”

“This being the first annual published by the Ephrata High School, the establishment of a number of potential school traditions was one of the duties of the staff. Among these was the choosing of a suitable name, a name not only suitable for the first annual but for the annuals the Ephrata High School will publish in the future. The name must be significant of two things, the school and the location.



Deeming this too important a decision to leave in the hands of a few, the staff decided to invite every student in the school to contribute a name and offered an annual as a prize to the author of the winning name. The names were submitted and a committee consisting of two teachers and a member of the staff chose the three most suitable and gave to the school the privilege of deciding by ballot the name it wanted its annual to possess. The name selected, and its author is “The Orange Moon”..... Bernice Ohneck, Class of 1925. The first annual portrayed on the cover the school colors; in the minds of the students the picturesque harvest moons which rise over the hills facing the school.”



“Dedication”

“To show in some measure our appreciation of the kindly interest you take in us; of the ready sympathy you have for our plans and undertakings; of the loyalty and co-operation with which you support our every activity; people of Ephrata, to you we dedicate this annual.”

Annual Staff

Top: Editor-in-Chief Betty Cross, Business Manager Everett Gibbons.
Middle: Assistant Business Manager Dale McMillen.
Bottom: Athletic Editor Arthur Short and Joke Editor Helen McGrath.

2013 “The Tiger” Annual Staff & Cover



Staff members include front: Ofelia Bazan, Claribel Valverde, Kayla Fisher, Laycee Jaderlund, Breanne Millard, Bailey Moody, Jessica Jessen Buchmann, Khaila Severin, Rafael Mendoza, Cassandra McConnell, Austin Moore and back: Jazelda Garcia, Jaimin Fitting, Kimberly Wallace, Brook Stutzman, Emily Slane, Jolena Ketola, Diana Avila, Dania Cedillos, Leonardo Garcia, Jasmin Lopez, Yonathan Mendoza. Class adviser is Sarah Vasquez. Cover photo by Austin Moore. **“A picture is worth 2013 words.”**

Sage 'N Sun Festival Parade



Whether it is the parade of the Sun Festival, Sagebrush Olympics, or any other designator it is always a special event with Ephrata residents, both old and young, lining sunny Basin Street. The EHS-100 Reunion committee's entries were selected to lead off the parade following the color guard. Bill Robinson and Elaine Porter, both EHS '38, served as the Grand Marshals. They planned to drive the parade route in Bill's 1938 truck but he couldn't get it started and almost missed the parade! He arrived in his antique automobile just as the EHS Band struck up their music.



Next, Joan Burd Archer, EHS May Queen of 1943, was scheduled to ride in a 1978 Corvette convertible owned by Dave Mayer – EHS '80. Unfortunately she was not able to appear so a substitute appeared in her place...Gratia Davis Wright – EHS '54. When Gratia was asked to substitute she said that she had never been a queen before. The EHS-100 Reunion committee was happy to give her that opportunity and she rose to the occasion.

Next up... Denver Morford's Jeep all deck out for the Class of 2013 which had graduated the night before. Members of the class were determined to participate in the parade, but unfortunately not enough determination to get out of bed at 10:00am after a long night and early morning at the senior party. A Tiger mascot was recruited to take their places.



The Tiger was followed by a float featuring reunion information signs. EHS student leaders, dressed in their orange EHS-100 shirts, walked along this entry throughout the parade route handing out candy and greeting all the youngsters. (Even though they were specifically advised to be sparing with the

candy distribution, their candy bags were empty half-way through the parade.) For whatever reason, the EHS-100 Reunion's contribution to the parade earned third-place honors and we hadn't even signed up to be judged! The kids were happy with the award!



The Tiger band, cheerleaders, and drill team displayed their "Tiger Pride". It was a fun being in the parade. We gave the citizens of Ephrata a sample of what a good time the EHS-100 Reunion celebration will be!

Courthouse Information Table



Members of the EHS-100 Reunion Committee, Gail Smith, Barb Deycous, Greg Harvill, and Bev Mayer, spent Saturday afternoon, June 8th, participating in the festivities happening on the lawn of the Grant County Courthouse. The committee was kept busy informing festival goers about the 2014 reunion for Ephrata High School. A number of EHS alumni stopped to visit, purchase available past-years annuals, donate to the reunion expense fund, and list their names on the e-mail list of the EHS-100 Reunion.

The official poster of the 100-year reunion was on display and it was noted that it will be available for purchase starting in September. Merchandise, including hats and shirts, were also on display and are available through the Ephrata Athletic Club/Sole Performance in Ephrata. Advertisements will appear in the near future.

Information regarding membership in the Ephrata High School Alumni Association was distributed to members of the community. Alumni, as well as Ephrata High School supporters who are welcome as associates, were encouraged to join the association and support the reunion and scholarships for future Ephrata graduates. Life-time members of the association will be presented a 12" x 18" copy of the 2014 reunion poster which is suitable for framing.

Courthouse Ceremony



EHS-100 Reunion Chairperson Bev Mayer was honored by the Ephrata School District when Superintendent Dr. Jerry Simon awarded her the 2013 Washington Association of School Administrator's (WASA) Community Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding community leadership and contributions to the improvement of Public Education. Simon indicated, "For years Bev has been active in recording and celebrating local-area history. In addition, she has contributed her time with elementary students creating programs and costumes commemorating historical events and has created many costumes for high school plays and events. Beginning as an EHS student, and then as a mother and grandmother of EHS graduates, she has always been a strong supporter of the school's activities. As chairperson of the EHS-100 Reunion committee she is drawing upon her past experiences with centennial projects – the celebration of the Mayer family farm's homestead filing and the celebration of the creation of Grant County." (Editor's comment: "I am pleased to receive this award but no recognition is necessary, I'm just doing what I like to do. I usually have some kind of "project" in the works and right now I am happy to be a part of the reunion committee.")

During this ceremony an official invitation was extended to the Ephrata community to participate in the activities planned up to and during the 100-year reunion. The continued growth and success of EHS is due in part to the passage of levies and the support of school activities by the people of Ephrata; the invite was appropriate.

Life Story of First Graduate of Ephrata High School

Adaline Sanders was one of the three young women who made up the EHS Class of 1914, graduating on May 14, 1914 at the Kam Theater. She was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on May 27, 1895. At the turn of the century she moved with her mother, father and two brothers onto a homestead near Wheeler (Moses Lake) making her a pioneer of the Big Bend area. The homestead, which was later deeded to Adaline's mother by President Theodore Roosevelt, was in family ownership for many years.

In 1909 the family moved to Ephrata where Adaline's father Conrad T. Sanders became one of Grant County's first politicians, transcribing the records that separated and created Grant County from the county of Douglas. Adaline and her parents were among the first employees in Grant County's first courthouse.

While attending EHS, Adaline was an honor student and prominent in debate. She was a member of Ephrata's first girl basketball team.

On July 21, 1919 she married her school sweetheart Richard J. Catlow at the Sanders' home in Ephrata. The young couple moved to Seattle where they lived until her death on April 7, 1971 at the age of 76 years. She was the mother to two daughters, Helen and Mary. Adaline's life was dedicated to her family along with Girl Scouts, Jobs Daughters, Eastern Star, and the Emma Chadwick Memorial Nursing Home. She led a life filled with service to others.

Adaline is shown below on the left with Ray Deycous – EHS '23 and fellow 1914 graduate Katherine Kirkpatrick Williams while attending a reunion of the first 25 classes of EHS held in June, 1968. Cameo pictures of Adaline and Katherine taken 54 years earlier.



Alumni, along with their spouses, teachers and others closely associated with the early day school activities were present for the grand occasion. The first activity of the 1968 reunion was a Saturday night dinner/dance/program at St. Rose of Lima School gymnasium. On Sunday the reunion attendees met at "the old green school building" for a picnic. In all, over 300 people gathered in the shade of the poplar trees near the school where many of the early classes graduated. Without a doubt... a good time was had by all and a high standard of successful attendance was set for future reunions.

The 1968 reunion, including classes from 1914 through 1939, was so thoroughly enjoyed by the alumni that in 1971 another reunion including classes from 1914 through 1950 was held. Special guest and speaker was Professor B. H. Claypoole, 92 years old, who was the Ephrata Superintendent of Schools in the early 1920s.

Tiger Tales

EHS Student Body News with Hunter Sears



New reporter. This is my last report; I will be handing over my duties representing the student body of EHS on the EHS-100 Reunion committee to Chance Flanigan – EHS '14. I have enjoyed being involved with the committee and Mrs. Allstot, the ASB advisor who is also an EHS-100 Reunion committee member. I know that Chance will enjoy carrying out his responsibilities. Next year will be a very exciting year for our school. I urge all current students to take part in the 100-year celebration of the anniversary of the first class to graduate from EHS. I am off to the University of Washington to pursue an education in the field of medicine. I will

be back to celebrate my first class reunion and take part in the EHS-100 Reunion in June 2014. *Hunter*

Drama Department. The final curtain for the EHS drama students was drawn after presenting "The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe", C.S. Lewis children's classic. Dakota Teterud starred as Peter and Tyler Hess played the part of Asian the Lion. The large cast also included younger actors from the local middle and grade schools. The EHS Performing Arts Center was also the scene of another play, "Annie", which required 45 actors to complete the cast.



Spring sports. With graduation nearing, the spring sports league events came to a close and it was off to state tournament competition. After finishing first in league competition for the sixth time in a row (boys) the Tiger's track and field teams sent 18 (16 boys, 2 girls) team members to state competition held in Tacoma. The boys team finished in third position at the WIAA State 2A Championships. Individual winner was Johnnie Green who won the 100-meter race in 10.91 seconds and was 2nd in the 200-meter race (missing 1st by 1/10th of

a second) and finished 2nd in the 400-meter (broke the state meet record but was 1.3 seconds behind the winner). The 400-meter relay team (Green, Marcus Williams, Dekker Lovitt and Loyd Burleson) finished in 2nd place. Jake Laird finished 3rd in the discus and Layton Lange finished 8th in the triple jump. The best finish by a Lady Tiger was Kristen McDonnell placing 4th in the javelin.

The boys tennis team qualified three members in state competition at the University of WA, Hunter Sears-singles along with Michael Bosnar and Matt Jones-doubles. No medals were earned. The boys soccer, and the baseball, and softball teams did not qualify for state competition.

In golf the Ephrata girls finished in 6th place in team scoring at the state championships at Spanaway. Kendall Sage finished in a tie for 17th position and Katie Hilliard finished 39th. Also competing was Tressa Davis. The boys golf team did not place but Aaron Whalen earned honors as 2A state champion by besting the closest competitor by five strokes. State tournament team mates included Bryan Heer and Josh Johnson.



First-Team Central Washington Athletic Conference Honors. Boys Track & Field: Sprinter-Jonnie Green, Hurdles-Evan McMartin, Throwing-Jake Laird, Horizontal and Vertical Jumps-Erik Berens. Girls Track & Field: Hurdler-Kristen McDonnell. Boys Tennis: Singles-Hunter Sears and Doubles-Michael Bosnar and Matt Jones. Girls Golf: Kendall Sage, Tressa Davis, and Katie Hilliard. Boys Golf: Aaron Whalen and Bryan Heer.

Golfer Kendall Sage was named CWAC "Player of the Year".



Earning top coaches honors were: Boys Track and Field Coach-Dan Martin, Boys Tennis-Missy Beierman, and Girls Golf-Heidi Burns. Congratulations to all coaches, athletes and managers for their participation in Tiger sports. To the left: Coaches Williams and Beierman. No photo available for Coach Burns.



Art students recognized. The Ephrata Lions Club annually sponsors a spring art contest and recognizes the efforts of the student artists. "Best in Show" was awarded to Michael Bosnar's impressive collection of oil/acrylic paintings featuring a woman in a field of vibrant orange poppies. For those attending the EHS-100 Reunion next year be sure to check out the mural covering the side wall of the Lee Theater to enjoy more of Michael's artistic talent.

Other award-winning artists were Kimberly Beck, Andrea Lopez, Lindsay Bair, and Carl Dickinson. The EHS art instructor is Tobin Springs. The artists' work is displayed at the Washington Trust Bank in Ephrata for a limited time. It is worth stopping by the bank to view the display. The students are very creative and talented and it shows in their projects.

Scholarship Awards Assembly. On June 5th the annual Ephrata High School scholarship awards ceremony was held in the Performing Arts Center. Graduating seniors had the opportunity to apply for scholarship recognition from a wide variety of generous sources.

Memorial scholarship funds were distributed by the Columbia Basin Foundation in the names of Amanda Evans, TJ Sortomme, Jeanette Marbourg, Marty O'Brien, Samantha Webb, Sherman Clayton, and by Jerry and June Burke. Other awards were: "Tiger Spirit Award" in memory of Dave Middleton, the Ferne Daniel "Extraordinary Effort Award"; Pat Flannery's "Principal's Award" and the EHS Class of 1954. The Paul Lauzier Foundation distributed several renewable scholarships.

Local organizations and businesses, military groups, universities and individuals also gave generously to the Class of 2013 for which we are grateful. Many of the scholarships held special significance to the recipients, making the award a distinct honor.

Graduation Ceremonies



The Ephrata High School Class of 2013 held a Commencement ceremony on June 7, 2013 at Kiwanis Field for 151 students. The class was presented by Principal Dan Martell with the awarding of diplomas by Dr. Jerry Simon, Superintendent of the Ephrata School District and Mr. Bob Herzog, School District Board Chairman.

The Executive Board of the Class of 2013 assisted with the ceremony including Auti Gill, Bryan Heer, Tevin Hiatt, Naomi Kooistra, Layton Lange, and Nicole Virden. Kristen McDonnell and Bryan Heer were the class speakers. The Senior Choir performed the "National Anthem" and "Rivers & Roads". Marla Allsopp spoke on behalf of the school's faculty; Rhonda Hagy was the class advisor. The class colors are black and orange.

Forty-four seniors were awarded gold honor graduate cords for maintaining a grade point average of 3.6 and above. National Honor Society members were further honored with gold tassels for their caps. Students who showed three years of involvement in school activities wore red cords and members of Advancement Via Individual Determination program (AVID) wore a white cord over their gowns. One student, Inna Dovhalets, also earned her associate degree from Big Bend Community College through the Running Start program. Foreign exchange student Vilde Kinneberg participated in the graduation ceremony.

Following a gathering on the football field with lots of smiling, crying, faces the Class of 2013 attended an all-night, early morning party at the Ephrata Recreation Center. The party was planned and chaperoned by the parents of the class. Fun, food, entertainment and prizes ruled the happy celebration.



2013 Class Motto

"Some men see things as they are and ask, why. I dream of things that never were and ask, why not."

--Robert Kennedy

Class Members

Sandra Sylvia Adame
Caitlin Renee Allison
Zair Jaqueline Hernandez
Laurel Christine Anderson *
Diana May Avila
Alissa Candice Bair *
Rachael Ann Barnett
Marc Anthony Barragan
Laryssa Adela Batey
Brianna Rae Bazaldua
Kimberly Christine Beck *
Erik Anthony Berens
Duane Alan Bolton
Michael Joseph Bosnar
Hayley Renae Bradley
Miguel Angel Bravo
Kayla Marie Brissey *
Jordan Anthony Brzezny *
Lorenzo Deleon Bustos
Calvin Dean Callahan
MacKenzie Laura Canfield *
Benjamin Michael Carter
Kendall Nichol Cassidy
Dania Marina Cedillos
Kayce Jean Chlarson
Tyler Joseph Clark
Brianna Rachelle Clark *
Jordan Miles Cobb
Kiana Maureen Colley
Mauricio Contreras Flores *
Jesse Lei Cook

Maxwell Ian Davis
Dalton Nicholas Dennis
Garrett Lee Devine
Jeralyn Faye Dickinson
Lena Blanche Dierking
Michael Scott Doiron
Justin Bourke Dourte
Inna Dovhalets *
Bryn Mackenzie Downer
Shannon Christine Downey *
Chase Robert Eby
Nayeli Escalera Sanchez
Chad Taylor Fairweather
Neshia Reann Farag
Allen Joseph Farmer
Colton Douglas Fisher
Kayla AnnEdyth Fisher
Brandon Alexander Flynn
David Leroy Friend *
Drake Oliver Fuglie
James Lincoln Fulkerson
Cristal Rangel Garcia
Maximian Gabriel Garza
Anthony Bradford Gerrr
Autumn Leigh Gill
Justin Tyler Gillespie *
Hannah Jo Gunderson *
Allison Breanne Gunn *
Saul Gutierrez
Ryan Francis Harrington
Brittany Michelle Harris *

Trista Jo Harting *
Bryan Thomas Heer *
Fredy Sanchez Hernandez
Tevin Keele Hiatt *
Raeann Hiatt *
Jayme Renae Hovland *
Kaiya Leigh Hunsaker
Rebecca Lynn Hunter
Kacia Michelle Ingraham *
Laycee Grae Jaderlund
Jessica Jessen Buchmann
Cameron Christian Jones
Matthew Ellwood Jones
Grant Uriah Kallstrom
Glenn Macrey Kallstrom *
Cody Reid Kamstra *
Kiler Austin Kenison
Jolena Elsie Ketola *
Vilde Kinneberg *
Ashley Elizabeth Klepec *
David Sergey Klopov *
Naomi Lei Kooistra *
Marissa Lenae Krausse *
Lauren Elizabeth Laird
Layton Camp Lange
Karl William Loddewig
Juan Pablo Lopez
Dekker Steven Lovitt
Robert Henry Lund *
Walker William Maag
Karina Sue Maceda Luna

Sergio Alonzo Magana
Esteban Daniel Marquez
Isaac Daniel Matus
Kristen Ann McDonnell *
Evan Jerrold McMartin *
Guadalupe Medina
Christopher James Melcher
Breanne Rachell Millard
Samantha Leanne Mofford
Jessica Lynn Molendyk
Stacie Lynn Monday
Bailey Ann Moody
Austin Eugene Moore
Marshall Owen Mort
Melissa Ann Nelson *
Alicia Gail Nelson
Corey Nguyen-Hansen
Jose Luis Nunez
Eli Arturo Perez *
Maricela Pineda-Sabalza
Alexa Ann Pope *
Tamara Janelle Purrington *
Devin James Rains
Tessa Marlene Ratigan *
Joshua Scott Richardson
Brennen Anthony Riseland
Keila Yojannan Rodriguez

Kieran Andrew Rolfe
Yaneli Salgado-Antunez *
Eric Santiago Sanchez
Preston Anthony Sandberg*
Michael Stefan Sangster
Erik Lowell Scheib
Amber Nichole Searcy
Hunter Richard Sears *
Tavis Tell Shasteen
Christopher Adam Simon *
Emily Naiyana Slane
Aubrey Kay Smith
Benjamin James Smith
Matthew Paul Sortomme
Michael John Sortomme *
Racheal Elizabeth Sparks
Caitlin Elaine Steinhauer *
Dakota Layne Teterud
Sharad Nicholas Thiry
Heather Marie Thomas
Ryan Douglas Trepanier *
Claribel Valentin Vaqlverde
Jose Angel Vargas Jr.
Clarissa Vela
Nicole Ann Virden
Thomas Michael Walker
Seth Nathaniel Weeda

Conner Lee White
Keyland August Wittler
Stephanie Ann Wulf *
Maxwell Thomas Yoder

* Honor Graduates
3.6+ GPA
Gold Cord

Summer programs. One of the most popular programs offered to students in the summer is Driver's Education. The requirements are that students must be passing in six of seven classes, pay any outstanding fines, class fees, cafeteria balances, and return overdue library books before being considered for the class.

Also, vocational courses have been authorized by the School Board. EHS principal Dan Martell and school counselor Rhonda Hagy announced that four courses could be offered and taught by local instructors – agriculture mechanics/welding, bio-medical, culinary/food preparation, and introduction to construction. The programs would be administered through the Wenatchee School District in collaboration with the Moses Lake Columbia Basin Skills Center program. If there is sufficient enrollment, the students would complete 90

hours in the hands-on vocational courses. High School age students have no reason to claim to be “bored” in summertime Ephrata; this is a great opportunity to get involved in educational and productive projects.

Ephrata Past and Present

1909 Fourth of July Celebration

By Herb Jenkins



“Before cars became generally popular the Fourth of July was celebrated in big style in every community, especially the smaller towns. The day usually began at dawn with an ear-splitting blast caused by ‘shooting an anvil’. This was done by pouring black powder in the small hole at the end of an anvil, putting some powder on top, and touching off the powder. The blast was guaranteed to wake up everyone within a radius of two miles. If this wasn’t enough, all of the kids took this as a signal to start shooting off their firecrackers which, in those days of little consumer protection, ranged in size from the conventional small pencil-sized firecracker to those that were almost as deadly as a stick of dynamite.

Early in the day farm families began coming into town, prepared to spend the day visiting and attending a picnic in the city park. Each farm wife had prepared baskets of food enough for dinner (nobody called it lunch) and supper. The Fourth was one of the few universally recognized holidays when everyone took time off from work and all were determined to spend the entire day, and most of the evening, enjoying their selves.

The official part of the day’s festivities started with a parade at 10 o’clock. The town band led off. The colors were proudly carried by veterans. Other participants included the fire department with the firemen pulling the hose and chemical carts, the speaker of the day, the mayor, the county commissioners, and other local celebrities. The local beer distributor would have his brightly-painted wagon drawn by eight perfectly matched, massive Percheron horses. Also in the parade would be the Boy Scouts and local baseball team in uniforms, members of the various lodges in full regalia, members of local ladies’ organizations in their long white dresses and plumed hats and any other organization or individual who could find an excuse to be in the procession.

After the parade everyone went to the city park for the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the speech of the day. In those days when people came to hear a speech they wanted a speech of at least two hours so the speaker would oblige with an oration. During these orations frequent references were made to the ‘American Eagle’, that grand old bird which spreads his wings from the rock-ribbed coast of Maine to the sun-kissed shores of California.....from the limitless fields of golden grain in Washington State to the towering temples of commerce in New York City. And so it went, on and on and on, until the speaker worked up to a thrilling climax that ended with audience applauding and cheering wildly.

The picnic lunch followed the oration. After lunch there was a baseball game between the young men and the girls in which the men batted left-handed. There were fat-men and fat-women races, sack races for the kids, and various other events. To keep the day from dragging there usually was one or two small fires caused by fireworks and at least a couple of runaway teams scared by the commotion. The picnic supper was followed by a band concert and then the climax of the evening, the fireworks display.

In 1909 all of the fireworks went off at once and everyone started to run. Later I asked one of the old-timers, 'Were you scared?' He answered, 'No, I wasn't scared, but I passed two guys who were!'

As a fitting climax to the 1909 two-day celebration the committee had made arrangements for an extensive display of fireworks. A platform had been erected near the dancing pavilion about six or eight feet square and about twelve feet above ground. About 9 o'clock the committee in charge carried their fireworks and, amid the brief hush that fell upon the expectant multitude, they mounted the little box structure. As a preliminary they shot off a few Roman candles; a skyrocket or two followed. Then the people experienced the greatest thrill of the two-day event. A shower of sparks from the Roman candles fell in among the assortment of fireworks and the big show was on!!

The memory of the climbing of San Juan Hill, the Battle of Gettysburg or any great historical event in which our forefathers fought, bled and died, paled into insignificance in comparison with the pyrotechnical display that followed. Roman candles, skyrockets, whirligigs, fire serpents, and pieces of more pretentious design all went off together. Amid that terrific bombardment there was no safety; the men in charge tumbled from their proud and lofty position. Men, women and children surged quickly from the immediate vicinity, leaving the fire and powder to work out its own destruction.

The beauty of the scene, for a brief minute or two, was only equaled as an event by the intense excitement of the people after the danger had passed. Parents were hunting eagerly through the crowd for their children, each expecting to run into some burned or crippled little ones that a few minutes before had been playing about the grounds. So greatly were all wrought up over the affair that they did not seem to realize that the fireworks stand was on fire and that a strong wind was blowing the sparks to nearby buildings! H. D. McMillen and the marshal saw the blaze from downtown and, quickly procuring a fire extinguisher, rushed to the scene and soon put out the fire.

Outside of the destruction of the fireworks and stand there was no damage done although there were scores of people who narrowly escaped serious injury. No one was burned or trampled upon by the crowd, but all experienced a genuine thrill that they will remember for days to come." Re-print courtesy of Janet Jenkins Nelson.