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**Subject:** Lincoln High Newsletter - 1/26/06  
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## *Lincoln High Newsletter*

*Memories of then! News of now!*

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Hi, we just got back from two weeks in Arizona. The mornings and nights were cool, but it was nice during the day. It was interesting standing on the London Bridge and realizing it had taken them three years just to take it apart to bring it over here.

A story I have from our trip is--- The friend that we met there was standing by his car, he dropped his keys, when he went to pick them up, he realized he was standing on a rain grate, and there were his keys about four feet down, we could see them, we thought of using hangers to get them but they only had wooden hangers in the place. We couldn't lift the grate up because the car wheel was on it. Chuck walked across the road and the opening was not barred!! I have to tell you that in Wis. we would say he had a large beer belly. He got down and crawled through on his knees and elbows( not enough room to use his hands) About 15 minutes later he got to the keys, upon handing them up, we moved the car, well the grate was cemented in, so he had to back out the long drain pipe. We were heading to a bar for a drink when this all started so we had several and a lot of laughs. I hope others will write in about there vacations.

**Lenore Crothers Haferman (65)** [lhaferman@tznet.com](mailto:lhaferman@tznet.com)

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## **Students old and new celebrate Mead's 50th**

Much has changed since school opened

January 20, 2006

By DEB CLEWORTH

Rapids Daily Tribune Staff

Sirloin steak was on sale at the A & P for 59 cents a pound, coffee was 89 cents a pound at National Food Stores and Johnson Hills was having a sale -- two dresses for \$6.98.

"Honky Tonk" was showing at the Rapids theater, starring Clark Gable and Lana Turner.

It was Friday, Jan. 19, 1956, and students from Wisconsin Rapids' Edison School -- a four-room building that sat where the west-side fire station is today -- walked about a block to their new school, G.W. Mead Elementary. Mead had cost \$770,000 to build and contained 10 classrooms, two kindergarten classes, a kitchen, multi-purpose room and library.

The outdoor temperature that day, according to records at the Water Works and Lighting Commission, was 32 and cloudy.

It was a little chillier -- 28 degrees with a 19-degree wind chill -- when students and staff re-enacted the walk on Thursday to kick off a 50th birthday celebration.

By the time all the students were moved in 1956 -- coming from Lowell, Edison and Emerson schools -- enrollment at Mead numbered more than 300. The school housed students through eighth grade, except for fifth- and sixth-graders who came later.

Today, the building has been expanded and has about 460 students through grade six. On Thursday, there was standing room only, with the gymnasium packed with friends, family and past students and staff.

"The classes are smaller today, to the advantage of the student and teachers," said Phil Muth, 81. Muth helped with the move and taught seventh- and eighth-grade science at the school.

Ramona (Marti) Lubeck, 63, was part of the first eighth-grade class to graduate from Mead.

"Mr. Muth was my teacher, and Mr. Cornwell and Phyllis Hunger," Lubeck said Thursday at the celebration.

She recalled having to answer the lone school phone for Dailey Cornwell while he taught class. Cornwell, Mead's first principal, died in August 2000 at age 81. His wife, Vi Cornwell, attended Thursday's anniversary celebration.

Not long after the school opened, the library space was used for a classroom, because there were so many students enrolled, Vi Cornwell said.

"They had to have classes on the stage," which was on one end of the lunchroom, she said. "They found out they had a large enrollment; they grew so fast."

The population at Mead has fluctuated during the years and currently is the highest it has been in 10 years.

Enrollment wasn't the only change through the years, former students said.

"The playground equipment is a lot nicer," said Al Scheunemann, 51, of Wisconsin Rapids. His daughter, Heather Friday, is a second-grade teacher at the school.

"Actually, the gym looks the same; the bleachers are the same," he said as he looked around before the celebration.

His sister, Mary (Scheunemann) Ruesch, 53, agreed.

"Just more gum under the bleachers now," she said.

Ruesch recalled a contest to name the school mascot.

"The girl that had 'Mead Mustangs' won out," she said.

A banner with the mascot still hangs in the gym.

Disciplining students has changed also, Ruesch said.

"I remember kids being reprimanded in ways they couldn't do now," she said.

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