

Tigerville News

"Remembering the Past – Celebrating the Present"

Fifth Edition – December 2012 Ephrata, Washington Editor Beverly Mayer

Ephrata High School Past and Present

New Column Added to Tigerville News

Ephrata High School is a very busy place; in order to keep up with all of the various classrooms and extracurricular activities, as well as the recording of sports team successes, EHS senior Hunter Sears has volunteered to act as reporter and assist with the "present" information regarding the school. Sears is the fourth generation to attend EHS; his great-grandparents attended in the 1920s and 1930s. He serves on the Associated Student Body Executive Board, is a member of National Honor Society and participates in the sports of basketball and tennis.



Tiger Tales

Honor Students Enjoy Field Trip

Forty-two members of the Ardyth Vaughn Chapter of the National Honor Society traveled to Seattle on November 16th to tour the Pacific Science Center where we viewed interactive exhibits, watched the IMAX film, "Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs," and toured the fabulous King Tut Exhibit, which was my favorite part of the trip.



Funding for the trip came from selling popcorn at football games and working the concessions at basketball games. We were chaperoned by advisor Kathleen Allstot, athletic director Michele Webb, science teacher Sarah Hurst, EHS staff member Linda Ebberson and parent Denise Ketola.

Ephrata's Chapter of the National Honor Society was inaugurated at EHS on May 23, 1951. This organization considers scholarship (3.60 or higher cumulative grade point average), quality of character, leadership abilities, and service activities of the students before they are granted membership status. The chapter is named for Ardyth Vaughn who was a member of Ephrata High School Class of 1950. On March 30, 1947 Ardyth died in an automobile accident and her classmates wished to honor her by the naming of their chapter.

This year's officers include Kristen McDonnell, Brittany Harris, Laurel Anderson, Robert Lund, Ashley Klepec, and Bryan Heer. They are responsible for planning and supervising chapter activities along with Mrs. Allstot.

No-Shave November The ASB Executive Board organized a “No-Shave November” event. The school-wide contest winners were announced at the November 29th pep assembly. Contestants were judged by #1: Who had the funniest beard? The winner was James Faulkerson who grew not only a long beard but also had mutton-chop side whiskers. #2: Worst beard? The freshman boys won that contest.... they hardly had any to judge! #3 Best beard? Winning beard was the very thick beard of Marshall Mort. The girls were not left out; they could go for the title of the “grossest legs”. Since there were no girls choosing to vie for the title, Mrs. Wood, the P. E. teacher, was declared the winner.

Winter Activities Begin Spirit Day was proclaimed and the winter activities were in the spotlight at the pep assembly held on November 29th. The students who will be participating in Drama, Knowledge Bowl, Speech & Debate, Math Team, Boys & Girls Basketball, Wrestling and Spirit & Show Squad over the winter months were recognized for their efforts.

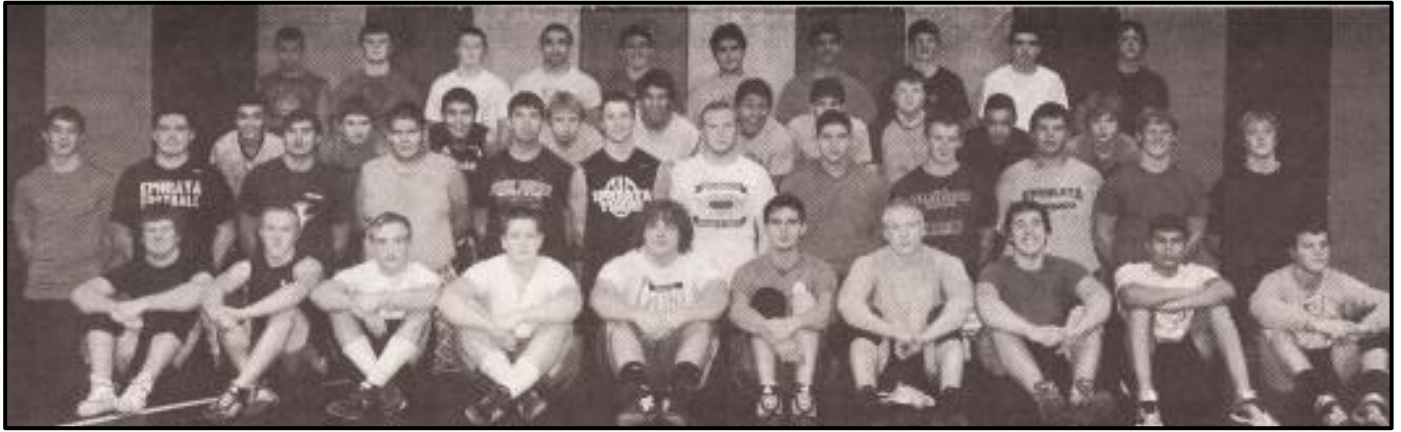
Planning pep assemblies is one of the responsibilities assigned to the ASB Executive Board. We arranged for the Tiger Pep Band to play the school song, the cheerleaders to lead a cheer, and the dance team to perform a routine with the name of “Wonderland”. The assembly also included a contest to see who could create the best looking snowman by using toilet paper. The boys of the basketball team were the winners.

‘Tis the Season to Be Giving” On December 5th the members of the ASB Executive Board will begin collecting money for their “Toys for Teens” Fundraiser. Last year over \$4,000.00 was collected and we hope to beat that amount this year. There will be two competitions. December 5th thru 7th donation amounts will be recorded for each class with bragging rights going to the winning class. And, December 11th to 14th the money collected will be credited to individual classrooms and a winner will be decided. The money from this project is used by the ASB to purchase appropriate gifts for teens. The gifts are then made available for the Kiwanis and Ephrata Food Bank Christmas baskets.

Tiger Parents Show Their Spirit The Ephrata High School bleachers will be filled with rooters sporting the new “Tiger Tees” designed for the 2012-2013 basketball programs. The tee-shirts are made available by a committee of varsity basketball parents; Coach Evenson expressed his appreciation to all of the persons involved. The committee is also supporting the Tiger cheerleaders and will provide roter shakers and tiger paw removable tattoos. Tiger Spirit is on the move.

Support the Concession Stand Members of the Future Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and the National Honor Society are in charge of the basketball concessions, serving up pop, hot dogs, popcorn, and candy. The profits from the concessions go toward supporting these organizations’ year-long activities. Tiger fans are urged to come to the games and enjoy a hot dog dinner.

Wrestlers Hit the Mats December 1st the Tiger mat men will travel to the West Valley-Yakima invitational tournament. There is a lot of excitement surrounding the wrestling program this year. Of the 323 individual bout victories posted by the Tigers last year, wrestlers who got 246 of the victories are back (roughly 70 percent winning percentage, which includes 80 of the 105 total pin fall wins.) Coach Anderson said, “This could be a great team. We could put a tough lineup on the mat every night this season.” Tiger supporters are looking forward to a winning year.



2012-2013 Wrestling 1st row: Tevin Hiatt, David Swenson, Keyland Wittler, Tyler Johnson, Brandon Murray, Luis Hernandez, Tyrus Kemp, Isaac Garcia, Jose Nunez, Benny Carter. 2nd row: Nicholas Lobe, Julio Maceda, Leo Huerta, Raul Pelayo, Romen Hernandez, Nick Quist, Matt Derting, Rolando Reyes, Dalton Balentine, Bryce Villalobos, Bryce Unruh, Tanner Julian. 3rd row: Rey Hernandez, Riley Smith, Jerry Villafana, Jace Mitchell, Carlos Flores, Gerry Ocampo, Abel Coreas, Douglas Brown, Miguel Rodriguez, Dylan Herr. Back: Jamail Bell-Earle, Dalton Johnson, Joshua Williams, Julian Adame, Eli Perez, Ernesto Sorto, Sergio Rodriguez, Nikita Wall, Devyn Stargel, Hagen Nelson. Not pictured: Daniel Cortez, Marcos Guzman, Heriberto Pacheco, Fernando Padilla.

Basketball Season Begins On November 29th the Tigers basketball teams opened the season by hosting our old arch-rivals the Quincy Jackrabbits who are no longer competing in our league. The Tigers compete in the Central Washington Athletic Conference where, since Quincy's departure, we are the smallest school population-wise. That just gives us more incentive to succeed. (A late report of the scores shows that both the Tiger girls and boys teams were successful their first game of the schedule. As the season progresses the teams' scores will be reported.)



2012-2013 Girls Basketball Team: Monae Hendrickson, Katie Hilliard, Kendall Sage, Demi Beavers, Sierra Woods, Madi Youngers, Sarah Pheasant, McKyna Jacobson, Lana Sween, Freddie Ham.

The team is very inexperienced with only one returning player with varsity experience. Coach Ross said, "The girls are young, they've put in their time, and if opponents overlook us, we'll surprise them."

2012-2013 Boys Basketball Team: Josh Johnson, Brice Turnbull, Hunter Sears, Dekker Lovitt, Layton Lange, Bo Nielsen, Jake Laird, Tyler Clark, Cameron Ball, Dylan Benthem, Riley Pheasant.

The goal of the team is to win more games this season (9-12 last year) and get into the top four in the league so the Tigers can host a district game. Coach Evenson said, "I'm excited about this season. It's nice knowing we have most of the kids back who were on the varsity last year."



The History of Ephrata Boys Basketball

The history of Ephrata basketball teams go back as far back as 1911 when Ephrata High School chose their school colors to be orange and black and Clarence Mitchell wrote the school song, "Orange and the Black". The wording in the song indicates that at this time they also chose the tiger for their mascot. Historical records of the early day basketball competitions are limited but, those that are known make for interesting comparisons with present day teams. The first available recorded score was for the season of 1914 when the team, consisting of center Alfred Beanier, forwards W. Campbell and H. Stradling, and guards F. Hastings and C. Armour, lost their first game to Wilson Creek 47-13.

Ephrata's winning tradition began in 1921 when the team won the county championship with a lineup including E. Hough, J. Smith, F. Cook, W. Hink, B. Brobst, H. Hough, and R. Brobst. During the 1922 season they went undefeated at 10-0, outscoring their opponents 270 points to 116. The 1924-1925 season was also very successful. Ephrata defeated Marlin 30-4, Coulee City 9-6, Stratford 66-2, and Neppel 30-14. The team also played the All-Americans to a tie, 11-11. The season ending tournament must have caused quite a ruckus. According to records, "The date for the tournament was called off by the Health Officer because of illness. Notwithstanding the doctor's orders, the tournament was held without letting the Ephrata team know anything about it!"

Records for the 1928 season indicated, "The Ephrata High School has a letter club. The Orange "E" has become a reality." The basketball team went to Wenatchee to participate in the district basketball tournament where they won over Waterville 33-21, but were later defeated by Leavenworth 28-24.

In 1930 Ephrata won the Grant County Tournament from Coulee City 16-11 and finished 3rd in "B" division district basketball at Wenatchee. In 1931 the team won the Grant County Tournament by defeating Wilson Creek and Neppel. Ed Harvill and Nat Washington were chosen as all-county players.



Grant County Championship Team

1940-1941 Team members front row: Bjorklund, Luft, Schempp, Johnson. Back row: Burd, Neilson, Radke, Hanafin, Heywood, Coach Latimer.

"Coach Latimer turned out the best of teams from Grant County this year. Losing only one game in the schedule before the tournament to Hartline, the boys forged ahead and came out the winner of the county championship."

The Tigers were known by colorful names: Jack "Rough and Tumble" Radke, his football tactics were a little hard on players, but effective; Paul "Glamour Boy" Hanafin, the sheik of the junior class; Orville "2-Point" Schempp, possessed the mentality of the team and is always a steady and reliable man to have around; Wayne "Deadeye" Luft, blonde forward flash and the pride of the senior class; Adrian "Short Material" Burd, the dynamic midget of the squad; Stan "Primeadonna" Heywood, the luckiest forward in the league; George "One-Man-Team" Waltho, the ironman of the frosh class; Neil "One Lung" Johnson, the strongman whom the juniors admire; Bob "Peewee" Bjorklund, the Casanova of the sophomores; and Leo "Always-on-the-Floor" Neilson, he exhibits more floor burns than any other player in the county. The tournament scores were 40-19 over Grand Coulee, 19-18 over Moses Lake and 35-30 over Hartline. During the year they also played Dryden, Coulee City, Marlin, Quincy, Latter Day Saints, and Town Team.



Grant County Champions

1946-1947 Team members front: Bob Burd, Albert Treiber, Bill Black, Willard Womack, Dick Connor. Back: Morgan Johnson, Don Britt, Lyle Eaks, Don McGonegal, Buster Boruff, Harry Drittenbas, Coach Roth.

The Ephrata Tigers won the Grant County Tournament with wins over Marlin 59-15, Moses Lake 28-27, Grand Coulee 45-35. At the district level they won games from Peshastin 31-27, Grand Coulee 45-31 and fell to Chelan 25-52 and Omak 46-24. Year's high scorer and team captain was Lyle Eaks with 173 points.

Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association Boys Basketball State Tournament Appearances Ephrata High School Tigers

<u>Class</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Finish</u>
1-A	1959	Pete Lolos	DNP 1 win, 2 loss	1-A	1992	Marty O'Brien	3 rd place 3 win, 1 loss
1-A	1962	Bob Atkinson	DNP 2 loss	1-A	1993	Marty O'Brien	1 st place 4 win
1-A	1980	Marty O'Brien	DNP 2 loss	1-A	1997	Marty O'Brien	7 th place 2 win, 2 loss
1-A	1985	Marty O'Brien	DNP 1 win, 2 loss	2-A	1998	Marty O'Brien	DNP 2 loss
1-A	1986	Marty O'Brien	3 rd place 3 win, 1 loss	2-A	2002	Brandon Evenson	4 th place 3 win, 1 loss
1-A	1987	Marty O'Brien	5 th place 3 win, 1 loss	2-A	2008	Brandon Evenson	1 st place 4 win
1-A	1988	Marty O'Brien	5 th place 3 win, 1 loss	2-A	2010	Brandon Evenson	3 rd place 3 win, 1 loss

First Tiger Team to State as Listed in WIAA Records

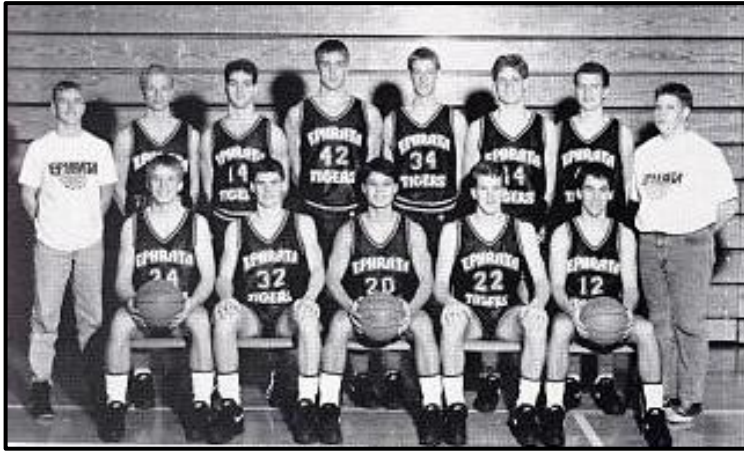


1958-1959 Team members front row: Steve Brooks, Bob Wickwire, Steve Molitor, Gary Thurman, Don Gilden. Back row: Robin Beck, Steve Forsberg, Jay Eslick, John Fink, Deloy West.

The three-year student enrollment was 477 in 1959 when the team competed in the District "A" Tournament of the North Central District, which had north and south divisions (Caribou Trail League and North Central League). Coach for the Tigers was Pete Lolos. Managers were Wayne Carr and Ralph Barclay.

The Tiger team went into the 2nd annual District "A" Tournament with a regular season record of 15 wins and 3 losses. During the year they competed against West Valley-Yakima, Cheney, Quincy, Eastmont, Central Valley-Spokane, Mt. Si, Wenatchee (AA), Moses Lake (AA), Othello, and Cashmere. In the first tourney game they were victorious over Eastmont, but in the second game they were bested by Okanogan 56-52. They came back in the third game by outscoring Chelan 82-43 and qualified for the number two spot to the 2nd annual Washington State Prep Class "A" State Tournament held at the College of Puget Sound Fieldhouse, Tacoma. Tournament results: Ephrata defeated Bethel in the first round 66-50, narrowly lost to CleElum 41-43 in the second round, and was eliminated by Goldendale in the third round 75-60 to end the Tigers' first state tournament experience.

Class 1-A State Champions



1992-1993 Team members front row: Brent Bair, Eric Davis, Travis King, Greg Chamberlain, Nathan Downs. Back row: Manager, Dean Bair, Jarred Stucky, Michael Barbre, Denver Morford, Craig Cherf, Josh Sainsbury, Bryan Adams, Manager Cory Foster.

At the beginning of the season Coach Marty O'Brien welcomed six returning lettermen from the 1991-1992 Tiger squad that placed third in state - Morford, Cherf, Bair, Davis, King, and Chamberlain. This season's team posted an undefeated record of 20-0 while competing in the Caribou Trail League comprised of Lake

Roosevelt, Okanogan, Oroville, Quincy, Omak, Chelan Tonasket, Cascade, and Cashmere. After a disappointing loss to Chelan at their first district game, the Tigers roared back and defeated Cashmere to earn the second seed to the state tournament being held at the Tacoma Dome.

Tiger Travis King was able to capture the state career scoring record during the state championship game due in part to the extra game the team was forced to play against Cashmere. The team racked up other state records for "A" schools - largest and highest margins of victory and highest scoring average before downing Port Townsend by nine points in the championship game. It was a great year for the Tigers and their fans.

Class 2-A State Champions

2007-2008 Team members l-r: Kory Frank, Dylan Buchert, Eric Tinnell, Derrick Webb, Landen Lange, Daniel Simon, Patrick Simon, Ross Buchert, DJ Curnutt, Ryan Lutz, Derek Miller, Nathan Wash. Front: Manager William Larsen.

Coach Brandon Evenson led his team to an 18-2 record which earned them the league title of the Central Washington Athletic Conference while competing against Grandview, Ellensburg, Selah, Quincy, Prosser, Wapato, Toppenish, East Valley, and Othello. The team won the district playoffs with an un-defeated run against Quincy 55-41, East Valley 76-58 and, in a thriller of a game, defeated Prosser 68-65.

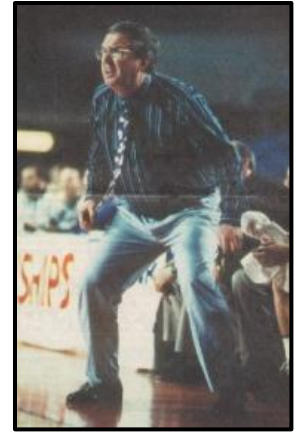


At the 2-A State Tournament held at the Sun Dome in Yakima, the Tigers started their championship run with wins over W. F. West 65-56, Lynden 51-26, and Mark Morris 60-54. The championship game was another game-thriller with the Tigers coming out victorious over the Burlington-Edison team 58-56. The Simon brothers were named to the All-State Team with Daniel awarded MVP of the State Tournament honors.

The team drew inspiration from former EHS coach Marty O'Brien and dedicated the year "For Coach O'Brien" (F. C. O.). Dion Martin O'Brien died in July of 2007 after years of dedication to the athletic programs of the Ephrata School District. In 2007 the EHS gymnasium was dedicated to him; few are as worthy of this honor as Marty. There is little doubt that his presence was felt on the bench during the state championship game.

Tribute to "Marty"

The history of the Ephrata Boys basketball program is not complete without sharing the story of Coach "Marty" O'Brien. In 1970 he began his 32-year long teaching career as a physical education teacher at the Ephrata Junior High School (later known as the middle school). He coached two years of junior high basketball, became assistant coach at the high school for seven years and in 1980 began his 20-year run as head coach of the Tigers. (Pictured at right is Coach during 1985 and 1993 state tournaments.)



O'Brien was described as, "a 'can-do' person, a guy who felt he could help you accomplish something." During his time as a teacher he started a conditioning program that saw students arrive a 6 a.m., three days a week for intense workouts and lectures. At years end the students who had dedicated themselves to the program were awarded the much-coveted conditioning tee-shirt which they wore with great pride. Participating in the program proved to have a big impact on the young men's lives; no doubt this contributed to the many successes experienced by the EHS Tiger teams over the years.

O'Brien was described as "a natural showman who loved an audience. Outspoken and opinionated, he ruffled more than a few feathers through the years." He was the coach whose loud voice and courtside foot-stomping antics never failed to rouse the opposing fans. His fiery demeanor and animated mannerisms were as well-known as his winning ways.

Quotes regarding Marty as given at his well-attended memorial service: "His utter honesty, open emotion, quick wit, and irrepressible energy never failed to leave a positive impression on students, athletes, co-workers, and pretty much any stranger within earshot." "He instilled a high sense of pride in his students; every victory was credited to the talent of the players – every loss was a coaching error." "It didn't take Marty long to know what the purpose was in his life. When he first came to Ephrata, he was like the Pied Piper, kids gravitated toward him." "Marty won with integrity, lost with dignity and did both with class. Ephrata is a much better place because of him." "Both as a coach and teacher, Mr. O'Brien preached the virtues of integrity, hard work, perseverance, and loyalty – to family, to friends, to school."

Along with Coaches Dave Johnson and Gary Archer – EHS '65, O'Brien establish an Ephrata High School baseball dynasty. Details of the success will appear in the springtime edition of the Tigerville News with a history of the baseball program.

Coach O'Brien's Basketball Record

Varsity team wins-340 losses-178
1993 State "A" championship winner
9 State "A" championship entries
1 District championship winner
1 Caribou Trail League championship winner
1 Central Washington Athletic Conference north-league championship winner
2004 member-elect of Washington State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame

Ephrata Past and Present

"Ephrata's Past Assures Its Future, Says Former Editor"

by Vern D. Matthews

Note: Vern D. Matthews, a native Ephratan who graduated from Ephrata High School in 1941, contributed nostalgic pieces on Ephrata's past and future for publishing by the Grant County Journal. The articles appeared in 1964-1965 and will be re-printed in four parts beginning in this edition of the Tigerville News and concluding in the March 2013 edition. Updated information appears in **bold**, just in case you weren't around 48 years ago when Vern "followed *The Star* home to Ephrata."



December 31, 1964. "It's always nice to come home for Christmas...home to Ephrata, city of my birth and the cradle of so many fond memories which give a special meaning and purpose to the Yuletide season. For most of my 42 years, whenever at all possible, homeward has turned my feet to spend the holidays with my mother, Estelle Matthews, other members of her seven-child family and friends who similarly gather at home for the Yule season.

It's nice to walk again the snowy streets under the stars, to bask in the warmth of neighborhood Christmas decorations; to walk hand-in-hand with so many shadowy memories of the past coming alive at each corner. To again see the wave of a hand in friendly greetings; it's still a thrill reserved largely for us fortunate to have our roots in a smaller community.

As we walk, in our mind we try again to relive those precious days of yesteryear, so many winters and Christmases ago when we were but a child and the world was so big and mysterious and the stars beckoned and twinkled so mischievously. They seemed to say "Come. Play with us." And their magnetism inevitably, in later years, drew us away to distant cities, to lands far away, to other duties.

But, just as inevitably "home" is likewise a magnetic attraction to which *The Star* guides us each Christmas. Homeward turn our feet, slowed perhaps by events of the passing year. Each trip home for Christmas quickens an ever-developing appreciation of the old home town and of its peoples, all of whom in some degree have had an influence on our life.

As we walk on our annual Christmas trek through downtown Ephrata and its surrounding residential environs, we recall apprehensions we've heard over the economic loss that will be felt following phasing out of Larson Air Force Base (**Current site of the Grant County Airport**) in the next months. As a former area businessman we are quick to agree that such a closure as is predicted for L. A. F. B. will indeed put a squeeze on the economic bloodstream of the area. Yet, as a native of the city of Ephrata, we know that many, many previous crises have been faced and equaled by the city and its people. We know, too, from these trials of adversity have come triumphs of advancement. Ephrata's history has always been thus, and past events have quite accurately foretold the future of tomorrow.

We were much too young (in fact, not even yet a twinkle) when the Great Fire gutted Ephrata in 1910, reducing it to a rubble of smoldering ashes, yet arise again it did because its people had the courage and will. It became a better and more stable community.

Wheat prices were long the unstable hinge upon which Ephrata's survival swung. Yet survive it did, despite 50-cent wheat. We can recall the economic loss that was felt when area orchards could no longer compete, in the late '20s and early '30s, on the soft fruit and apple markets. Today, few can recall that fruit warehouses once flourished across the tracks near the stockyard area. **(Stockyard area now site of Odessa Union Elevators and Warehouse).** The Reard family, Ed Calkins, Carl Swanson, T. J. Cook and others grew fruit here, as did orchardists at Grant Orchards and Quincy.



Early-day view of Ephrata orchards inserted into this re-typed newspaper article and provided from the postcard collection of Michael Lehmann – EHS '57.

All these economic losses were felt severely by the city of Ephrata, then a community of about 500 persons. Yet, survival was always possible because a spirit beat in the hearts of its citizens that defied mere mortals to extinguish its blaze.

Even back in the early '30s, when Governor Martin succeeded in pushing a state highway bypass from Burke Junction (now George, Wn.) to Moses Lake (then Neppel) and on to Spokane, there were those who cried that economic strangulation was upon Ephrata. Travel and tourism wasn't much of a business in those early days but the dollar loss was felt nonetheless by Ephrata's half-dozen service stations, its two cafes, and three tourist cabin businesses.

Following the World War II the Ephrata Air Base was deactivated at no small loss to the community. Since then dozens of government employees have moved from Ephrata as the Bureau's work took them deeper and deeper into the irrigation areas. Boeing and the missile site **(at Grant County Airport)** exoduses have likewise been felt.

However, despite all these temporary setbacks, Ephrata has survived. From a need has always sprung a will and a determination. This has been its history and this will be its future just as surely as the Christmas Star will again appear.

So, on our annual Christmas walk about Ephrata, down its snow-clogged walks and streets, we can look backward over our shoulder and see visible tracks where we have been. Looking ahead across the sweeps of the virgin snow stretching before us we know that to make progress will require one step at a time....and just as surely will those planned and executed steps become tomorrow's history of Ephrata's survival of another crises."

If you'd like to continue this 1964 Christmastime stroll about the city of Ephrata, look to the next monthly edition of the Tigerville News. Matthews will take a walk through the business section of the early 1930s, visit its schools, and look into the social and recreational life, visit old friends...just as a boy of 10 to 15 might remember his early days in Ephrata, the city of his birth.

Beezley Shines Bright

For graduates of Ephrata High School Beezley Hill is the site where they left their last “mark” on Ephrata before graduating. Beginning with the class of 1928 many stories can be told of the efforts put forth to maintain the year of each graduation class visible on the hillside. In 1951 another tradition began.

The tradition of lighting up the top of Beezley Hill began as a community service project of the Ephrata Junior Chamber of Commerce, a.k.a. the Jaycees. According to the December 6, 1951 edition of the Grant County Journal, “The Ephrata Junior Chamber of Commerce has led the way to make Ephrata the capitol of the Columbia Basin. They have shown their kindness of thought and work to decorate the streets and sponsor a contest for the best decorated home and business in the fair city. They claim that Ephrata will be the best decorated town in the whole area and probably the state of Washington. With the beautiful star on top of the hill and the lights down the main street it will be known state-wide for its beauty.”

What could be more appropriate than a star shining its light down upon the city of Ephrata during the Christmas season? After all, the name Ephrata (Ephratah) is the ancient biblical name for Bethlehem. According to city lore, in 1893 an anonymous Great Northern Railroad employee had recently returned from the Holy Land and thought that the area resembled that sacred land. Supposedly, he climbed Beezley Hill and looked around; looking five miles northward he saw Soap Lake and imagined Jerusalem, to the east across the desert wasteland he saw Moses Lake and imagined the Dead Sea, at the base of the hill he saw a land area similar to Bethlehem and he named it Ephratah.



Up at the top of Beezley Hill is the foundation for the Christmas-time brightly-lit star, the luminous cross that appears during the Easter season, and the blazing American flag which is displayed during patriotic holidays. Several telephone poles have been set and spaced so as to hold the many strings of lights that are required to create the images. Photo at left courtesy of Marie Adams.

Over the years a multitude of individuals and a great variety of organizations have supported the efforts to maintain the lighted displays. For a number of years, donations to the Interchurch Council of Ephrata and Soap Lake provided funding to support the Christmas Star and Easter Cross projects; in recent years the generosity of one individual keeps those strings of lights burning brightly. The Beezley Hills Community Flag Alliance is a non-profit group formed to maintain the red, white, and blue bulbs on the flag. Several Public Utility District employees volunteer their time and expertise to maintain the lighted displays.

For 61 years the lights have been shining over Ephrata and the effort that goes toward lighting up the top of Beezley Hill does not go un-rewarded. Ephrata residents feel a wonderful sense of community pride while viewing the displays, visitors show appreciation for the opportunity to enjoy the lights, and it is said that Amtrak conductors are known to point out the special lights on Beezley Hill to their passengers as they travel through Ephrata; a wonderful gift given to many.

May the star shine on you and yours over this holiday season,

The EHS-100 Reunion Committee.