

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025 EVERYONE! Praying everyone a blessed year with all your hopes and dreams coming true. Good health to all of you and your families. FYI: I am so ready for spring!!!!

NORTH DAVIESS SCHOOL UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 5 Academic Meet Jr. High**
- Feb. 19 Academic Meet Junior High**
- Feb. 25 Elementary Basketball @ Spickard**
- Feb. 27 Homecoming Game @ North Daviess**

NORTH DAVIESS SCHOOL NEWS

Varsity Basketball with Gilman City 6:00 p.m.

- Jan. 21: @ Mercer @ 6:00 p.m.**
- Jan. 24: Winston @ Gilman City 6:00 p.m.**
- Jan. 27-Feb.1: Gilman City Tournament TBA**
- Feb. 4: Grundy County @ Gilman City 6:00 p.m.**
- Feb. 7: @ East Harrison @ 6:00 p.m.**
- Feb. 8-14: HDC Tournament TBA**
- Feb. 18: Mercer @ Gilman City 6:00 p.m. (Senior Night)**
- Feb. 20 @ Osborn/Stewartsville @ Stewartsville @ 6:00 p.m.**
- TBA: District Basketball Girls**
- TBA: District Basketball Boys**

PAT NEWS FROM NORTH DAVIESS SCHOOL

Mrs. Claus Makes A Visit

Christmas Magic was swirling with excitement at the halls of North Daviess School, as Mrs. Clause made a visit to our library. Mrs. Clause not only made a special appearance , but she also took time to read to all the elementary students. Mrs. Clause took time out of her busy Christmas schedule to take pictures with the students and pass on the childrens "Hello"s to Santa at the North Pole. Mrs. Clause enjoyed milk and cookies , provided by Ms. Ishmael, our Librarian, with the students, before her departure back to the North Pole Mrs. Clause was invited by Elementary Counselor, Louise Bird and Parents As Teachers Educator, Vera Nelson.

NORTH DAVIESS SCHOOL AND SECOND HARVEST TEAM TOGETHER FOR A BOUNTIFUL HOLLIDAY!

Second Harvest from St. Joseph, has partnered with North Daviess School over the past years to ensure that our school families are given food supply opportunities. Our small but **MIGHTY** community has taken advantage of some of the programs that benefit our families in "stretching the dollar" in this tough economy. The Campus Cupboard program which has no income guidelines, is a voluntary program for our parents and guardians at North Daviess. Once a month, non-perishable food is delivered from Second Harvest and then distributed to the school families. This Holiday Season, Second Harvest and North Daviess went another step in their attempt to ensure food stability, by offering turkeys for the entire school and faculty. This program is only possible and successful by our students who help with the unloading of the food, to the staff ensuring that the commodities are delivered to all those families participating. The Campus Cupboard reaches, every month, over 100 participants, which includes students and members living in their household. Louise Bird and Connie Ward, Counselors at North Daviess and Vera Nelson, PAT for North Daviess oversee each monthly distribution.

Campus Cupboard Driver, Faith Courtney with Second Harvest and Louise Bird Counselor for North Daviess braved the cold weather to make sure that the Turkeys were distributed to our Students and Families of North Daviess R-III.

I was sent the following article by Jameson High School graduate "1952", Charlene (Boyer) Ballenger. It will be divided into 2 or 3 copies of The Gem. I appreciate her sending this for your reading pleasure.

Jameson Memories

I was Charlene Boyer when I left Jameson, Missouri in May 1952. I graduated from high school then left for three months to go to secretarial school in Kansas City. Afterwards, I found a job, met my husband-to-be and got married the next year. We returned to Jameson many times. I have fond memories of the town, people, and the school, and I would like to share some of these memories with you.

My parents were Charles and Alpha Boyer. Dad was born and raised near Gilman City, Missouri. He attended Smith country school through the eighth grade then finished high school and graduated at Gilman City. Mom was born at Jameson, attended and graduated there from school. (Her maiden name was Troxel). They were farmers and had four children – I am the oldest, then Nancy, Bud and Margaret. We were a lively bunch – only 5 ½ years between oldest and youngest.

I started school (walked over a mile each way) in 1940 at the same country school my dad had attended. Nancy started the next year. In March of my second grade, we moved to Gilman City. Farmers always moved at that time of year in order to be ready for planting season. We lived around Gilman for three years then moved to Jameson in March 1945. I was in the fifth grade. We'd had to walk to school at Gilman practically all the time. When roads were bad (hardly any roads were graveled at that time.) Dad was tired of worrying about us, so we moved to Jameson, east of town four or five miles. At least we lived on graveled roads! We learned to ride a bike and had many skinned arms and knees from falls. I was a tomboy and liked to be out climbing or with the horses. We weren't allowed to ride the work horse, but I sure wanted to. I'd learned to milk a cow when I was in the third grade. I also liked to cook and being the oldest I learned early. I also learned to sew at an early age. In 1948, when I was in 8th grade, we moved southwest of Jamson to a big two-story house. We finally had electricity! (We never had indoor plumbing). Mom and Dad bought a refrigerator and an electric iron. Before that, Mom had her mother's old irons (heavy!), and we'd used them forever. In fact, I've kept the irons and the carrier and stand. Dad then bought a new Ford tractor with a plow and discs. We had more farmland – 200 acres plus. One thing we didn't have was good drinking water. (We had water to do the laundry.) So, Dad had to go to town to the city well, sometimes twice a day to get fresh water, especially if Mom was canning. Eventually, the landlord had a well dug west of the house.

We had lots of pigs and chickens. Dad had reduced the number of sheep to eight or ten. Maybe a dozen cows – we only milked one in order to have milk, cream and butter. Also reduced the number of horses from four to two. He still used them to mow certain areas and plow the garden, etc. Dad grew lots of corn, oats, red clover and lespedeza for hay. Don't think he ever had a hay bailer or corn picker. If he did, it was after I'd left home.

The town of Jameson and its people were wonderful, friendly and helpful. I believe the town had a population of 175 at the time we moved there. It had been much larger at some point, but a fire had destroyed several buildings and businesses when my mother lived there as a young girl. I understand there had been a bank, a hotel and other places of business, but at the time I lived there it was much smaller – two grocery stores (Alexander's and Smith's), the Post Office, Somerville's Hardware, Wheeler's barber shop, a gas station, a feed store, two small eateries, and two churches. The residents themselves – I remember Alexanders, Bristows, Browns, Cannons, Dulys, Drummonds, Holleys, Hartpence, Dr. Graham, McCartneys, McNeelys, Millers, Padgets, Pughes, Somervilles, Tinglers, Wades, Wheelers, Wilmots, Zornes and many more. Other things I remember about the town most is the Christian church we attended. My Dad became an elder there. I was baptized at age 12. My sister, Nancy, and I alternated leading the singing with accompaniment of piano by Hazel Brown. We also took up class offerings (men did the adults) and gave the secretary report. In the summer on Friday nights there were free movies at dusk in the street. The area was roped off from cars and you could bring chairs, cushions, or whatever,

to enjoy the evening. There was a 4-H Club of which I was a member, Lola Richards was our teacher. We learned painting on glass, sewing, furniture refinishing, skincare, manicures, etc. It was very worthwhile, and I learned much. The annual Jameson Picnic was the social event of the year. People came from other towns to enjoy it during the first part of August, with all kinds of contests, music, food, rides, etc. I understand it still goes on, but I haven't attended for many years.

Does anyone remember a Box Supper? It was a way for the school to earn money for incidentals. The girls or women would cook a meal, put it in a box, decorated and wrapped very pretty, and a number was put on the box. All the boxes were individually auctioned to the highest bidder. Whoever purchased it got to enjoy the food! Of course, the girls would tell their gentlemen friends the box number in hopes they would win their favor and a good meal.

My mother always had big gardens. My brother, Bud helped her hoe and weed while us girls cooked evening meals and did other household chores. Mom canned everything she could, even beef and pork, as we only had chicken in the summer. When it was harvesttime, us girls would sit under the shade trees and shell peas, snap beans, shuck corn or whatever was needed while she canned inside the hot kitchen. We'd pick wild berries, plums, etc., to make jellies and jams. In the fall, we picked up walnuts and hickory nuts to dry, shell and use.

In the summer of 1951, there was a big flood on the Grand River. Our farmland with corn and soybeans was totally ruined. My sister, Nancy, and I took jobs with two sisters and their families in Kansas City. We cooked, cleaned, and took care of their children. We had room and board and \$15 a week! That's not much by today's standards, but it helped for the winter coming on. I was going to be a senior in high school and there were class pictures, class rings and other incidentals to buy. By working in the city, that left our 15-year-old brother, Bud, and 12-year-old sister, Margaret, to help Dad with his work and Mom with all the cooking, cleaning, washing, canning, etc. We made it through, but Mom took a job after school started at the cap factory in Pattonsburg. She didn't drive so Dad had to take her or she found someone to take her to work. She worked there for several years and sometimes took work home with her so she wouldn't have to go to the factory. Think they even let her borrow one of the factory machines which was for heavy-duty cap-making.

I wrote a bluegrass music newsletter for several years. My husband and I enjoyed that kind of music. We had a tag-along camper for a while, then graduated to 34-foot Fifth Wheel. We mostly travelled throughout Missouri and Arkansas going to music festivals. I won awards for my newsletter with the SPBGMA (Society Preservation Bluegrass Music of America) organization. When we moved from Raytown to Kearney in 1991, after my husband's retirement, I had to forego all of that. We had even gone to Nashville on a bus tour with bluegrass friends several years to attend special shows at the end of January each year. We always had a wonderful time!

I also wrote a church newsletter in later years. We attended a church in Excelsior Springs for a number of years. My husband became an elder. I did the newsletter with his help. I've always liked to read and write fiction/romance. One time in English class at Jameson High School, my teacher, Miss Groce, assigned us each to write a short story. She commented on mine and asked if she could read it in front of the whole class. I agreed, was embarrassed, but honored that she chose my story.

There were many families living outside of Jameson that we were acquainted with, especially through school and functions. The Croys, Hefleys, Browns, Groves, Wrights and others on the west side. Along the south side where we lived were the Elmores, Estes, Gordons, Richards, Roberts, Scotts, Hoyles, Stigers, Vrosteks, Frosts, Chadwicks, Searles, Piersons, Virgins, Pughes, Maryfields, and others. I remember more on the east side because when we first moved to Jameson, we rode the school bus and it picked up children from families of Cox, Netherton, Black, Everly, Lasher, Cole, Becker, Worley, Johnson, Severe, Brown, Richards and Burtons. Others lived there, and I apologize for not knowing some of the families' names as they were older and their children already grown and gone, such as the Waters, and the two Troxel families – my mother's relatives, and Wynne – my dad's relatives. North of town there were many more farms, families and children, such as Nickells, O'Hare's, and Feurts. Many families would leave, or new ones moved in, and again I don't recall if it was after I left or when we'd return for a visit that my folks would mention names. It's been a *long* time since I've lived there.

Back to school days in Jameson! When we first attended our new school, a Mr. St. Claire was the superintendent. Mr. and Mrs. Holley didn't arrive until 1947. We had no place to have recess except outside and if it was raining or cold, that didn't work. I don't know how long the plans were in the working, and I think Mr. Holley had a lot to do with it, but a new building was attached to the north side of the school in 1948-49. It included a regular-size gym on the east side, with extra space on the west side where it was raised 3-4 feet. Big bleachers were in the raised portion; heavy side curtains were attached and pulled back when it was time for a ballgame. The center part had a big curtain to close or open for the stage area – to put on school plays or programs. It served the purpose and was very efficient. Of course, there were side exit doors and one central door/hallway for people to attend whatever function was planned. We had many ballgames, plays, band concerts, banquets, etc. over the years. I remember when the tile floor was being installed. Some of the classes were asked to come down, take off their shoes, and in stocking feet press down on the tile to help it adhere to the concrete. We all thought it was fun – besides getting to miss class!

Burt Brinks was our school custodian. He also drove one of the school buses, which was a large panel truck with long seats built along the inside. The Boyer kids lived on the east side of town at that time and rode that bus. There must have been 15-20 kids on it. When we moved to the southwest side of town in '48, there was a horse-drawn school wagon we rode, as the roads

were dirt. Later, driver Sam Stigers had a Jeep and he took us. There were eight kids crammed in it. Another driver was Fred Brown. Don't remember what vehicle he drove, but the route was west of town, with a number of kids riding in it.

Another thing I remember about: after school when we lived east of Jameson, our bus was on the second route, so we had time to kill. Some of us couldn't resist walking to town to either Alexander's or Smith's grocery stores to purchase a candy bar or a bottle of pop. Each cost 5¢! Can you believe it? And a candy bar now costs \$1.00 or more!

Ina McCartney was the cook for lunch in the school cafeteria. She had three sons – John, in my class; Daryl, three years older; and Nevin, who was in the service. I assumed Mrs. McCartney was a widow. When she left (I don't know the reason) Evie Reed took over the cooking. Some of the high school girls helped serve the lunch each day, and I was one of them.

We had an excellent music instructor, Robert Paul. I don't recall if he came more than once a week or not. I understood he had another job at a bank in Gallatin. Anyhow, I joined the band in my freshman year as a drummer. I wasn't good with after-time on the snare so finally "graduated" as the bass drummer. We had really nice uniforms Mr. Holley had acquired for us. Mr. Paul was very good, and he turned us into a #1 band in our class at contests. We went all over the state for these contests, usually in spring of the year. We played at the Bethany Fair in the fall one year. I remember it was so hot and dusty. He was also our girls' glee club instructor. Boys were more into basketball rather than singing.

Mr. Holley taught our science class and was the coach for basketball and volleyball. (More on the basketball later in this article). Mrs. Holley taught history and part-time Home Economics, and she was also the principal. Miss Plymell was our math teacher; Miss Groce taught English; and Don Prindle the commerce department. He was also an excellent pianist. Later, Mrs. Robert Paul taught Home Economics. We'd had a new kitchen remodeled in one of the classrooms near the gym, which included two stoves, one refrigerator, one sink, several tables and cabinets. An area was designated for the sewing section and had at least two sewing machines and more tables. When I was a senior, our class was in the late afternoon. If we baked, the basketball boys having practice would come knocking at our door asking for samples because it all smelled so good!

Barbara Becker and I were artists on the school paper while in high school. Older class members wrote articles on sports, music, and other projects going on.

At Christmas there was always some kind of program at school, usually the lower grades had their turn to perform and show their abilities. The gym was set up with folding chairs for parents and guests. It was an exciting, wonderful time of year, especially for small children, Santa always managed to show up with candy and jolly greetings!

"Jameson Memories" Written and submitted by Charlene (Boyer) Ballenger, a 1952 Jameson High School Graduate

COOK SHACK UPDATE

With the contribution of an anonymous donation, the Lions club has decided to undertake a massive renovation of the Cook-Shack at the city park. It has been several years since any improvements have been made, and we have had local volunteers offer to help assist with labor and equipment.

The old cook shack at the park has been taken down and work is starting on the new one. However, as the project progresses, the donation for materials and supplies may fall short. Anyone interested in donating to help with this renovation can contact:

Harry Clymore...660-334-0951 Frank Wheeler....816-213-0577 Jan Duly...660-334-0426

For this project and in partnership and support with Jameson Community Better as a 501 C3 Organization, donations can be made to Jameson Community Betterment for tax deductions mailed to... Jameson Community Betterment, PO Box 114, Jameson, MO 64647

Scotland Church of Christ, 26320 Flint Ave., Jameson, MO 64647 - Sunday Worship at 10:30 a.m. & Bible Study at 6:00 p.m.

JAMESON COMMUNITY BETTERMENT TRASH BAGS FOR SALE AT \$12.00 A ROLL

POST OFFICE

Post offices are rated and ranked based on their revenue, i.e.: postage sales. We are asking all alumni, past neighbors and friends of the community to help us keep our local post office in operation. Since the price of postage is the same at any post office, please consider purchasing stamps for your business and personal use through the Jameson branch. Stamps can be ordered by mailing a check directly to the Jameson Post Office at 206 Main Street, Jameson, MO 64647. There is no additional fee for return mailing. Make checks payable to Jameson Post Office. Be sure to include your return address. You may also contact Jan Duly, 21501 200th St., Jameson, MO 64647 or Patty Baker, 124 Walnut, Jameson, MO 64647. Post Office Hours: M-F 8:30-12:30, Saturday: 10:15-12:00, Post Office Phone Number: 660-828-4368

Please send us your news: *The Gem* is provided by the Jameson Community Betterment Association. It is in its 17th year of publication. It is sent to nearly 500 homes in 31 states. If you know of someone who wants to receive *The Gem*, please give their name and address to us. Donations to Jameson Community Betterment are tax deductible, appreciated, and used well. I appreciate any items or articles submitted. The Gem will not accept any kind of ads but would love to have any old memories you'd like to share of Jameson and the school. Next Gem should be out around the middle of March 2025. I really need articles if this paper is to continue.

Contact information: Patty Baker ('68), 124 Walnut St., Jameson, MO 64647 (phone) 660-334-0366, or trishthecook@yahoo.com