

Reunion For Andover High's Last Classes

By Wanda Smith
Andover High School

A first-time reunion is being planned for the five grades that didn't graduate from Andover High School but were students there when it closed in 1963. The reunion will be held at the Highland Lake Grange Hall in East Andover on Saturday, July 7. Rain or shine, we will be gathering there around noon.

The day will be one of fun, food, and memories. There will be much to catch up on in the last 49 years. Hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and desserts will be provided, along with lots of laughs and conversation. Bring a chair and beverages and join us.

For more information, call Steve Smith at 735-5717, Kitty Kidder at 735-5733, or Wanda Smith at 735-5434.

We look forward to seeing you!

ANDOVER HIGH REUNION

By Judy Perreault
Andover High School '53

Flashback to Andover High School graduation 1944. This Class's Yearbook was similar to an issue of the Blue and White Banner. Mimeographed on plain paper, it was about the seniors - all eleven of them.

There was a staff of six plus the headmaster, George (Coach) Corson, to whom the book was dedicated.

A trip to Boston for the class trip was planned via the train and out of the train station in Franklin. Coming back required a change over at the Concord station. Most is gone now - stations, trains, and tracks. To think you could go almost anywhere in the United States by just hopping on a train. The time was spent shopping, sightseeing, the movies, and the circus. I had never heard of the movies they saw, *Up In Mabel's Room* and *Jam Session*. Those were the days of double features, cartoons, a short film to be continued, (we called them "cliff hangers") and something about the war which still had a year to go. You really got your money's worth at the movies in those days.

It was interesting to read about the students' ambitions. All of the guys were

heading into the service. I think Winona Schoolcraft was the only girl to achieve her ambition of becoming a missionary.

For most seniors, graduation is bittersweet. Friends you worked, socialized, and studied with were scattering and moving on with their lives. Some you would never see again. It's the end of one phase of your life but the beginning of another, and everyone is anxious for new experiences.

Now with the reunion just around the corner, it is time to reconnect. Many of us, as we look back from this point in our lives, realize just how precious were those years.

Come and share some nostalgic moments at the reunion on Saturday, July 7, at the Ordway Recreational Area in South Danbury at 10 AM. At 11 AM there will be a brief meeting and class pictures. Start practicing the school songs and cheer. Bring something for the pot luck lunch at noon. Coffee, tea and lemonade will be provided. No one ever goes home hungry. Don't forget your chair and memorabilia - especially the Blue and White Banners.

In case of rain, we will meet at the old high school, now the Andover Elementary/Middle School.

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Andover Congregational Church

By Judy Evans

Andover Congregational Church

Hundreds of people await the arrival of the Andover Beacon in their mail boxes every month. As we read this issue, we are in the final preparations for the Fourth of July here in town - one of the biggest celebrations in the state. And because we recognize it on the actual Fourth and not on a weekend, we are expecting an even larger than usual crowd coming into town.

Surrounding area churches, along with Andover Congregational, will gather for prayer in the Stone Chapel on the Village Green at 8:30 AM the morning of the Fourth. Please feel free to join us as we begin the day to acknowledge that this is One Nation Under God and to show our appreciation for having the freedom of religion. And we will ask God to protect those in the military services who are protecting us.

As you drive by the church and the Highland Lake Grange Hall, you will notice how good the Grange Hall looks. At the time of this writing, it has been painted, and plans are in place for RP Johnson and Son to provide materials and labor as a "Build it Forward" project to replace the porch floor, steps, and lattice work. Stop by and check it out. And a big thank-you to RP Johnson!

The Grange Hall is available to rent, so please contact Irene Jewett at 735-5271 if you would like to book it for occasions such as a baby or wedding shower, a reception, a family gathering, or just a fun time to get folks together. You will enjoy the use of the new bath-

room and kitchen.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will take place on Monday, August 6 through 10, so save the date. It had been scheduled for a later date, but it will definitely be from August 6 to 10.

On Sunday, August 12, we will have our annual outdoor worship service followed by a picnic at Highland Lake. This is open to everyone, and we hope you can join us for food and fun at the beach.

Weekly ministry includes Sunday prayer time beginning at 8:30 AM in the Upper Room in the church before the worship service, and worship begins at 9:30 AM followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Grange Hall. Detailed information about other opportunities for ministry and Christian education for people of all ages can be found by calling the church office at 735-5160, so you can feel free to participate in any way you may wish.

As always, everyone is invited to attend Andover Congregational. Come as you are. Dress in your finest or come in casual attire. Remember, God accepts you just as you are, where you are, right now. Know that you will feel welcomed and you will probably see people you already know and will also make new friends. We are seeing new faces every week. Many good things are happening, and keep in mind that God doesn't take a vacation in the summer ... or any time.

Have a happy and safe Fourth. God Bless America!

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