

Notables



Agnes Buck

Miss Agnes Mae, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Grainger Buck, was born May 4, 1876. She grew up and was educated in Welton, Clinton County, Iowa. Family and neighborhood songfests were main forms of entertainment when she was a young girl. She showed interest and ability in music at an early age and used to pick out tunes on the organ. When she was seven years old her mother began giving her lessons. Ten years later her parents bought her a piano and she remembered this as one of her biggest thrills.

She studied for six years in Rock Island, Illinois. She took extra work in Chicago under Emil Liebling, a famed private instructor of that day. She followed this by taking three years of harmony by correspondence from Dr. Daniel Protheroe.

After finishing her years of study in Chicago she returned home, gave piano lessons and cared for her father during a long illness of two years. He died in 1896. Agnes and her mother left the farm and moved into the town of Welton until her mother's death in 1907. Agnes and Bertha Rattray, a cousin, moved to Rhodes in 1908.

She had only been in Rhodes two months when she was asked to be pianist and organist for the Methodist Church. She held that position for 42 years, playing for many weddings, funerals and other occasions when called upon.

In 1934 she became teacher of a class made up of high school boys. This class was her pride and joy. In 1949 she was given special recognition by former pupils of her class. More than thirty young men enjoyed her presentation of the Sunday School lesson,

sitting with her through the church hour.

In 1973 she was honored by past and present members of her class. Her boys ranged from the long-haired teenagers, to the short grey haired men in retirement. She taught for 53 years, about 236 students. Besides church she was active in other ways; such as a W.S.C.S. member, social clubs and attended all school functions.

She and Bertha boarded school teachers for many years. Miss Rattray died in 1935.

Agnes lived all her life in her own home. She slipped away quietly on November 10, 1976. She achieved her one hundredth birthday on May 4, 1976, a goal she wanted to attain.

Until the last few years she had a garden and flowers which she shared with her church, Sunday School and friends. She would share anything she had with her neighbors. She never missed the opportunity to vote. She was expert in making doilies by netting, then an art, seldom seen now. The list of her activities is endless.

She was honored at the Waterloo District Meeting for being the oldest member of the U.N.W. present, as part of the bi-centennial year.

On May 31, 1976, the centennial year of her birth, it being the bi-centennial of our country, she was again given special honors and was asked to ride the lead car in the parade. She was presented the bi-centennial flag from the community. She returned her thoughts of appreciation to a large crowd.

Her records show that April of 1976 marked her 68th year of teaching music and that she had taught a total of 608 students, as young as four and as old as sixty.

She was honored with an open house on her 100th birthday with friends and relatives to wish her well. She never had any serious illnesses. Her answer to the secret of her longevity was, "I had lots of fun and made my life worthwhile, I was always doing something. I like people and you can learn a lot from people."

A busy and full life is indeed a happy one, and is surely exemplified by Agnes. Friends, neighbors and family continue to miss her special gifts at Christmas.

Agnes and Bertha Rattray are buried in Eden Cemetery.

Nellie Gregg Quits Teaching After 44 Years

Spring of 1949

About the only light visible Wednesday night in Rhodes was the one in the telephone office.

But the school building was a blaze of lights, for almost everyone in the Rhodes community turned out to pay honor to Mrs. Nellie Scott Gregg, high school principal, who is retiring from teaching after 44 years, most of which were spent in Rhodes.

A basket supper was held in the school gymnasium, followed by a varied program with Mrs. Gregg being given presents by several groups from the school and the community.

The program was started by the group singing "School Days." Then Agnes Buck, with whom Mrs. Gregg has lived for a number of years, gave Mrs. Gregg a number of letters which had been received from friends and former students.

A former superintendent from 1939 to 1943, K.T. Cook of Postville, told of his pleasure in working with Mrs. Gregg in the 1940's when he first came to Rhodes. Fred Cheville, a member of the school board, thanked her on behalf of that group for her service to the school and community.

The president of the senior class, Helen Faircloth, presented a four-layer cake given by the entire school enrollment, decorated in the school colors, purple and gold, bearing the inscription "to a swell teacher."

Mrs. Gregg was sponsor of the junior class this year and as a token of their appreciation, Juanita Wignall, president of the class, gave her a pair of table lamps and a corsage.

Superintendent A.M. Lee then gave her a white purse containing more than \$100 in cash gifts, plus a large check from the school board.

Between speeches, the crowd was entertained by a cornet solo by Robert Buck and two songs by the high school boys quartet of Norman Cheville, Phil Nichols, Leon Wiltsey and Alan Dodd.

An instrumental group made up of Roger Gray, Jack Gray, Richard Snedecor, Phil Buck and John Buck, with Mr. and Mrs. Keith Mallicoat as vocalists, made a hit with the crowd and were brought back for an encore.



Nellie Scott Gregg and Helen Faircloth

Mrs. Gregg told those present of her appreciation of the gifts and announced that she liked the Rhodes community so well she was going to continue to live there after she retires at the end of the school year.

A brief resume of Mrs. Gregg's life was read by Mr. Lee, which told of where she received her education and where she taught. She was at Rhodes for four years beginning in 1920 to 1924 and returned there in 1935 until 1949. Three members of her first class, which graduated in 1921, were at the celebration.

Memories

I remember my father telling of a six foot male teacher, he had at Rhodes, who would sit leaned back in his chair with his feet on his desk. If a student would whisper this teacher would order the student to stand to the side of the desk at the front of the class where he would lash the student with a buggy whip without even removing his feet from atop his desk.

*Submitted by
Vern Eugene Floto*



Gayle Snedecor family, from the left; Evelyn, Dick, Gayle and Mary.

Snedecor Family and the Rhodes Lumber Company

James Gayle was born on June 11, 1894, the son of a Presbyterian Minister at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He died in Los Angeles, California in 1976 at the age of 80. He came north to attend Iowa State Teachers College taking Dairy Industry courses and staying with his brother, George, a professor in Statistics. The Snedecor Building on the Iowa State Campus was named after George. Gayle met and married Mary Richards in 1914 at Humboldt, Nebraska. They moved to Racine, South Dakota where Gayle managed a grain elevator. Richard was born here in 1921. From here they moved to George, Iowa where he managed an elevator, lumber and feed business. My sister, Evelyn was born here in 1924. She married James R. Ball. To this union were born four children; Nancy, Patricia, Larry and Steven. We lived here thru my grade school years then moved to Scranton, Iowa in 1935. In 1937, Gayle bought the Farmers Lumber Company in

Rhodes from Ollie Luttikin who had controlling interest at this time. Later it was re-incorporated and known as the Rhodes Lumber Company.

We moved to Rhodes in February of 1937. I will never forget our arrival in Rhodes. It was raining, Main Street was a sea of mud. We stayed for a few days with Mrs. Filer in what became the Wayne Hildreth home. Then moved to a house in the north edge of town across from the large Pike home. The house had no indoor plumbing, we heated with a hard coalburner, the old fashion kind with the mica pot that glowed red as the hard coal fed down through the hopper at the top, and I was sure we had relegated to the "sticks". The first day of school I was the "new kid" and the only person who even spoke to me was Vaylord Ladwig. I watched the finish of the basketball season in Hix Hall. At this time I had never seen anything like it for a "Gym", with the two pot-bellied stoves heating the place.

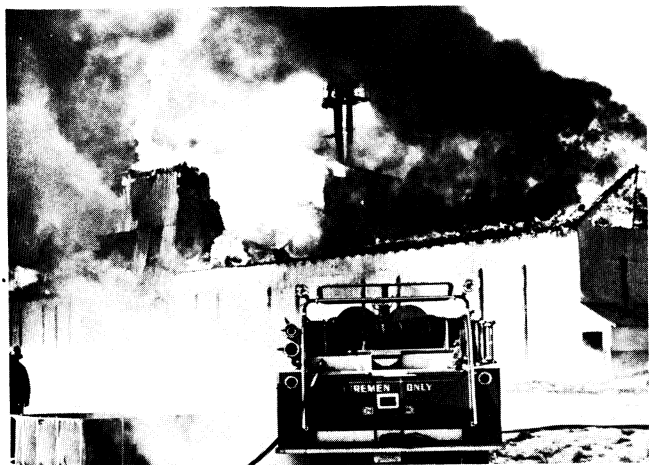
The next year we moved to the big place where J.D. Dannen now lives. I became a part of the class of '39, taking in all activities and getting a good education from Mr. Ringold, Mrs. Tribby, Miss Peterson and Mr. Ackerman who was also the coach. The Class of '39 was the largest ever to graduate from Rhodes High School with 9 boys and 9 girls. While our school was small, Mr. Ringold saw to it that those of us who wanted to go on to school were prepared. Courses were offered in algebra, geometry and a foreign language, German, so we could start college without having to take non credit courses to catch up. From 1939 to 1946 I saw very little of Rhodes spending 4 years at I.S.C., now I.S.U. and 3 years in the Army. I saw service in the European Theater returning as a Field Artillery Captain.



Richard Snedecor family, from the left, front row: Brad, Karen, Lynn and Bev; Second row: Rhoda and Dick.

I returned to Rhodes with a wife, Rhoda Hanitz whom I had married at Rockford, Illinois on July 13, 1943. We moved into the old bank building, now the post office on Main Street. We were surprised to be chivareed on moving in as we had been married nearly three years. I went to work for Dad at the lumber yard. We moved to a house next to the Luther Hix residence and proceeded to raise a family. Three girls and one boy; Beverly, Lynn, Karen and Brad.

The business prospered. Gayle and Mary moved to the house just south and west of the elevator, now the George Tuttle residence, living here the rest of their lives in Rhodes. Mary died on September 27, 1949 after suffering a heart ailment for many years. She died seeing only Beverly as Rhoda was in the same hospital giving birth to Lynn when Mary died but five days later. Gayle later married Rose Jorstad and they continued living in the same house until retiring to California in 1959.



January 1, 1974 - Elevator fire at Rhodes Lumber Company.

I continued running the elevator and lumber yard adding storage and an L.B. gas business with plants at Albion and Rhodes. During this period we built a new home on the west edge of Rhodes which Rhoda sold to Phil Buck. The wood elevator burned in a New Years Day fire with about a \$300,000 loss in grain and \$100,000 personal loss for cost of rebuilding.

In the meantime the children grew up and graduated from the West Marshall High School and all went on to college. Beverly to K.U. majoring in art and is now in Dallas in commercial art, married to Bill Sheveland with a year old daughter. Lynn went to Michigan State in Computer Science, now in Dallas in management position in computer software management. Karen to Iowa U. in Therapeutic Recreation and Social Studies and is now in Davenport, Iowa as a director of activities in her field. Brad went to M.I.T. on a Merit Scholarship where he continued for 10 years in study and teaching, accepting a Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering two



Rhodes Lumber Company after the 1975 ice storm.

years ago. He is now in San Francisco holding a position with Genetic Corp. and is busy cloning things for a better life, like interferon for cancer cures, not people. He married Mary O'Shanesy and they have an eight month old daughter, June.

Rhoda and I were divorced. I sold the elevator to Wes Callison, Phil and John Buck and Lyle Eldridge. Then sold Solar Gas to Baxter Oil Company of Baxter and retired. I married Zelma Carstens of Marshalltown and moved to an acreage in Dillon. The retirement didn't last long as we became interested in property at Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri and moved in February of 1980 to run our resort and motel. Zelma's daughter Chris along with her husband and children followed us to Missouri and are running the motel for us. Our future plans are to take it easier although Zee has just gotten a real estate license and is associated with the Al Elan Real Estate Company. Whenever we start to slow down something new comes along.

*Submitted by
Richard Snedecor*

Depression Days

A well known Rhodes farmer shipped a hog to Chicago through the Rhodes Shipping Association. When he got the receipt from the sale, due to cost of shipping fees, yardage and etc., the amount was 2¢. Not even enough to buy a good King Edward cigar which cost 2½¢. He put three cents with it and bought two cigars.



The Lucky Seven Band 1946-1970, from the left; Phil Buck, Jack Gray, Dick Snedecor, Gerry Townsend Roger Gray, Ray Gilgen and John Buck. They regrouped in the spring of 1983 to play for a Centennial fund raiser.

Lucky Seven

Phil Buck organized the original band in 1946. They became known later as the "Lucky Seven," which was taken from a band out of Ames that had disbanded. It was decided to also play for their own enjoyment and always it remained that way.

Their first dance was held in the Rhodes Opera House for the M.W. Club of Rhodes. Members of the group at this time were; Esther Riley - piano, Paul Buck - drums, Phil Buck - trombone and Roger Gray trumpet.

They were then hired by Joe Malechek Jr., owner of "Joe's Place," to play for his Friday night fish fries.

The group started to grow, changes were made, with the following playing in the band; Dick Snedecor drums, Keith Mallicoat - singer, Joe Jamell - piano, John Buck - bass, Jack and Roger Gray - trumpet and Phil Buck trombone. All were from Rhodes, except Joe Jamell who was from Marshalltown.

Gerry Townsend of Baxter replaced Joe Jamell on

the piano, with Ray Gilgen of Rhodes on the saxophone. For 20 years this group played the majority of the time. They had a "Dixieland" style and always played without music.

During their existence the band had many replacements. Some of these are: piano - Hazel Gulde of Boone, Hazel Finley of Marshalltown, Jane Hilleman of State Center, Duane Gifford of Liscomb and Nina Main of Baxter; fiddle - Harry Gulde of Boone; bass Walt Nugent of Eldora, Frank Breese of Marshalltown and Les Meyer of Nevada; guitar - Bud Nichols of Colfax and Morris Rosenbarrow of Marshalltown; drums - Harold Townsend of Baxter and Dell Cripps of Marshalltown.

A lot of unusual things happened over the years. Following a New Years Eve dance at the Elks in Newton the hall burned to the ground. It was thought maybe the music was "just too hot." Dick Jewell shared the stage with the band at the Opera House. He always put on a good show, with a dance half way between a soft shoe and a ballet.

Sometimes the band would come out on the dance floor and people would dance around them, especially when they were playing, "When The Saint's Go Marching In." The trombone player sometimes used his slide for things other than making music. These things generally happened around midnight.

The "Lucky Seven," played in a territory bounded by Marshalltown, Newton, Des Moines and Ames. They were booked for many events and functions, such as, Elks, Legion, Eagles and the Moose.

Their last engagement in the Rhodes Opera House was held on March 5, 1951, the wedding dance of Marvin and Juanita Gibbs, but they remained active until 1966.

The people in this community have danced to their music for Alumni and school dances. This band was and still is very special to all of us in this area.

Named Miss Rhodes

September 15, 1928

Mildred Thorne was named "Miss Rhodes" Saturday at concert and election.

At a special band concert and town gathering Saturday evening, Mildred Thorne was chosen as "Miss Rhodes" to represent Rhodes in the "Miss Marshall County" contest to be held here in connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebration October 7th to 13th.

Miss Thorne was chosen by popular vote over three other candidates. The other candidates were Vera Floto, Margaret Malloy, and Kathryn Smith.



Mildred Thorne, Beauty Queen.

Hair Today — Gone Tomorrow

September - 1980

It has always been said that the only difference between a good haircut and a bad haircut is about a week, but in this case it is going to take a little longer.

About a week or so ago, a few boys were in Hildreth's horse barn where Midge Hildreth and Sandy Shortley were operating a pair of clippers. According to the group, it started out with Jim Shuey, Mark Meyers and Tim Martin daring each other to get their head shaved.

Jim said he was going to just get a strip shaved off down the middle, but the hairdresser refused.

After the first one finally braved the clean shaven head, they went to the ballpark and lined up some more recruits. Those sporting the new look are Jim Shuey, Tim Martin, Jeff Dannen, Andy Thill, Mark Meyer, John Six, Richard Freland, Richard Cowan and Rick Roberts.

Hershel Martin, father of one of the boys, was sleeping at the time this was going on and it was reported that when he heard they were giving free haircuts, he got up and went and got one.

Jim Cowan was too late to stop one of his sons, but got there in time to stop the other two boys. The boys also said that Mark Klaas came awfully close to the razor before his father got wind of it.

Jeff Dannen and Mark Meyer didn't have the nerve to go home the first night. The mother of one of the boys reportedly said she didn't care if her son had to sleep in a ditch someplace, he didn't need to come home. Another mother had just spent \$20 on a permanent for her son's hair. Two of the boys were scheduled to have senior pictures taken and the parents threatened to put a cowboy hat on them and send them anyway, but the boys said that the pictures have been postponed temporarily.

Jeff Dannen said he had always wanted to get his hair cut off like that so he jumped at the chance.

It is ironic that only a few years ago, sons threatened to leave home because the parents tried to force them to cut off the long hair, now parents feel like throwing the boys out for doing it. Where this latest fad or craze all started, is not really known, but it has also taken root in Maxwell and Nevada, according to reports and the boys there are going to the barbershop and actually getting their heads shaved. Styles evidently can't go anyplace but backwards, they have been everywhere else. One thing is for certain, it is a lot cooler with the temperatures the area has been experiencing. And it is only hair - it will grow back!

Despite serious and several efforts, the shaved youngsters were not available for a picture. Some reports indicate that the joke is growing a bit stale and the bald headed crusaders don't really want a photo commemorating the experience.