

Olney Memories 162

March 3, 2025

Hello once again and welcome to the one and only..... Olney Memories!

Below are more pictures of our much loved OLNEY May Day Parades.... compliments of Roger and his Dad. There are in quotes what Roger wrote me with the first set of pictures that I absolutely did not see... (sorry Roger) but am NOW posting, as they say "better late than never"!

This is **the last set of May Day photos** there is to send out. (This really is the last set) as far as I know. As I look back I think there might have been a few duplicates along the way but I made SURE there have been NO pictures left out to the best of my knowledge. I feel we all have enjoyed them. Thank you again. Ann

Ann King

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Class of 1960

Sharron Iaun Tompson

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My teachers.

Amy Fletcher who was my father's teacher also, Mrs Bass, Mrs Lola Jacque's, Miss Jenner, Mrs Bowles, Mrs Petty and Mr Hatch in Cherry St.

Jr. Hi: Mrs Mary Lou Brown, Mrs French, Mr Brown, Mr. Fred Norenberg, Mr Hatch, Mrs Shoemaker, home ec teacher ? Loved her. High School Mr. Snively, Miss Hostler, Claire Bell Benson, Mary & Gus Slivia, so many more I loved.

Sharron Iaun Tompson

Class of 1960

Dick Meadows

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Thanks Ann for your email of OM's and efforts. Happy Valentines Day to you too.

Dick Meadows

Class of 1960

.....Thank you Dick for your thoughts and it is really good hearing from you. It is always nice and good to hear from old friends and schoolmates...Ann

Katheryn Haenggi Robinett
Hi Ann,

Thanks for your idea to remember our teachers, and all of your continuing efforts to keep our Olney Memories alive. I used my report cards to be thorough with my teachers' names in addition to ones you've already mentioned. I remember almost all of their faces.

Central School: Mrs. Freida Pittman, Mrs. Betty Dodd, Miss Inis Uhl, Mrs. Yvonne Anderson, Mr. Bernard Edwards, Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. W. Schahrer, Mrs. J. Barr, and principals C.T. Cramer and R.K. Provines.

Jr.High: Mrs. Marie Ramsey, Mrs. Mary Lou Brown, Mrs. Kay Mason, Mrs. Joan Huber, Mr. Anthus, Mrs. Thelma Waddle, Mrs. Anna Bullard, Mrs. M. Richardson, Mr. R.W. Jaques, woodshop teacher (? name), & Principal Wm. Hatch.

High School: Mr. James McWilliams, Mrs. Anna Rosenkranz, Mrs. Grace Moore, Mr. Leo (Gus) & Mrs. Mary Sliva, Mrs. Garnet VanHorn, Miss Ilene Ridgely, Mr. Cecil Fletcher, Mr. Don Beagle, Mrs. Dolly McFarland, Mr. John Rose, Mr. Robert Akes, Mr. Loren Mitchel, Mrs. Lucille Main, Miss Catherine Lytle, Mrs. Claribel Benson, Mr. Albert DeBarr, Mr. Bernard Eagleton, and Principal Frank Goedeke. So many dedicated educators!

.....Wow, this is a GREAT list!! Ann

Kathryn Haenggi Robinett
Class of 1961

Judy McKinney

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1st grade Mrs. Bass, 2nd grade Mrs. Travis, 3rd grade Miss Jenner, 4th grade Mrs. Bolby and 6 th grade Mr. Provines. Cherry St. School.

Judy Murray McKinney

Class of '57

.....Thanks Judy, Thanks to you we have more teachers to our list! Ann

Arrah Slichenmyer

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Mrs. French, Mr. Bruce, Mr. Geer, Mr. Ralph Wendling

All from Central Grade School

Arrah Slichenmyer Class of 75

.....A couple new teachers names I see Arrah! ... Good J Ann

Doug Berger

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Dear Ann,

Greetings from a nippy Hell's Kitchen in NYC!

I love seeing Roger's May Day Parade photos.

Do you or Roger know roughly what year(s) these were taken? Because of the old-fashioned outfits, I first thought perhaps 1966 when Richland County celebrated its 125th Anniversary. Remember that? But, no, because look at the cars and teacher's dress. Perhaps the 50's or early 60's?

Not sure if Olney has May Day Parades currently. But I do know they were unplugged in 1978 when I was an ERHS senior, meaning the 1977 May Day Parade was the end of the line...unless these annual celebrations have been restored.

And I hope Olney has restored them. No doubt about it: When I was a lad, those May Day celebrations were the highlight of my school year along with the school carnivals with their cake walks, dunking booth, and all.

I remember how I longed to carry my grade's banner in the parade. But since I was one of the shorter kids, I never got that big honor. Also, I remember after the parade down Main Street, we'd return to school and have Prairie Farm ice cream cups with those little wooden spoons, at least that's what we did at Central.

As for my grade school teachers at Silver and then Central (1965-1972): Miss Amy Fletcher, Mrs. Mildred Hatch, Miss Geneva Bail, Mrs. Claudia Morgan, Mrs. Miriam Finch, Mr. Karl Boley, and Mr. Norman Gher. Great teachers one and all.

Ann, again, thank you for all of your Olney Memories! I'm long gone from Olney, but it will always be home.

Doug Berger
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.... this is Ann.....Doug, I would roughly guess that the years of these pictures cover the 50's and earlier 60's probably. So I believe you are edging to the right on this thinking, but maybe Roger can respond on this more accurately. Roger?? Thanks for clarifying the year the May Day Parades have been Unplugged, as far as we now know. Now I wonder why was the reason? Does anyone know the answer to that question? I remember your Grandmother Mrs. Thelma Godfrey was teaching in Central at the time my little boys, David and Danny were attending there in the lower grades, I want to say they had her for Kindergarten, but not sure about that anymore. It's been too many years I realize as I began to type this that I remember for sure. That would have encountered the later 60's and the early 70's. (I think). Now I'm thinking one of my boys had Mrs. Hatch?

Look Doug, Roger is telling the year right below!!! J

Ann

Roger Boatman
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"This being "May Day", it got me thinking about some old pictures of the Olney May Day Parade that took place long ago. My father took these pictures and my guess is in various years between 1953 and 1959. I am in several of the pictures so some of my fellow "Class of 65" members may recognize some in the pictures. Also shown, are pictures of my grandmother's (Leila Schahrer's) class from Central School."

Roger Boatman
Class of '65

Sam Totten
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Dear Ann,

It was good to read OM 156. It brought back good Memories of ERHS and Olney, Illinois. I remember several of the teachers and many of the names including MY COUSIN, Wayne Bateman. I hope you are well and blessed! Marilyn and I are in GreenTree Assisted Living here in Mt Vernon, IL. Our two Daughters , Debbie and Judy are close by and visit often with their families----There are 37 of us now with our blended family.

Thanks for keeping us informed.

Sam Totten "50

..... This is Ann....Good hearing from your Sam and happy you both are doing better and are settled down in Mt. Vernon close to your daughters. I just learned something...didn't know Wayne Bateman was your cousin!! J

Marvin Doolin

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Thank you, Ann and Roger Boatman for the May Day pictures.

Could the man in the first picture be Mr. Holtz?

I remember how exciting it was just to walk down the street. And of course, to get out of school for a half day. J

Marvin Doolin

1962

Ann King

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Hi Marvin,

This is Ann and you very well could be right about Mr. Holtz walking in the parade. I hope we get some other thoughts on this or confirmations.

Oh my, I'll agree with you, what an exciting day May Day was in our town, I think for the town's people, the parents and grandparents and above all, the children that marched in these parades throughout all the years. I would like to know what year the Olney May Day Parades Started and ended? Wonder how we could find out? It was so

exciting to “march” so we called it in the parades when we were small, and prepare our room’s theme for the parade each year....and the excitement of the hurrying of last minute details that needed attention! In a child’s mind and eyes this was really a big event!! I do remember a few of the themes of my rooms at Central School, a very few I might add at that, one being Pets Day. I wrote about this in one of the past Olney Memories in detail. Each student could bring their pet to school that afternoon and take it with them in the parade. I’ll condense this for the second round, but my dad made a crate to put on my wagon and I brought my little pet lamb Orphan Annie, and I pulled her in my little red wagon. You can bet I was the proudest person, “I thought so anyway” in the parade that year. I believe that was 4th or 5th grade. Not even sure of that anymore. Later on I went on to march in the Jr. High Band under the direction of Fred Norenberg. Two more years after that, I advanced to the High School Marching Band under Gus Sliva. We ALL Marched our Way through school on May 1st every year! Maybe this will jar some more special memories you folks have when you yourselves marched in the May Day Parades. If so, please send them to me so I can post them. J

Ann King

Class of 1960

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These are great!

(So nice to hear from you Martha....!!) Ann

Martha Noerenbery Hertendy

Class of ‘72

Terry Cammon

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Thanks for the memories Ann, forever etched in my brain.

TJ Cammon

..... PS. Terry, Thanks so much for your statement, so nice hearing from our readers and my childhood neighbor. J On a more personal note I have many happy memories of you and your family and our playing together across the highway with your fun family, what wonderful times we shared. Those are “etched” in my mind too and those memories will never be forgotten. M.Ann

John Helm

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Those photos - were taken in the 1950's. I'm looking at the parked cars along the way. (Is this a red and white class act DeSota? Or maybe a Dodge? Who belongs to this beauty? Sure is a pretty one... I think I've lost my eye for cars maybe!!

And I think the teacher might be Miss Hubert maybe? Richard Williams, are you carrying the Boy Scout American Flag in the picture just above?

JEH

Class of 1958

..... Yes I think it's Richard Williams too John, and aren't these pictures treasures and so fun to see! J Ann

Larry Judge

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Ann;

The last May Day parade in Olney happened in 1977. The complete history and reasons for it being discontinued can be found in my 2024 "Echoes" collection of historical essays. All copies have been purchased, but I did donate a "proof copy" to the Public Library and is available in the resource section.

Am working on another collection of our history and hope to have it printed soon.

Here are some pictures I hope your subscribers will enjoy.



I see some little Club Scouts....I can't identify. In fact I can't identify anyone in this picture but the 55 of 56 Ford in the background. Now that I think about it maybe it's a 57?

Looks like maybe Miss Shafer in the background to the left? Not sure.

.....This is in front of Central School.... JAnn



There is another one posted in another issue nearly like this but thought some of you might want to blow this up and see if you are in it! This one is a better view.

..... Notice the Illinois Central RR Tracks running north and south which are unused to this day, and if I'm correct that are totally removed now! When I was a kid and even in older times way before me, these were used on a daily basis and more.....I know my Grandma would come from Parkersburg to the big town of Olney on the Illinois Central Train for the Day and do shopping. Yes, they had passenger trains too back in those early days. I don't think Grandma came every week, I think my mother said it was more like a monthly trip, for this was a very big trip back then, and usually she shopped for groceries, and patronize many other stores along main street while she was there, it was what we might call an all day affair, when she would board the train again and return back to Parkersburg. Olney was a booming town back in the early 1900's and I think we all have seen pictures of the solid store fronts up and down Main and I'm not sure but maybe the streets were still dirt, would have to research that to be sure. Ann



I see some little Club Scouts....I can't identify. In fact I can't identify anyone in this picture but the 55 of 56 Ford in the background. Now that I think about it maybe it's a 57?

.....Now maybe some of these comments will give all of you something to comment back to me on my comment mistakes.....go ahead, that's the fun of it all J. Ann



John Helm
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Hello, Ann!

The only thing that I could identify in those photos were a 1956 Mercury, a 1954 Oldsmobile, and a 1952 Ford.

Good to get your Olney Memories pictorial presentation!

John Helm
Class of 1958

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