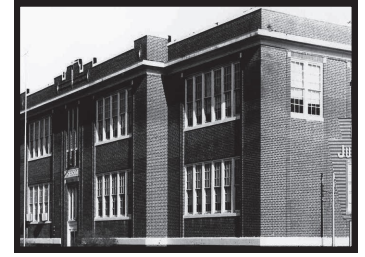




STATIC



POTEAU HIGH SCHOOL ALMUNI

July 2023

POTEAU, OKLAHOMA

2023 Poteau High School All-School Reunion



September 2, 2023

- 6 pm-Welcome and Opening Remarks- Terry Joe Wiles
- Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer for the meal- Jim Marsh
- School song- Wanda Wyatt
- Meal
- Keynote Speaker- Jack Gatewood(1960)
- Announcement of the Oldest and Youngest Graduate; Graduate that traveled the farthest; Class with Highest Reunion Attendance; Recognition of Class of 1973 on the 50th Anniversary- Terry Joe Wiles
- 7 pm-DANCE- "Even Keel"- Beach Band with the Island Feel
- 8 pm-Door prizes given at the first break
- Closing- survey sheets-Thanks to all- Remember 2025 Reunion



“The Static” is a connection between all classes of Poteau High School. And Poteau, too. I remember High School as some of the best and most interesting years of my life. I am also fortunate enough to have maintained contact with most of my best friends through the years. We still share memories and stories, mostly true, of High School. Since 2017, I have been part of the Alumni Association and I have noticed that in 12 printed pages or so, we have shared info from the time since the last printing of the Static, that’s of interest to many and to some the only connection. There’s articles on teachers of the year, a student of interest, Alumni Scholarship winners, stories of the High School through the years in three different locations and building complexes(Campus), a story of Poteau, a Military spotlight and in memory of the classmates that have gone before, the obits. No even fb will have all this info available for you to review in one place.

The Static has 800 hard copies that are mailed and over 200 emailed. At times, it takes a few more meetings to smooth it all out, with a few hours online to share and gather info. It is truly a labor of love. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work beside the few very dedicated folks, laboring tirelessly and almost thanklessly, be-

hind the scenes. We are all very grateful for this chance to serve the Poteau High School Alumni Association and all the members.

I have hope that this 2023 Reunion will spark an interest in keeping this flow of memories and information flowing like the wake behind a ship full of Pirates. There is always a place to plug in if you would like to help with The Static. If you are not an Association member at this time, please consider it, but it’s not a requirement to volunteer and donate some of your time. The 2023 Reunion has a free dinner and dance as shameless recruitment for future members. It has been scaled down a little because the Reunion Committee(5 of us) are also the Static staff, and Members of the Board that handle the business of keeping it all afloat. We could stand a few more volunteers for each project.

There will be a table at the reunion to enroll for an email of The Static. We will also mail a hard copy to current members so to ensure delivery, please check and change the address to update it. Thanks, TJW.

Pete’s Dream

by Linda Holton

In 2008 Pete Hopkins, at that time was the Static Editor, had an idea of how we could make enough money to pay for publishing the Static. He thought if 100 Alumni would donate a \$1000 in memory of a loved one that would give the Association \$100,000.00 and use the interest to pay for publishing the Static. He called it Pete’s Dream. He ordered and paid for 100 cups with pictures of the old high school and the present high school printed on the cup along with a number indicating the number of the donation.

In the following years Alumni have donated over \$72,000.00 which was put into a CD. The past few years the interest rates have been very low, when the CD matured in May of this year, as treasurer I called several banks to find the best interest rates and moved the CD to another bank. As the treasurer with the approval of the officers and other membership, added enough money

to make the CD \$80,000.00. The interest is 4 percent for 10 months and at maturity will pay a little over \$2700.00 with that being enough to pay for this issue of the Static.

Mary Helen Lucas with the first person to donate to Pete’s Dream in Memory of her husband Larry.. In the years since 2008 there have been many donations made in Memory of parents, husbands, wives, and classmates. Many of the donations have been made at Reunion time.

I talked to Pete after I renewed the CD and he was so proud that the Association had accomplished what he had started in 2008.



Pete Hopkins



In Memory of Delores Manlove

by Linda Holton with Jacob Manlove

Delores was a proud Poteau High School graduate from the class of 1959 and a loving wife to fellow Poteau alumni Max Manlove. Although I knew of her during our time in school, we didn't have many opportunities to interact as she was three years behind me. However, several years ago, when J.C. and I moved back to Poteau, I had the chance to truly get to know Delores.

Delores was a dedicated and hardworking individual, always willing to lend a hand wherever she could. Whether it involved writing articles for the *Static* or assisting others with their writing, she approached each task with unwavering enthusiasm. Her commitment to the Poteau High School Alumni Association was extraordinary, and she believed that being a graduate of Poteau High School was an achievement that all alumni should cherish and take pride in.

Her passion for the association was contagious, inspiring others to get involved and contribute their time and effort. Delores had a remarkable ability to rally her family members, turning it into a true family affair. Whether it meant having her daughter-in-law write articles for the *Static* or enlisting her grandson's help in publishing and editing the newspaper, Delores's influence was evident. Her family members were happy to assist, knowing how much it meant to her and how dedicated she was to the cause.

One of Delores's notable accomplishments was her involvement in the establishment and maintenance of the Alumni Room at the old Lowrey Hotel. Initially, it started as a single room, but through Delores's and Patty "Hill" Wright's hard work, it expanded to cover multiple areas. The Alumni Room became a cherished space, filled with precious memories of Poteau High



School from years gone by. It became a hub where alumni of all ages could revisit and relish their high school years, regardless of when they graduated. If you haven't had the chance to visit the Alumni Rooms, I highly recommend planning a trip the next time you're in town. It's a nostalgic journey that will undoubtedly bring back fond memories and create new ones.

Delores's dedication to the association extended beyond preserving memories. She was instrumental in initiating the association's scholarship program, which has provided numerous deserving and hardworking young alumni with the opportunity to further their education and pursue their dreams. Delores understood the importance of education and believed in empowering the next generation of Poteau graduates. Her efforts have undoubtedly made a significant impact on the lives of those who have received these scholarships.

In addition to her contributions to the alumni association, Delores was a woman of deep faith, a devoted Christian who actively served her church in various capacities. She was a loving and caring individual, not just to her immediate family but to the wider community as well. Delores had a talent

for sewing and cooking, and she used these skills to show her love for others. Whether it was sewing or preparing delicious meals for family gatherings, she poured her heart into everything she did.

There was a time when I faced a challenging situation while preparing for a reunion. I had a bad fall and was unable to contribute as planned. It was during this time that I reached out to Delores, asking her if she would take over for me. Without hesitation, she stepped up and did a remarkable job in my absence. However, after the reunion, she declared that she would never take on such responsibilities again. Yet, despite her proclamation, Delores continued to accept new projects and undertakings within the association, driven by her unwavering dedication and love for her alma mater. She epitomized the essence of a true alumnus and served as an extraordinary example of a proud Poteanian.

To me, Delores was more than just an acquaintance; she was a dear friend with whom I could share my worries, lean on in difficult times, and trust with my deepest secrets. I will genuinely miss that aspect of our relationship.

Delores's absence will be profoundly felt by all of us who worked alongside her on the *Static* and the reunions. Her cheerful demeanor, willingness to help, and insightful ideas were invaluable assets to the team. Her presence was sorely missed during the most recent reunion planning, as her contributions and suggestions always added a special touch, making each event more memorable than the last. I will deeply cherish our friendship and will forever consider myself a Pirate in honor of Delores's legacy.

Military Spotlight

by David Deaton

Poteau, OKLAHOMA He may be Poteau's most famous person. Clarence Coggins is a war hero of expect proportions. The city even has a street named in his honor. Who is he?

Coggins was a 1937 graduate of Poteau High School and attended Oklahoma A&M College.

He joined the 45th Division and served in the 179th Infantry in the U.S. Army. In 1944, 1st Lt. Clarence Coggins was captured by German Forces while on reconnaissance northeast of Grenoble.

Coggins single handedly convinced the German major that escape from Allied troops was impossible. On August 25, 1944, all of that German troop surrendered to Coggins.



Clarence Coggins

The official terms showed that he had captured 942 enlisted men and 17 officers. Vast amounts of equipment were turned

over to authorities at Grenoble, France. Because of this, at only 24 years old, he was immediately promoted to the rank of Captain.

Captain Coggins passed away on January 7, 1945, in France during the Battle of the Bulge.

He received 2 Silver Stars, 1 Bronze Star, 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, 2 Purple Hearts and the Gold Star.

You can learn more about Captain Coggins and other hometown heroes at the LeFlore County Museum located at 303 Dewey Avenue in Poteau.

Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am until 3pm.

Teachers of the Year

Each year a teacher from each campus is selected by his peers. Later, the district teacher of the year is chosen. This year's primary school chose first grade teacher, Robyn Giliam who has been in Poteau for three years. The upper elementary chose Shea Hebert, a reading and social studies teacher for fourth grade. The middle school nominated Niki Steelman who teaches sixth grade geography where she has been for two years. High school teacher, Nicole Cruse, teaches English 111, journalism, newspaper, yearbook, and an elective called Reading for Pleasure. She has taught for 15 years. Chosen as district teacher of the year was Jessica Nelson who teaches math and algebra at the 7th and 8th grade building. She has taught for 7 years and is currently working toward a certificate in school administration. Realizing the challenge with this age students, she finds projects and interactions to keep the students interested and motivated. These teachers will be recognized in August when Poteau teachers return to work for the next year.

ATTENTION ALUMNI

Attention Alumni:

We have a good organization but we need more active alumni. We are in need of volunteers for the upcoming reunion and we need some more financial help. There are 4 ways you can donate.

1. Static Account
2. Trust Fund
3. Scholarship Account
4. Lifetime Memberships

Surely there are some grandparents out there with grandchildren in the Poteau Schools. You can make a donation of any amount to

the Scholarship Account. You can make the donation in their name or the name of a loved one. The Trust Fund is a \$1000 donation usually in memory of a loved one. You will receive a cup with a picture of the school and the number of the donation made. Everyone will receive a receipt of a donation of \$100 or more. We are a 501-C so the donation will be tax deductible.

- Linda Holton, Treasurer

Curb Appeal

My parents moved to Poteau from Huntington, AR in 1955 when I was a year old. Some early memories my sister Jan and I have are when our folks loaded us up in the car in the evening and drove around Poteau. In the summertime, we always stopped at Dairy Queen for ice cream and watched as cars circled the building and headed back south. Then we would drive south, turn onto Dewey (Main Street), follow others to the top of hospital hill, turn around, and start all over again. At least once a night, Dad took us up to the top of Terry Hill by the water tower for a view of the town.

As we got a little older, Jan and I picked up that northbound Broadway was four lanes going north in front of Ollie Lumber but narrowed to two lanes about a block away. The stoplight at Broadway and College frequently signaled a drag race when it turned green. One car had to back off in order to avoid a crash. Our 1957 Ford was in a race or two there.

The late 1960s and early 70s added two more cruise-around hot spots. Mr. Swiss at North Broadway and Church Street was a popular hangout and my first job at 15 ½. Cars parked in front of the building and in

every other possible spot on the property leaving a narrow lane to drive around it. Cars going north on Broadway always made a loop around Mr. Swiss. Sonic, in the current location of Meyers Drive-in, opened a couple of years later, instantly becoming the southbound loop around.

Also in the early 1970s, an obscure traffic barrier behind the Dial Building at the intersection of Dewey and North Harper added another loop to the cruise. I wasn't the first person to add it to the cruise route, but I was among the first. We made a right onto Harper,

then another immediate right into the Dial Building parking lot. Then, a hard left in the alley putting us back facing Harper, then a left onto Harper and continue to Dewey, then right again toward Hospital Hill. It may have been a short-lived diversion, but we liked it.

By the time my two daughters graduated from PHS in 1997, the parking lot at Super H was the place to be and I guess it still is. I'm looking forward to cruising all the twists and turns, even though some of the landmarks aren't there anymore.



2023 Scholarship Winners

The recipients of this year's PHS Alumni Scholarships are Page Rice and Jaiden Davies. Both of these students desire to continue their education and are thankful for these scholarships provided by the alumni association.

Jaiden plans to attend Carl Albert State College. A pre-law major, she will shadow Judge Marion Fry this summer so she can gain more knowledge of the legal system.

Page will be attending the University of Arkansas this fall where she will begin her studies in nursing and the field of medicine.

Both scholarship winner's parents are PHS grads, too.



TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 2023

June 8, 2023 Bank Statement
Association Account
 \$2785.92

Static Account
 \$9877.21 (this included a \$10,00.00 CD that was cashed in)

Scholarship Account
 \$2479.06

Total
 \$15,142.19

The Board voted to cash the CD and allow enough working capital to print this Static and to be able to have a no cost Reunion for 2023.

Side Note to Treasurer's Report

Just to have accountability and to be transparent, here's a simple explanation of expenses. The PHS Alumni Association, funded by memberships and contributions, pays for this Reunion, the two scholarships for college, the cost of The Static thru Pete's Dream and now quarterly newsletters. The Cost of the Static is over \$2000. Depending on attendance, the Reunion cost between \$4000 and \$10,000. The College scholarships are for two students- two semesters with \$500 for each semester. This money can be used for any need, pencils to Pontiacs. There's an easy way to apply for a few more winners next year. Check with the High School counselor for info. By Terry Joe Wiles

Donor Info

The PHS Alumni Association is now officially a 501c3 organization. Donors can deduct contributions that they wish to make under IRC Section 170. Alumni wishing to make a donation to the Static or to the Scholarship Fund, please mail to: PHS Alumni Assoc, P. O. Box 803 Poteau, OK 74953. All contributors will be mailed a receipt for their contribution. Many thanks to Brian Roberts, CPA, Class of 1973 for donating his time to take care of this for the Alumni Association.

Address Change

Important Notice On Mailing of Static _If you have plans for moving or a change of address for the mail distribution of the Static, we need to let you know that a change is coming. We want you to continue to receive the Static so do your part and help us ensure that you do not miss a single issue. Please forward the following information to PHS Alumni Association, PO Box 803, Poteau, OK 74953. Or you may email the information to Terry Joe Wiles at tj.wiles61@outlook.com. Name (include maiden name); new address with zip code; and year of graduation. You might also include your telephone number and email address if you have one. Thank-you for helping us manage the association's resources responsibly.

PHSA Static Obituaries

I have done my best to gather info on the recent passing of PDS Alumni. It is not easy. Families have helped with fb post and emails and we appreciate it all. If there has been a passing that needs to be mentioned in our next Static, Please send a copy of obit, year graduated to the PHS Alumni Association, Box 803 Poteau. Ok. 74953 and it will be added. Our prayers go out to the families in their time of recent loss. - Terry Joe Wiles

Delores Manlove, class of 1959, Passed away 11-7-22

Charles Perry, class of 1948, passed away 1-12-22

Terri Walden, class of 1986, passed away 4-1-23

Shirley Owen Henson, class of 1956, passed away 2-5-23

Ronald Howard (Bill) Butler, class of 1958, passed away 5-20-23

Lois O. Turner Nielson, class of 1942, passed away 6-8-22

Carl Don Logan, class of 1956, passed away 9-2-21.

Sharon Kay Webb, class of 1970, passed away 12-5-22

Gene L. Weaver, class of 1957, passed away 12-15-22

Michelle Rene' (Leming) Chaplin, class of 1980, passed away 8-26-22

Terry Milam. Class of 1968, passed away on 12-25-22

Shannon Clay Jordon, class of 1985 passed away 1-12-23

Elizabeth Hooper, class of 1948, passed away on 1-23-23

Betty Lou Evans, class of 1962, Passed away 10-12-22

Louis Dorey, class of 1962, passed away 9-26-22

Martha Ann Loggains, class of 1987, passed away 9-19-22

Sherry Ballew, class of 1974, passed away 9-17-22

Dr. Richard (Dick) Winters, class of 1957, passed away in 10-2020.



Forever a Pirate

2023 Static and Online Preregistration

This 2023 Reunion is an exciting time and a needed transition for the Alumni Association in outreach. This will be the first time to use the fb event page and send invites and offer preregistration online. Thanks to Mandy Rogers (1980) for all the help with the event page. Over 800 were snail-mailed, too. Response to both has been encouraging already. But I am lacking, I found, in my abilities of emailing, placing info and pics in folders and sub-folders, and then finding them when I need it. I sure wish that I had paid more attention to Mrs.

Plummer in typing class in 1970, too. After much hard work and worry, this Static should be in your hands by the 15th. The articles are all good reads. There is more info on the 2023 Reunion, Poteau's happenings, how to become a member or send donations and contributions to ensure the future of the PHS Alumni Association.

I hope to see you at the Reynolds Center on Sept 2nd. I'll be the old man, white beard and new overalls, on the dance floor doing the Watusi and the Twist.

*Terry Joe Wiles Class 1970
PHS Alumni Association President*



**PHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 803
POTEAU, OK 74953**

Return Service Requested

