

Live at Five Shop and Cruise begins Saturday

By PHYLLIS NOAH □ Thursday, May 3, 2007 12:11 PM EDT PDT Staff Writer

Again, for the second year, the Boneyfiddle Alive at Five Shop and Cruise will take place beginning this Saturday. □ □ “We’re real excited about this year because we’ve had people jump on board sponsoring,” said Dave Pack, of Glockner’s. □ □ The event will be on the first Saturday every month through October. Music will be performed both at Market Street and also on Court Street beside Ye Olde Lantern. □ □ “We’ve got the murals, entertainment, classic automobiles, good food, antique stores and collectibles,” he said. □ □ Each month, Silvergrass will be playing on Market Street and the Court Street entertainment will vary.

Doc Roc and the Remedies will be performing on Saturday. □ □ The Scioto County Antique Motor Club and the Ohio River Street Rodders will be bringing cars for the cruise-in. □ □ Morgan Shepherd, stock car driver, will be at the event on July 7 giving autographs and talking to people. □ □ Last year, Alive at Five Shop and Cruise took place on Friday nights. But, this year the event was changed hopefully to bring in more people from out of town, Pack said.

“It’s not about cars, that’s not the idea,” he said. “It’s about the growth downtown. I see a lot of strides we’ve made for this area. I grew up in this area and Route 23, Scioto Trail is the best I’ve seen it in my whole life - the overpass and the bridge is completed now and once you get that in place when the roads are nice and new buildings are sprouting up ... it makes everything look pleasant - it’s attractive.” □ □ Pack said he sees growth in the area and people from all over could come for the event, once the word gets out. □ □ “In Somerset, Ky., - a little bitty town with a lot of antique stores - this guy comes up with this idea to have a little cruise-in downtown, 85 cars,” he said. “That was six years ago. Now, it’s 1200 plus cars and it is a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday event. Thousands of people come in from all over the country. All the hotels are booked.” □ □ He is working to make the event a travel “destination” and to make it grow. □ □ “My vision is is doing it Saturday night and then combining it with another {event},” Pack said. “We’ve got the foundation for the growth.” □ □ The Old Friends Car Club will be on hand to help with the event, parking cars, policing the area and helping people. □ □ He is working with the Main Street Committee also. Future dates are June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 8 and Oct. 6. □ □ “It’s not just a cruise-in,” Pack said. “It’s to promote shopping downtown also. I want (local) people to buy local, and I also want to attract the out-of-town customers.” □ □ Stores will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. during Alive at Five Shop and Cruise.

NEWS about DUES!

Dues are due for everyone except those who have already dues or have dues ahead. Please send \$7 to Gene Lucas at 1419 Second Street, West Portsmouth OH 45663.

New Stadiums Plan Opposed

By JEFF BARRON □ PDT Staff Writer □ Monday, May 14, 2007 11:48 PM EDT

Portsmouth City Council Vice President Marty Mohr on Monday said he opposes the city schools system’s plan to build a downtown athletic complex. □ □ “I think the use of the football and baseball stadiums we already have would be more beneficial to the community,” he said. “Everybody I talk to, that’s what they’d like to see.” □ □ Mohr was referring to the city-owned Spartan Stadium and Branch Rickey Park. □ □ School officials want to build football and baseball fields, a track and other athletic sites just off Waller Street, where the old Portsmouth High School once stood. □ □ But Mohr said by doing so, the schools system is taking away property that could be used for retail. He said the schools system should renovate the old stadiums or build new ones at the same locations. □ □ Mohr said City Council probably would allow that to happen, providing Notre Dame High School could use the fields.

“We hate to see more tax duplicates come off, even though a lot of the property is already vacant and not being used,” he said. “But we do hope in the future that it could be used.” □ □ The city offered Spartan Stadium and Branch Rickey Park to the schools system several months ago for \$1. But the system rejected the offer and announced plans for the downtown athletic complex. □ □ Mohr said the city could stop the schools system from building the stadium, but it wouldn’t make good sense to. □ □ “I would like to see them reconsider and think hard about it,” he said. “Because they’re taking money out of their own pocket. Each house, each business, each building they tear down or vacant lot they fill, that is tax dollars out of their pocket.”

Ohio schools are funded by property taxes. □ □ “That means everybody else who owns a house or property in town will continue to carry more of the burden,” Mohr said. “They’ve taken down a tremendous amount of property for the schools. Now they’re looking to take a tremendous amount more. That means a bigger burden on us.” □ □ School officials say they are using a \$10 million donation to building the athletic complex. □ □ “But what about monies to maintain it over the next 20 to 30 years,” Mohr said. “Who’s going to pay for that?” □ □ School officials asked City Council to prepare legislation to vacate some streets and alleys for the athletic complex. □ □ But City Council instead sent the proposal to the planning commission per city charter mandate.

Ed: not that it would make any difference, but I for one cannot fathom why any responsible leader in the city would even consider a plan that could possibly result in the loss of two undeniable historic sports venues. It seems that there are not even enough students to fill the new school. Why then such a rush to create such an un-needed duplication of a sports complex? Paintings on a wall cannot replace the real thing. Shame on the school board.

Portsmouth’s Oldest Bar Reopening Doors

By FRANK LEWIS □ PDT Staff Writer □ Thursday, May 10, 2007 11:48 PM EDT

More than a century ago, the Clock Bar and Grill, at Ninth and Findlay streets, opened its doors for the first time. Now it has been given a major face-lift by its new owners, Looney Inc., and reopened Thursday evening. □ □ Pat Looney will be the manager at the bar that has not served customers since September 2006, and in the months before that, only open often enough to keep the license active. Mike Looney displayed one wall that had been stripped down, and returned to its original look. □ □ “It was stucco. It had concrete over the brick, and we took that off and went back to the original brick,” Looney said. “The back wall was stucco and we covered it in wood.” □ □ He also said the wood was from the former McKinley School building, torn down recently after the building of the new Portsmouth city schools. The floor is another special feature of the recent renovation.

“The floor was vinyl tile, and we bought rough cut maple that had been seasoned for over a year, and we planed it down on one side, stained it and put it down,” he said. □ □ The many layers of the floor gives it a history of its own. □ □ “The floor was rotted out in places, all the way to the basement,” Looney said. “Originally, there was a tongue-and-groove floor, about an inch thick, and they added another tongue-and-groove floor, I’m assuming after the 1913 flood, and then after that they put vinyl tile on top of that, and there’s half-inch plywood on top of that, and more vinyl tile on top of that, another half-inch piece of plywood on top of that, more vinyl tile on top of that and now our hardwood floor on top of that.” □ □ An old black-and-white photo from the early 1900s on the wall shows the bar was much shorter, as was the original building itself.

“The bar is the original bar, but it was created by the Brunswick Company before it was even the Brunswick Company,” he said. “They added on to the bar and the building some time around 1900.” □ □ Looney said he is interested in finding early photos of the bar to determine the actual age. □ □ “It’s 106 years old, that’s our latest guess, but I’d like to find some pictures, somebody who actually knew when the bar was constructed. “We’d like to get some pictures to put up in here, like during the floods.” □ □ He said there had been a line around the wall that was thought to be the high water mark from the Flood of 1913. □ □ The wall directly behind the bar has been decorated with sports jerseys. □ □ “They are from Shawnee State, and we’ve got one from the Trojans (Portsmouth High School) right now, and we’re hoping to get some others,” he said. □ □ The question most people ask concerns the clock on the outside. After all, it is the reason for the name. □ □ “The clock is still on the front of the building, and hopefully in the future we can get that fixed,” Looney said. □ □ The bar will be open from 11 a.m. to 2:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday. □ □ “We’ve got a Sunday license, but right now, we’re not going to be open on Sundays. We need a break,” he said laughingly.

The 1955 trojan Alumni PRINTS

(& Mid-50s Classes)

June 2007 • Send news articles and/or photos to Frank Hunter, 3379 Hidden Haven Ct., Tampa, FL 33607 • Email fhunter@sptimes.com • Issue 41

Changes Update

My retirement plans have been set back a month or so due to my June marriage to Joy and the need to include her on my current and retirement health plan. That is why the newsletter retains the same look. Perhaps even the next issue will be included until I must change it. While I asked that photos submitted after the last issue be sent as attachments to email you may send them otherwise until further notice.

I would like to thank those of you who may be using our web site for your travel-bookings. www.mytravelhunter.com uses the search engine of travelocity. Joy and I receive a percentage of the commissions. Frank



Frank and Joy

Graduation Factoid

The PHS Class of 2007 had 110 members. The PHS Class of 1955 had 247 members. Some of the names in the Class of 2007 sound very familiar:

Adkins, Carter, Hunter, Johnson, Jordan, Lane, Lee, Miller, Parker, Perry, Poole, Riggs, Sparks, Stone, Taylor, Walker, Ward, White, & Wood. I don’t know if any of these 2007 grads are related to us of 1955, but the names sure sound Portsmouth-like! Blaine Bierley



Ralph Dee White

Ralph died Sat., Feb 10, 2007. A member of the First Christian Church, he was married to Phyllis Ann Harris-White in 1956, who survives him. A retired electrical engineer from the Martin Marietta Uranium Enrichment Plant, he is also survived by 2 daughters, a son, many grandchildren and 3 brothers Jerry, Mike and Paul Joe. He was preceded in death by his oldest brother Ron.

Thank all of you for your sympathy and concern. Phyllis Ann Harris White and family.

Class of 1955 Picnic

Gene has scheduled the PHS Class of 1955 annual picnic for noon on 9-22-07 at the Portsmouth Shrine Club shelter on Rt. 52 west. The class will furnish the food as usual (Fried chicken, baked beans, potatoe salad, rolls and soft drinks). Local residents are to bring a covered dish or desert. The picnic is free. We do take up a donation to cover some of the cost.

There will be a football game the night before (Friday) the picnic. We plan to have a get together after the game at the Brewery Arcade on Second Street for drinks and snacks. Please plan to arrive on Friday for a memorable time.



Celebrating Three Score & Ten in Las Vegas

back row: Eva Strauss Izenson, Sharon Queen Blayney, Ginny Smith Wolfe, Betty Bierley Holling, front row: Martha Fitch Cook, Connie Yuenger Keatley and Karen Williams Fox.

The Railroad is Back

Ohio Governor Strickland (a Lucasville native) has announced that the Norfolk Southern railway will reopen its car repair shop in Portsmouth. NS Mechanical Vice President Tim Heilig said the shop will open at the beginning of next year and service about 800 cars at first. After getting \$550,000 in local help, the company reportedly will invest \$3.1 million in the shop and hire 80 new employees. Strickland said “The CEO of Norfolk Southern came to my office a few weeks ago. We talked honestly about the history of Norfolk Southern and the Portsmouth region. We decided that bygones are bygones and the past is the past. What has happened has happened.”*

Ed. *Many years ago, Portsmouth employees of the Norfolk and Western went on strike. In order to keep the traffic running through

the Portsmouth yards, supervisors and other management employees began to operate the trains. Many of you remember my old pal JB Warden. He was a supervisor and actually acted as engineer on a few runs to Columbus. Perhaps the “bygones” talked about between the Governor and the NS ceo stemmed from an incident that occurred during that strike. The N&W president at that time was a former engineer who jumped at the chance to operate trains once again. While acting as engineer on a train passing through the Portsmouth yards, he was struck by a thrown object and injured. I was told that he vowed revenge and would send trains around the yards in the future, thereby cutting off the value of Portsmouth to the railroad. See the story behind the story on the next page by Jim Detty.

The Rest of the Story

The N&W car shops in Portsmouth were started in the late 1920's following the huge rebuilding of the classification yard, which at the time gave Portsmouth the distinction of having the largest railroad yard in the world owned by a single railroad. Following the demise of the steam locomotive in the late 1950's, some of the former locomotive shops were converted and expanded to increase the capacity of the car shops. This continued until the early 1980's when it was closed (sorry can't find the exact date). At the time, in addition to repairing or rebuilding all types of railcars (hopper cars, flatcars, etc.) that other locations on the N&W also had, ALL covered hopper cars and boxcars on the entire N&W were worked on at Portsmouth. Without a doubt the car shops were a major part of the entire N&W yards. I cannot locate the number of employees or number of cars serviced there, but it was a 24 hour a day - 7 day a week operation.

On July 10, 1978 the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC) went on strike against the N&W for 82 days. The strike was called not for a pay or benefit raise we are used to seeing today, but what was called unfair practices by the N&W in some employees losing their jobs. As technology and the use of computers and microwaves began to increase in the late 1970's, several clerk's position were being eliminated or would face future elimination. Many jobs once handled by people and paperwork were simply being replaced by computers. One person could in theory do the job of three or four in the near future. BRAC simply wanted some type of protection for these employees so they wouldn't be just thrown out on the street with nowhere else to go. Immediately after BRAC announced the strike and set up picket lines (which initially only affected clerks, dispatchers, and a few others) other unions honored the picket lines (trainmen, yard personnel, machinists, etc.) and the strike soon affected the entire railroad.

ANY mention of the strike is still controversial in this area, even today. This was as close to a civil war as it could get. Most all parties involved from both labor and management positions, were from and lived in the area. It was literally brother against brother and "whose side are YOU on?" throughout the strike. The tension could be cut with a knife.

After several months of absolutely no progress in settling the strike, both side's nerves were nearing a breaking point. Money was getting tight on the striker's side, with many having to apply for food stamps just to get by, while some trains were being kept running by men who usually spent time behind a desk. Most of these supervisors were several hundred miles away from their own homes, and wanted a solution to the strike as bad as the "other" side. Things came to head in Portsmouth on September 6, 1978 when vandals (it was never proven whether it was strikers [who got the blame] or area citizens) turned a rail over near the Portsmouth Passenger Station causing a derailment of a freight train. Both mainlines were blocked which completely shut down the N&W mainline - a major interruption! Altercations soon resulted between the supervisors (some from the Portsmouth area and some brought

in from out of town to operate the trains) and the strikers for the attempt to not only disrupt rail traffic, but now the perception of endangering lives. At the derailment, railcars were looted and/or burned (again blamed on the strikers even though the derailment occurred in the highest crime area of the city) which only increased the tension. For the next few days, more than one rock was thrown, window broken, shouting matches, even gunfire directed toward GS Tower (while it was occupied!) etc. occurred. Even though a small minority of the strikers was causing the trouble, (the vast majority were peaceful and only wanted a quick settlement) the press and public were getting the impression that Portsmouth employed only a bunch of violent hillbillies shooting and clawing their way back to their jobs.

One correction to Frank's previous note. The President of the N&W was not injured in the Portsmouth Yards. John P Fishwick was the N&W President at the time, and never left the N&W headquarters in Roanoke during the strike. A supervisor was struck by an object and did receive a broken jaw while operating a train through Portsmouth, but it was not the President. It was Tom Moore, who was then Assistant Superintendent of the Scioto Division and had his jaw broken in two places. It was the worst injury recorded during the strike.

Calmness finally prevailed a few days later when the N&W sent to Portsmouth more high ranking personnel to negotiate with the strikers. I am only assuming this, but it is believed when the strikers saw the supervisors were being affected as much as they were in a negative way during the strike and both wanted a settlement soon, the violence subsided. To ensure little or no trouble would be in the future, trains only operated through Portsmouth in the daylight hours after that and unless it was absolutely necessary to do so, didn't even stop in Portsmouth. Crew changes, switching of cars, etc. normally handled at Portsmouth would be done at Chillicothe, where the atmosphere was less intense. The strike was finally settled on January 8, 1979.

The famous quote "I'll make Portsmouth just a whistle-stop after this!" has never been officially recorded for obvious reasons. It is not even 100% positive who said it, and although it may be unfair or flat out wrong, more than one person claims Richard Dunlap, who was then Senior VP of Operations for the N&W, and the leader of the negotiating team that came to Portsmouth from Roanoke at the height of the violence, made the remark. One year after the strike ended, Dunlap was promoted to Executive Vice President of the N&W. Most agree Portsmouth changed dramatically for the worst after that. Debateable whether Dunlap had a voice in this demise or not.

Nearly 30 years after that strike, it is hoped that Norfolk Southern and Portsmouth will be again finally heading in the right direction!

Jim Detty

PHS Time Capsules

From the Portsmouth Times Apr. 14, 1954:

T & I Boys To Take Trip

PHS Group To See Pontiac Assembly

A group of 28 boys from Portsmouth High School who are interested in industrial operations will travel to Pontiac, Michigan, Thursday to visit the Pontiac Corporation, a subdivision of General Motors. The trip was planned by the boys of the vocational trades department with the help of Arthur C. Huston, local Pontiac dealer. They will leave by chartered bus at 6 a.m. Thursday.

John Voorhes, Bill Miller and Dave Heath are members of the committee in charge. Chaperons are Herbert Crabtree and Marvin McGorner, T & I instructors. O. M. Gwinn is coordinator.

The trip is planned to give interested students wider acquaintance with the automotive industry.

Other boys going on the trip are: Don Baker, Ken Coffey, John Cook, Bob Estep, Homer Goddard, Ronald Hammond, Clayton Howerton, Wayne Henderson, Charles Jett, Dean Knittle, Kenneth Lane, Homer Liston, Gerald Lawson. Bob Maple, Dick Michelhaugh, Joe Moore, Charles McGlone, Charles Price, Don Payton, Jim Richards, Bob Tipton, John Wood, and Don Warner.

From the Portsmouth Times Apr. 14, 1954:

Choir Displays Fine Diction, Blended Tone

By Katherine Doty and Eva Strauss

PHS News Class Reporters

Outstanding for group performance, especially in diction and interpretation, Portsmouth High School Choir thrilled a large audience with its spring choral concert Tuesday night in the school auditorium. Solemnity in the first part, which featured religious numbers, contrasted with the lightness and youth of the second and third sections of the concert.

The solemn tones of the girls' choir robes also kept the tone picture to the religious element of the numbers in the first part as the rainbow colors of their formal gowns symbolized to the lighter part of the program after the intermission.

Richard T. Sunderland directed the choir with authority and ease to carry the group through one of the most polished programs presented by local musicians.

Only three solo numbers were featured on the program. Jim Green repeated his dramatic "The Blind Ploughman" which won a first rating in the state music competition. Marlene Foreman sang "Love Walked In" with the girls of the choir and Connie Yuenger gave "None But the Lonely Heart." Mr. Sunderland accompanied Miss Yuenger. Shirley Allen was accompanist for all other numbers.

The girls of the choir stepped into the limelight for three numbers, the beautiful "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord," "Where or When," and the charming "In the Still of the Night." With beautiful interpretation and blended tones, the choir sang the spiritual, "Were You There?" "O Send The Light Forth," "The Nation's Prayer," and "The Heavens Are Telling."

Most popular of the lighter numbers were "Once In Love With Amy" and "The Continental" which all but had the audience foot-tapping to its rhythm.

Also effective were "Sweet Georgia Brown," "While We're Young" and "The New Asmolean Marching Society," all of which featured interesting arrangements.

The impressive "One World" with its comments on need for world harmony and the essential oneness of all things, closed the program.

From the Portsmouth Times Apr. 15, 1954:

Carr, Gentry Receive Awards At PHS Basketball Banquet

Leroy Carr and Curt Gentry walked off with the major awards presented at the annual Portsmouth High School basketball banquet which was held in the girls' gymnasium at the high school Wednesday night. Carr, who set an all-time scoring record at PHS last season, was named Most Valuable Player and the pivot star also received an award for having the best efficiency rating for the season. Gentry, a junior guard, won the award which went to the cager with the best percentage on foul shots.

Carr received a trophy from Sand Sporting Goods for being selected Most Valuable Player and the cup was presented by Ott Sand. Coach George Heller presented plaques to Carr for having the best efficiency rating and to Gentry for his foul-shooting ability.

Some 150 fans turned out to honor the Portsmouth High quintet for its amazing comeback which saw the Trojans capture the Southeastern Ohio Class A district championship and gain runner-up honors in the regional tourney.

Charles Kirsch, the master of ceremonies, congratulated the squad on its successful season and said "we'd like to think of this as a typical Trojan basketball team, one with lots of heart."

Heller presented the lettermen with gold basketballs and introduced each player to the guests. He also introduced his assistant, his scouts and the PHS cheerleaders. The school's pep band livened the program with music. The PHS cage coach also received a surprise present at the banquet staged by the Trojan Boosters Club. Everett Burton, the new president of the Boosters Club, presented Heller with a paid-up Elks golf membership.

Ted Hornback, athletic director and assistant basketball coach at Western Kentucky State College, mixed his speech with entertaining anecdotes and serious thoughts for the players and guests.

Hornback opened by telling some jokes on Heller who played his college basketball at Western. Hornback wished the departing seniors the best of luck and warned the returning cagers to give the game all they have. "Listen to George. We think a lot of our grad and he's proved he can do a good job," Hornback told the players.

Letter winners who received gold basketballs were Carr, Gentry, Mickey Grooms, Milton Parker, Bob Parlin, Jerry Higgins, Bill Clifford, Don Frazier and Mike Swearingen. Kenny Amick and Charles McKelvey received manager's letters and the cheerleaders receiving recognition were Phyllis Pelfrey, Willadean Harrison, JoAnn Parker, Sally Hansee, Nancy Bower and Judy Benner.

From the Portsmouth Times Apr. 15, 1954:

Goetz, Herbert Guests of Last PHS Chapel

Rev. Herbert M. Goetz of First Evangelical Church and Rev. Glendon Herbert of First United Brethren Church were guest ministers Wednesday morning for the Easter chapel assemblies at Portsmouth High School.

Both "A" and "B" assemblies opened with two selections by the PHS choir. Girls of the group sang "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" and the entire choir gave "Where You There?" The numbers also

were part of the spring choral concert presented Tuesday night. David Roth, senior class president, led students in the Lord's Prayer and pledge to the flag. Scripture was given by Marilyn Mershon in "A" assembly and Eris Allen in "B" assembly. Ken Amick gave the prayer in "A" assembly and Marjorie Staten in "B" assembly.

Rev. Goetz chose as his topic, "It Is Important What We Believe." "Everything in life is built on faith," said the minister. "If God and Jesus are the center of one's life, all things fall into place." He spoke on "God Is Love" and emphasized his point by saying: "Love is a reciprocal affair. If we deny love to anyone, we deny love to God." The assemblies marked the last chapel service of the school year at PHS. The chapel assemblies are sponsored by Portsmouth Ministerial Assn. From the Portsmouth Times Apr. 20, 1954:

9 From Scioto In Ohio Youth Legislature

Y Groups Ready For Model Assembly To Cover 3 Days

The Senate and House chambers of the State Capitol at Columbus will ring with eager voices of youth this weekend when Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y Club members from throughout the state convene for the third annual YMCA Model Legislature. The session will last Friday, Saturday and Sunday with nine delegates from Portsmouth and New Boston taking part. The Model Assembly gets under way Friday night with a banquet honoring the student representatives, Governor Frank J. Lausche heads a list of state officers and legislators due to speak at the dinner. Saturday the young people will conduct a full day Model Legislature and the session will be concluded Sunday.

DELEGATES AND THEIR BILLS

David B. Canter, Senior Hi-Y, who will present a bill to amend the Revised Code of Ohio to provide that two assistant clerks of the board of elections shall vote all disabled persons.

Sharon Chiles and Mary Gail Drake, members of Lar Gente Tri-Hi-Y, who will propose a resolution to memorialize the U.S. Congress to take legislative action to ease the Income Tax burden on high school and college students.

David R. Wagner, Junior Hi-Y, who will present a bill to amend the revised code relative to eligibility for aid to the aged.

William R. Hobbs, Junior Hi-Y, who will propose legislation to prohibit the use of certain methods of television advertising which are injurious to the health and welfare of the people.

Mary Lou Brodbeck, Lar Gente Tri-Hi-Y, who has a bill to grant exemption from the collection of sales tax on drugs, medicines and medical supplies sold in hospitals under prescription of a physician.

Joanne Morton, Char Pri Tri-Hi-Y, who will propose a measure which would permit retirement of teachers at 60 years of age.

Daehler Hayes, Senior Hi-Y, who will present a bill to provide a more suitable manner for regulating disabled voters.

Canter is the lone Scioto County "Senator" this year. Miss Brodbeck, Miss Schwable and Wagner are "Representatives" and the others are "Representative Alternates."

Accompanying the delegates to Columbus will be Mrs. Agnes Davis of New Boston, Paul Fowler and Mr. and Mrs. David Burks.

From the Portsmouth Times Feb. 19, 1954:

PHS Students Honor Seniors In Pep Meeting

Ballooning pregame enthusiasm for the PHS Trojan-Dayton Stivers basketball tilt tonight came to a climax this morning with a pep rally in Portsmouth High School auditorium. The assembly honored the seniors who will be playing their last game of the regular season tonight in Grant gym.

The pep meeting opened with cheers and school songs to urge the cagers on to victory over Dayton Stivers. More cheers followed as Jo Ann Parker, sophomore cheerleaders in charge

of the rally, called individual players to the stage. Phyllis Pelfrey and Sally Hansee, senior cheerleaders, presented the five senior players--Leroy Carr, Russ Grooms, Bob Parlin, Mike Swearingen, and Leo Brown with special favors. Nancy Bower and Willadean Harrison, junior cheerleaders, also presented Miss Pelfrey and Miss Hansee with favors.

The cheer "Beat Stivers" followed a short talk by George Heller, head basketball coach. Mr. Heller said: "This will be our last game before the tournament. We have two big reasons for winning this one--first, to end our season right, and second, to give us more confidence for the tournament."

The coach also introduced senior team member, Bob Parlin, who said: "We seniors will really be going all out tonight to end our last season at PHS right. If you students will get behind us, I think we can do it."

The assembly closed with the Alma Mater accompanied by the Pep Band. Miss Parker planned the rally. She was assisted by Miss Pelfrey, Miss Hansee, Miss Harrison, and Miss Bower.

From the Portsmouth Times of Mar 3, 1954:

PHS Students Hear Ministers

Sykes and Chiles Talk In Assemblies

Rev. C. C. Sykes, pastor of Pleasant Green Baptist Church, and Rev. Paul Chiles, district superintendent of Methodist Churches, were guest ministers at Portsmouth High School Tuesday for "A" and "B" chapel assemblies.

Dave Roth, senior class president, opened both assemblies. Jane Dever sang accompanied by Doris Dever, and the PHS Choir sang, accompanied by Shirley Allen.

In "A" assembly, Rev. Chiles chose as his topic "A Commanding Purpose." Carolyn Fuller read the scripture and Homer Adams gave the morning prayer.

"Too many have taken the wrong idea about Jesus," Rev. Chiles said. "He wanted us to follow him, not just love and adore him, and to follow him it takes determination. Sloppy attitudes toward work do not lead to perfection."

Rev. Sykes' topic was "Can You Keep Your Head?" Rosetta Starks gave the prayer and Nancy Harriston read the scripture.

"Keep your heads," Rev. Skyes advised. "Possess yourselves and take advantage of the many opportunities you have today. Success depends on how well we can keep our heads."

Thanks to Blaine Bierley