

## ***PVA MEMORIES***

### ***from Graduates of 2014 Honor Classes***

A few years ago Miss Bascom initiated and published a book of memories entitled *Our Prairie Queen, A Collection of Stories 1919-2009*. Alumni were invited to submit memories of their experiences while attending Platte Valley Academy to go into the book. Many alumni have enjoyed the results of this effort. We thank all who participated, especially Miss Bascom.

Below we have reprinted by permission of the publisher, a few of those memories. We have only included excerpts from members of the honor classes of 2014 – those classes that graduated in a year that ends in “4” or “9”. Perhaps you or your friend is a graduate of one of these classes. We hope you enjoy these alumni memories gleaned from this year’s honor classes.

#### ***The “4’s” – 10 Year Honor Classes***

##### **1934 --- Honor Year 80**

The fall of 1933 my sister, Marie, and I were planning to go to school at Campion Academy. I had been there 3 years, and she had been there 2 years. My brother, Bob, had finished the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in country school. My folks planned to have him wait for a year until I graduated. Funds were short and Campion Academy was one hundred miles closer to our home than Shelton Academy (SA). Shortly before school was to start Mr. G. E. Hutches, the principal from SA made my parents an offer that made it possible for all three of us to go to Shelton Academy. We were disappointed, but we went. We developed a liking and a loyalty to Shelton Academy.

\*Shelton Academy was the first name of our beloved Platte Valley Academy. The school name was changed from Shelton Academy to Platte Valley Academy in 1946. It was felt that this better represented the territory which the school served.

Edward Sanders ‘34

Edward submitted this in November, 2009. He passed away January 28, 2010.

##### **Class of 1944 --- Honor Year 70**

I had the privilege of growing up on the campus of Shelton Academy. Because village students were not allowed to have a work program except during vacations and the summer, I had plenty of time to study my lessons and had no trouble with academics. But I envied those who had work. I especially wanted to work in the business office. I guess I got my wishes - later – for most of my life. After I took shorthand from Mr. Streeter, I was given some work during the summer transcribing letters for the principal. Mr. Butherus. I remember one afternoon when he gave me three letters and left campus for the remainder

of the day. I spent most of the afternoon trying to figure out how to spell hoping. He had ended his letter with "Hoping to hear from you soon", and I was afraid I would tell them he was hopping to hear from them. The dictionary did not tell me how to add the "ing" to hope.

Janis Bascom '44

Miss Bascom graduated from Shelton Academy and served Platte Valley Academy for "most of [her] life". How special that they were the same school!

### **Class of 1954 --- Honor Year 60**

I attended PVA my junior and senior years. Mother wanted me to attend an SDA school. We lived in the South Dakota Black Hills. . . Being a farm boy, I was put to work on the farm. I could drive tractors and milk cows but after a couple months Mr. Bascom put me to bottling milk and making ice cream. I also ran a milk route in Shelton. Since I didn't have a driver's license (South Dakota didn't have driver's licenses at the time), Mr. Bascom took me to Grand Island to get a license. Running the milk route gave me the opportunity to go to town which most students didn't get to do very often. One day while delivering milk, one of the milk cases slid. When I grabbed for it, the truck ran off the road and got stuck in a field. I was able to get a close-by farmer to pull me out with his tractor. I didn't want Mr. Bascom to find out, but I'm sure he did.

Bruce C. Parker, DDS '54

### **Class of 1964 --- Honor Year 50**

As I reflect on my time at PVA, the first memory that comes to mind was the day the PVA recruiter, Elder Gayle Rhoads, came to our home. (Back then they visited every home of prospective students.) I was so excited about attending PVA. He looked at me and said, "If you are going there with the idea everyone is perfect, you will not be happy. The academy will be what you make it. Your choices make the difference." I thought that was good advice for life, and it has always stayed with me.

Another memory was Don Weatherall's American History class where we bargained for our grades. There were specific requirements for each letter grade. If we did not do everything required, we would receive an F. To receive an A, we had to write and act out a skit. My group chose parts of Abraham Lincoln's life and death. Jim Ruffing portrayed the great Abraham Lincoln.

It is my desire to have an alumni reunion in heaven with all my classmates in attendance.

Connie White Stricker '64

### **Class of 1974 --- Honor Year 40**

Dan Cook and I (Reba Hughes) met at PVA when I was junior and he was a senior. How we got acquainted to start with was a Saturday night when the academy rented the whole roller skating rink in Grand Island. I didn't know how to skate; so Julie, Dan's sister, talked him into helping me out. We ended up skating together the rest of the evening. We didn't do much dating for a while. Then along came the Junior-Senior Banquet when, if I remember correctly, the girls asked the guys. Dan and I went to the banquet together, and I remember that during the film we held hands. We both were so shy that it was almost pathetic. But, we did like each other quite a lot, and he took me to his family's home in Alda for Sabbath dinner several times. In August, 1975, we were married in a simple wedding at the Rifle, Colorado SDA church.

Reba Hughes Cook '74

### **Class of 1984 --- Honor Year 30**

I arrived on campus in August of 1981, my sophomore year. I had the following items in hand: 1 duck – live (named "Guck". Dean Fowler helped me build a pen out back of the dorm), 1 drum set (well-received by the dean of men, may I say), about 20 boxes of pop tarts, 50 packs of Ramen noodles, 4 suitcases, a lot of excitement about going to school.

I left PVA with a diploma and varied experiences – too many to recount here. It was the BEST TIME OF MY LIFE, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I regret that my kids haven't had the pleasure of attending a Christian boarding school. However, all three have been or are attending Christian schools now. What a great legacy!

Robert "Kevin" Chin '84

### **Class of 2004 --- Honor Year 10**

I began my time at PVA in 2001 as a scrawny, wide-eyed freshman. While most 21<sup>st</sup> century youths shudder at the thought of going away to boarding academy, I could hardly contain my excitement during the two-and-one-half hour drive west from my home in Omaha to my new dwelling just outside tiny Shelton.

I had a lot of fun my freshman year, most of it with my friend Ryan. Though at times we bordered on being out of control, no one could accuse us of being lifeless. We asked older girls to the banquet and re-created Wrestlemania (sorry, Dean Johnson) in our dorm room. Then there was shop class. On one ornery day, I turned the oxyacetylene welding tank into the "red zone." You know the one that says "Danger – Explosion Possible." I can still see the blood draining from Mr. Mekelburg's face.

In the early spring our assistant dean sat Ryan and me down for a chat. Dan told us that, while having fun was fine, we needed to act more like mature high school students and less like circus clowns. His

message struck a chord. Soon thereafter I made the decision to run for a student government position. It was a turning point in my life.

Jimmy Phillips '04

*\*There was no submission for the class of 1994.*

## ***The "9's" – 5 Year Honor Classes***

### **1949 --- Honor Year 65**

It is 4:00 am on a cool fall morning in 1947. I was awakened with a start, and who should be in my dorm room but Mr. Bascom! I had left a gate open on the farm, and some cattle were out. I walked down to the farm to round up the loose cattle. Mr. Victor Bascom drove beside me all the way as I walked, and he gave me a "heart to heart" talk. I owe Mr. Bascom a lot for teaching me to work and to be responsible. I thank him for all he did for me.

William (Mac) McCormick '49

### **Class of 1959 --- Honor Year 55**

Most could write a book detailing their many memories of Platte Valley Academy. One I will relate is of the baby squirrels we got from the creek. They would wake us at the crack of dawn, jumping from desks to curtains, and onto our beds. We took them under our shirts to church where they would chatter and cause a commotion, while we would try to avoid attention. They ended up being the semi-tame squirrels in the trees in front of the dorm.

The school guided a poor country farm boy with boundless energy, an adventurous spirit, and often mischievous behavior to becoming a young adult. I attended classes and worships and participated in every activity I could. My four years at PVA ('55-'59) are fondly remembered as having the greatest influence in determining my pathway through life.

Jerald Sisk, MD '59

### **Class of 1969 --- Honor Year 45**

I attended PVA my junior and senior years – 1967-1969. My first impression was that the campus was large, and I felt fearful since this was the first time I had been away from home. Students and faculty

made the transition flow smoothly. My parents felt that Christian education was of utmost importance and sacrificed to send me. I was the only one of my family that had the opportunity to attend a Christian school.

At that point in my life, I didn't feel that I had too many favorite classes, but bookkeeping and shorthand and any business course was of interest to me. Some teachers created an interest – like Elder Fitch, the Bible teacher.

I worked in the kitchen for a while, and I remember Mrs. Craig. She knew her way around a kitchen and served such great meals – especially those GIANT cinnamon rolls with chili and peaches on Friday night! I attend the Neligh [Nebraska] SDA church, am an ordained elder, and keep active in the church.

Karen Hansen Hart '69

### **Class of 1979 --- Honor Year 35**

I thought the offer to be included in a book of memories, of dates, faculty, good times and bad times was too good to pass up because of the way my time at PVA shaped me and helped me become who I am now.

My first thoughts about our PVA campus after driving 725 miles and all night, was "clean and green." Dad laughed. The deciding factors for my attending PVA were the farm and dairy. Other academies could not offer the same jobs as Platte Valley Academy. I managed to work and pay most of four years of tuition myself with the help of great leaders – Mr. Peterson, Mr. Snyder, and Mr. Bascom – who also became good friends.

Speaking of Mr. Bascom, I will never forget that old man coming out of the burning calf barn with two kicking, bawling calves, one under each arm. That was one of the bad things that happened while I was there. Another was the hail storm that caused so much devastation.

Thanks once again to PVA, alumni, faculty, friends, bosses, classmates, and all who walked those great halls for helping her live so many years for so many kids! Goodbye, old friend.

Roy Harmon '79

*\*There were no submissions for the classes of 1939, 1989, or 1999.*