

# Clifton Hill School Reunion held May 26

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SALISBURY PRESS SPECTATOR

Around 70 persons were present for the annual Clifton Hill School Reunion which was held May 26 at the Westran Middle School in Clifton Hill.

President Virginia Eubank Harris of Columbia gave the welcome and Vice President William Lee Harris gave the meal blessing before the dinner which was served by Raymond and Linda Morrison of the Pastry Palace in Salisbury.

Decorations were in the patriotic theme as a tribute to Memorial Day and to honor the men and women who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Joyce Glaser of Huntsville, a former Westran music instructor, led in singing of "America The Beautiful" accompanied by Lucy Vaughn of Salisbury.

Oreta Christy Clemens of Huntsville was recognized as the member of the earliest graduating class-1928. A roll call of Clifton Hill graduates had responses from 1928 to 1955.

Gene and Sally Henderson of Mesa, Arizona were recognized as traveling the greatest distance to at-

The group voted to donate \$200.00 to the Westran Middle School for use of the building in Clifton Hill.

The first Clifton Hill schoolhouse was built on the now Ray Richardson property around 1836. It was a one room log cabin with desks and benches made from logs. Later a two room building was built on the present school site. A village school district was organized in 1904.

A special election was held to vote bonds in the amount of \$5,000 for a new two story school building with four rooms. In 1905 school days began in the new building with the teaching of some high school work. Six years later the eleventh grade was added.

The class of 1916 was the first to graduate from the four year course. As attendance grew the building was rearranged until there were six rooms. In 1939 this old two story building was torn down and a new modern one story brick building was built on the same site. This is the present building with more rooms added.



THIS YEAR'S OFFICERS of the Clifton Hill School Reunion were William Lee Harris, Columbia, vice president; and Barbara Shives Roling, Clifton Hill, secretary and treasurer.

Mrs. Clemens led a memorial service for students and teachers who attended the Clifton Hill School and have died since the last reunion.

The list included Willard Eugene (Bud) Morrissy, who died Nov. 18, in Ralston, Nebraska; Jonathan Graves, who died Jan. 22, in Chillicothe; Edna Perdue Peterson, who died April 3, in Sturgeon; Vera Lee Dodd Keen, who died April 8 in Moberly; and Tammy Thompson Wooten, who had attended elementary school at Clifton Hill.

Recollections of their school days in Clifton Hill were given by Georgia Stenton Hardgrove of Eldon; Thelma Bryan of Huntsville; and Gene Henderson. They recalled basketball wins and losses, times when students were on the receiving end of a paddle; a time when a cow was turned loose in the school over the weekend forcing classes to be dismissed on Monday; and of the many ways their lives were inspired by their teachers and coaches. All agreed their school days at Clifton Hill were "the best ever" and they are proud to be graduates.

Hugh Hardgrove of Eldon spoke of his military service during World War II and his pride in serving in a military color guard and marching in parades.

Mrs. Bryan said she has copies of a Clifton Hill cookbook which includes recipes from several graduates.

Officers for 2003 will be Jim Patton of Clark, president; Ruth

Rodgers Fotovitch of Clifton Hill, vice president; and Betty

Stottlemeyer Huntsman of Moberly.



NEW OFFICERS of the Clifton Hill School Reunion for 2003 are pictured with members of the nominating committee and this year's president. From left are Virginia Eubank Harris, introducing the new slate; next are Donna Sue Leathers Davidson, Moberly and Wilma Fox Morgan, Huntsville, members of the nominating committee; Jim Patton of Clark, president; and Ruth Rodgers Fotovitch, Clifton Hill, vice president. Not pictured is Betty Stottlemeyer Huntsman of Moberly, secretary and treasurer.

Following the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" William Lee Harris gave the benediction. The next reunion will be held May 25.