



# Onaway Area Schools Alumni Association

December 2010

Volume 15

## Homecoming 2010

Homecoming for 2010 was one of those good/not-so-good experiences. The game was disappointing, but the celebration continued anyway. The parade through town in the afternoon consisted, as usual, of lovely floats and enthusiastic teens along with their supportive teachers, coaches, and families.

Half-time consisted of a display by the school's newly reinstated band under director Jennifer Smercina, presentation of an award to our own Peg Herring as Grand Marshal, 2010, and the crowning of Homecoming Queen Candyce Bacon. At the dance following the game, Homecoming King Andrew Beaver was named. The traditions of OHS continue!



Homecoming floats

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Brooklyn Szymoniak &  
Molly Jo Martin



Samantha Brasseur &  
Cassidy Hyde

### Did you notice?

Your address label has a year on it that tells when your dues are paid.

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## Outrageous Fan Contest

OASAA again sponsored an Outrageous Fan Contest during football season. Three lucky girls were the winners, and they are pictured here: From left: Katelyn Larson, second place, a gift certificate to the Snack Shack; Breanna Domke, third place, a Cardinal mug; and Breanna Crooks, first place, a \$25.00 gift certificate. What an outrageous trio!



## A Teacher We Remember

Don Baker returned to his hometown of Onaway to teach high school science after serving in the military in Korea in the 1950s.



Coming from a family of educators, he began a career that spanned decades and encompassed many different aspects of education.

Don inspired his students to question the physical

world with classes in the sciences, but he also posed intriguing questions on other topics, helping students think about things in new ways. He organized a popular science club in the '60s to encourage students' scientific investigation as well as to serve the school. Later in his career, Don took on the job of assistant superintendent, taking responsibility for the many federal programs required to operate a school.

In the 1990s, Don retired from education, but he is still visited by former students who want to touch base with the teacher who got them thinking about the larger world and helped them see the contributions they could make to it.

## Reunion News

The OHS Class of '61 is holding their 50th Class Reunion on July 3rd at Black Lake Golf Club. Contact people are Dale Anderson and Sandi Everingham. (Sandi's phone #231-238-9040).

Attention OHS Class of 1996 15-Year Reunion at Stoney Links on Saturday, July 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, contact Adrienne Lyon Dodd or Tina Williams Hilliker.

We are looking forward to having a great time hanging out with old friends. If you could pass this along, we would greatly appreciate it! Please let us know if you think you will be there or not so we can let them know an estimated number. (Both Tina & Adrienne are on Facebook.)



Spread the word!

## Spotlight Class-1963

The class of 1963 has the distinction of being the last class to graduate from the school situated between School and College Streets on the south side of Onaway. Superintendent Floyd "Mike" Merritt was spearheading the drive to build a new school on M-33 South, but this class took their last walk as seniors across the front steps of the grand old brick building that was the old Onaway School. It was also the last graduation at OHS held outdoors.

Aside from the usual classes like math from Ms. Crooks, English from Miss Miller or Mrs. Apking, science from Mr. Baker, or history from Mr. Morrison,

students chose from electives like agriculture from Mr. McGuire, band or speech from Mr. Pregitzer, glee club from Mrs. Stone, or business from Mr. Stevenson.

Class officers were President Carol Schwenn, VP Don Fitch, Secretary Sherron McAtee, and Co-Treasurers Bob Schell and JoAnn Foster. Valedictorian was Elaine Hayner; Salutatorian, Gretchen Sichler. A close-knit class, this group still keeps in touch with well-attended reunions.

Superintendent  
Floyd  
"Mike"  
Merritt



Class of '63 prom



Class of '63  
Graduation



Class of  
'63 officers  
Carol  
Schwenn,  
Don Fitch  
and  
Sherron  
McAtee

## Classroom Scholarships

OASAA's board of directors has decided to offer classroom scholarships as a way to fulfill our purpose, "coming together to celebrate and support our school." Teachers may apply for up to \$500.00 for a classroom project that will educate and encourage their students.

Applications were delivered to the school, and the deadline for the first scholarship is December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The board will decide in January which project to fund, and we will report on all projects in future newsletters.

## OASAA Information

### Board Members:

President	Peg Herring
V.P.	Laura Reid
Secretary	Sara LaLonde
Treasurer	Susan Nelson
Membership	
Chair	Sandi Everingham
Trustees	Tom Moran
	Marty Mix
	Carl Anderson
	Debbie Nash

We're on the  
web:  
[www.oasaa.org](http://www.oasaa.org)

**Contacts:**  
**Mail: OASAA**  
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**Onaway, MI 49765**

**"Working together to  
celebrate and support our  
schools."**

## Places We Went

It's almost dead center in Onaway. There's food. It's been around forever. And did we mention there's food? The Dairy Queen has always been a popular gathering place for Onaway folks. On warm days, the tables outside are filled with "cone-lickers," enjoying a cool treat as they watch the cars go by. After a softball or baseball game, the place is often packed with winners and losers alike, all waiting impatiently for the special hot dog-and-pop and their favorite desserts. And when school is in session, students congregate in groups for lunch and a little social interaction.

Built in 1950s, the D.Q. has long provided jobs for some teens and a place to congregate for others. At times over the years, some might "hang" a little too much, creating problems. Dangerous skateboarding tricks, unwise automotive competitions, and offensive behavior are rare but bothersome to citizens of the town. At those times, the local police will invite the kids to move along, to find somewhere else to socialize. For a while, they will, but in time, it all comes back to the D.Q. It's central, inviting, and--did we mention there's food?



DQ around 1970

## Alumni Questions

If you like to stroll down Memory Lane, here are some questions that will trigger reminiscences. Answer them for yourself, and then ask an old school chum or two the same questions and see how your memories differ.

1. Who in your class had the most brownie points?
2. Which teacher had the most interesting lessons?
3. What's the latest you could get up and still make it to school on time?
4. Whose mom made the best treats?
5. When everyone got caught, who probably told?
6. Where would a person look to find a janitor?
7. Where were you likely to see lovers enjoying each other's company?
8. Which student was most likely to be inappropriately dressed?
9. What was the best road trip of your years in school?
10. What was the most memorable sporting event of high school?