

# Olive Branch 1927 Class stages 50th reunion

The Olive Branch High School graduating class of 1927 drew 100 per cent of the living members to its 50th reunion Friday, and Saturday, May 27-28.

The 1927 class had 17 graduates. A dozen toured the Olive Branch school Friday and all 16 living members were expected at the dinner party Saturday night. Roy Lane, the only deceased member of the class, was represented by his wife, Mrs. Kitty Lane.

The reunion group also toured the old building in which they attended classes, now used as a storage area and warehouse, during their Friday stay at Olive Branch.

All 16 attendees expressed pleasure at being reunited with their former classmates and the opportunity to recall their days at Olive Branch.

Laurena Funderburg Byerly served as Class President in 1927. "It's a real thrill to know (Olive Branch) is still here. It's nice to see it preserved," she said. She expressed the hope that the former building could be used as a museum in the future.

After graduating from Olive Branch, Byerly attended college briefly, then returned to the school to teach in 1929-30. Her students were mostly third and fourth graders, she recalls. "Then I married a musician and moved to Illinois," where she still resides in East Peroria. She later had two daughters and now boasts of being a great-grandmother.

Dora Elizabeth Bear Stickle and Raymond Stickle formed the only marriage of class members. They also have the unique distinction of

living within sight of Olive Branch for the last 40 years.

Raymond worked for Columbia Gas of Ohio for 46 years. They have a son, David, who's a farmer in the New Carlisle area. David attended Olive Branch, graduated from Tecumseh High School, and has three girls presently in the New Carlisle system.

Clarence Brubaker retired from Duriron in Dayton after 34 years. He lives in the country near West Milton with his wife Verna. His first wife died in Jan. 1976.

Brubaker has four children and commented that he was thrilled to see his old classmates. "I've never seen very many of them since we graduated."

Burness Neher resides in Miami, Fla. For the first 25 years after leaving Olive Branch, Neher said he was in the laundry, dry cleaning,

and fur storage business. The next 25 years, he spent as a maintenance hotel engineer.

He and his wife, Marion, have two children.

Marjorie LeVan Yantis of Troy owned and operated Maro Cleaners with her late husband in Park Layne for about 10 years, then retired. She ran the branch in New Carlisle.

Her husband Roy was a purchasing agent for Serial Products, and later Monsanto before his death. They have seven children.

She claims the distinction of being the only class member to attend the original Tecumseh school, east of Donnelsville. She attended Tecumseh for grades one through three, then under consolidation, joined the Olive Branch class.

Ray Naille of Springfield

claimed it was a thrill "just to have lived this long to come back." He said he had never seen the present Olive Branch building before.

An area supervisor for Sherwin-Williams Paint Co. when he retired, Naille also spent three years in the IRS as a revenue agent and two years in Navy intelligence in the Pacific.

He and his wife Esther have two sons.

Mildred Keechle Heckman retired after working 32 years, the first 23 at W.H. Williamson Co., and the rest at Carmen's Dress Shop.

Her husband Robert is a retired machinist at Koeching Co. They have one son.

Martha Blakley Hahn of Fairborn says she's been



MEMBERS OF THE 1927 GRADUATING Class from Olive Branch High School toured the present junior high facility as well as their old building last Friday as part of their 50th reunion activities. Standing in front of the building in which they went to school are: front row, (left to right) Esther Plummer, Marjorie LeVan Yantis, Jessie Shingledecker Jamison, Laurena Funderburg Byerly, Martha Blakely Hahn and Dora Stickle; second row, Ray Stickle, Clarence Brubaker, Ray Naille, Jack Koontz, Mildred Keechel Heckman, Burness Neher. Not present but attending the dinner Saturday were Alvin Shough, Mildred MacGillvray Snider, William Swaney, and Helen Roof Yeattes. The only class member deceased is Roy Lane.

air station.

Jessie Jamison of New Carlisle married Samuel Jamison after working briefly. She has a son John Wayne Jamison who lives near New Carlisle. Her husband was a maintenance foreman at Duriron in Dayton until his death.

Jack Koontz of Amherst, Ohio bought the weekly newspaper there in 1944, after learning the publishing trade at the Miami Valley Herald. He ran the newspaper until 1972, the year of his wife Marie's death.

Koontz served two years as mayor of Amherst. He has two sons and a daughter.

At different times, he at-

tended Wittenberg College, the University of Dayton and the University of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Roy Lane told of her husband's activities until his death, April 13, 1964. He was a tools purchaser at Frigidaire. They always resided in the New Carlisle area and have two daughters.

Mrs. Lane currently works at the Security National Bank.

Alvin Shough of Pequannock, New Jersey; Mildred MacGillvray Snider of Marion; William Swaney of Birmingham, Mich.; and Helen Roof Yeattes of Springfield were unable to attend Friday's get together, but were expected at the Saturday dinner.