

## Yearbook Collection

Acquiring a complete collection of the yearbooks from Urbandale High School for reference has been a goal of Virginia Gee, the Historical Society board member who collects and organizes historical material for the society. After recent donations by Berneda Milligan (Echo 1965) and Hazel Demirjean (Echo 1968 Fighting Blue jays) only copies for 1987, 1993, and 1994 are still needed to complete the collection of nearly 60 volumes. Cooperation with the Reference Department of the Urbandale Public Library also resulted in an exchange of several duplicate copies.

The first edition of the U. H. S. yearbook was published in 1954. The High school was then located at 70th and Douglas. Members of the Senior Class were Richard Bice, Carol DeYoung, Verlyn Breeden, Sondra Hill, Danny Corsbie, Bryce Culver, Marilyn Little, Donald Dingman, Joy McDivitt, Charles Horner, Wallace Jardine, Jane Mott, Lawrence Johnson, Carol Walton, Richard Kallaus, Bill Reynolds, Nona Wilson, Larry Richeson, and William Whitten. In addition to underclassmen, the book also included students from morning and afternoon kindergarten to 8th grade.

In this first volume "The Senior Class of Urbandale High School proudly dedicates its first volume of the Urban Echo to a teacher and sponsor whose service deserves our recognition. In 1941 Mrs. Mabel Wilcox first came to Urbandale where she has served in the Mathematics, English, and Science departments. She was acting principal for six years and served many years as either junior or senior class sponsor. We wish to thank 'Willie' for her patience and understanding. It is with this dedication we of the senior class wish to show our admiration and respect to a teacher who has always opened her home and her heart to her students."

Other staff members pictured in the 1954 book were Mrs. Carol Lucchini, James Forsyth, Mrs. Orpha Phillips, Norman Landess (Superintendent), Mrs. Mary Sherer, John Raband, Mrs. Argo, Jerome Donovan, and Mrs. Williams. Cafeteria staff included

Mrs. John Reynolds, Mrs. Clarence Van Pelt, Mrs. Harold Foote, Mrs. Frank Gibson, and Mrs. Sue Battina. (Many familiar names.)

The following year the yearbook staff again thanked Mrs. Wilcox. They also honored Mrs. Lucchini for her work in directing the class plays and taking students to state speech contest and debate sessions.

Honored in 1956 was Jerome Donovan, Principal, Sociology teacher and track coach. In 1957 class sponsors Mary Sherer (English and Bookkeeping instruction and counselor) and Jack Marriott (Algebra, Physics, Trigonometry and Geometry) were honored. In 1958 "We the Senior Class of Urbandale High School dedicate this edition of the Urban Echo to our school, community and parents whose guidance have made these four years of high school our most successful and enjoyable years. Through the combined effort and patience of these, we have gone into life better prepared for what may come."

The tradition of a printed dedication seems to have ended after 1959, when Norval DeWitt was honored. He was the baseball and girls basketball coach and taught Physical Education, World Geography, Commercial Law, and Typing.

Much can be learned about changing times of the students of Urbandale from looking at yearbooks. The original high school built in 1925 was torn down in 1975. A new building with several wings and a gymnasium had been constructed at 7111 Aurora. The first colored picture appearing in the UHS yearbook was of this building in 1977.

As the school population and staff, and activities offered have increased, so have the number of pages. The early books were printed in just black and white. Starting in 1985 a few introductory pages were printed in color. Most of the books now feature a theme; since 2006, with new technology, all pages are printed in color.

The collection of yearbooks is kept in the history room upstairs at the Olmsted-Urban House and can be viewed during Open House events or by special appointment.