

## **CLASS OF 1956 HOLDS REUNION**

The Class of 1956 celebrated sixty-eight years since graduation from Cocalico Union High School. A reunion was held at Lititz Family Cupboard on April 26 with sixteen classmates in attendance. Our class was the first senior to complete a year together in the newly constructed Cocalico Union High School. Until that time we attended either Denver, East Cocalico, or Governor Mifflin High Schools. It was called Cocalico Union for several years because of the merger of the school districts associated with the communities of Adamstown, Denver, East Cocalico, and West Cocalico into a new school district.

We had a graduating class of fifty-four members. Additionally, there were two members who did not graduate with us because they chose to serve the last year in military service; they are also considered part of the Class of '56. Of that total, thirty-six classmates still survive and of that total, seven currently live out-of-state (CA, WA, MI, NC, SC, and OH [2]).

At the time we entered the recently constructed high school (now the Denver elementary school), we felt that we entered a palace – so light, clean, and airy. It must be remembered that many of these classmates grew up in one-room schools or schools with no indoor plumbing. A 1953 Lancaster New Era headline indicates that the “New Cocalico Union School will be Ultra-Modern”.

Although we were from three former district high schools we integrated quickly and put aside any former rivalries that might have existed – we were now proud Cocalico Union Eagles! The Supervising Principal that year was John P. Krick. Assistant Administrators were Donald Peters, Ralph Lutz and Robert Reber. Class officers elected were President Lowell Haws, Vice President Harold Sweigart, Secretary Maryanne Miller, and Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer Clifford Hirneisen/Robert Getz.

Because of the separateness of our schools prior to senior year, our sports teams (football, basketball, and baseball) were inexperienced. We didn't win many games. However, team spirit and fan appreciation were ever present aided by an enthusiastic cheerleading squad. The music department (choir, dance band and concert/marching band) was equal to any other school in the county. Several classmates were chosen for county and district-wide performances.

At the end of the school year our class was privileged to take a two-day trip via train to Washington DC. There are many fond memories of that tour of our Nation's Capital. The photograph that follows was taken on the lawn in front of the capitol building during that trip.



The following photo was taken at our recent reunion. Just a few changes in appearance after 68 years – older and hopefully, wiser!!



**Seated in front (l-r): Vivian (Brubaker) Killian, Audrey (Reddig) Youndt, Jane (Witmer) Enck**  
**Rear: Lowell Haws, Barbara (Kring) Getz, Robert Getz, Jr., Pricilla (Good) Rice, Elaine (Gehman) Ream, Jeanette (Gensemer) Bomberger, Melvin Schmeck, Larry Meckley, Phyllis (Garman) Wolf, Raymond Martzall, Nevin McQuate, Donald Hackman, Clifford Youndt**