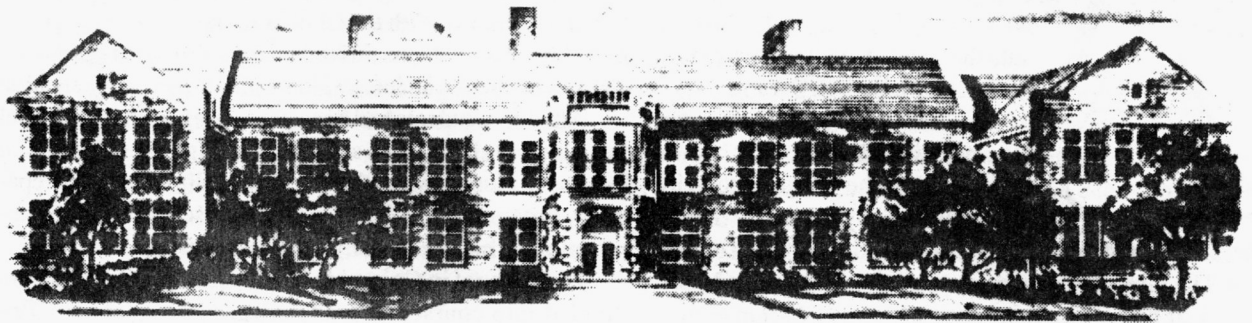


100 years of high school



W

hen high school began in Columbia, America was in the age of gaiety. It was a time in American history when the country was still primarily made up of small farming towns, but new inventions were changing American lifestyle forever.

The high school system in Columbia continued to grow as the country entered the second decade of the 20th century. Extracurricular and athletic activities became part of the high school experience. Americans began this decade with a sense of optimism and innocence. By the end of the decade, that innocence was lost to the first World War, the war to end all wars.

With the twenties came a renewed sense of hope. It was a happy time filled with new found freedoms. Hickman High School was a product of the "Roaring 20's." Construction began in 1925, and the first class to graduate from Hickman was in May of 1928.

The 1930's contradicted the twenties. With the stock market crash in 1929 came the depression in the 1930's. Though it was a difficult time for the country, high school in Columbia survived.

In the 1940's America faced a second World War. As men went to the battlefields, women were needed to fill jobs on the homefront. They received respect for their work for the first time, and many of them did not want to return to the home after the war ended.

The 1950's were a time of complacent obedience. Little was done to go against the status quo. At the same time, racial tension was mounting and the Brown vs. Board of Education decision in 1954 was requiring integrated schools. Douglass High School, the black school in Columbia at the time, was not closed until 1960. McCarthyism and the beginning of the Cold War characterize the mentality of

the time.

The 1960's were years filled with uncertainty. The Cuban Missile Crisis and the fear of nuclear war left many Americans in a state of fear. The introduction of the contraceptive pill created controversy and changed American's lives forever. The assassination of a respected president and a prominent civil rights activist left the country in chaos. The country became divided on America's place in the Vietnam War and on social issues. At the same time, America was experiencing progress in space exploration. The Columbia high school program continued to grow and expand.

With many people opposed to the Vietnam War, the 1970's became an era of rebellion and protest. President Richard Nixon left office in 1973 with controversy over the Watergate scandal. It was also a time for experimentation. The 70's brought with it a new dance craze—disco. This music form is returning to popularity in today's youth.

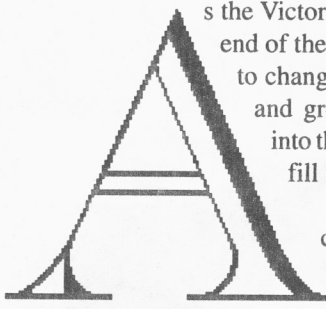
The 80's began as an attempt, in many respects, to outdo the 70's. Punk styles grew in popularity contrasted by the "yuppie." Greed, money and power became driving forces in determining success. The country elected Ronald Reagan, an actor and father figure, as president. The Iran Contra affair riveted the nation as did the dramatic footage of the Berlin Wall coming down.

Although four years remain in this decade and century, the 90's have already defined themselves as unique from other decades. It is an era of individuality not as a form of rebellion but as a conscious choice. People no longer have to fit into the confines of an era. Instead, it is an era to be whatever you are. Despite the differences from this decade and others, the 1990's have had their own share of controversy and war.

The future is filled with uncertainties. There is no guarantee that the decades to come will be kind. Despite what the future may hold, the Columbia high school program has survived many hardships and will undoubtedly continue to excel.

The Beginning

1890-1909



As the Victorian Era came to a close at the end of the 19th century, America began to change. It was an era of prosperity and growth as immigrants flooded into the "land of opportunity" to fulfill their American Dream.

The 1890's women wore corsets and extravagant hats to imitate the image of the girl drawn by Charles Dana

Gibson. Men and women alike followed rigid rules of etiquette. The man of the house was addressed as mister by his wife and sir by his children.

The end of the century brought many inventions. Bicycles became popular after they were modified so that both tires were the same size. Although there were only 8000 in America in 1900, cars became a popular pastime, and dusters were popular to wear when driving to prevent dirt from getting on good clothes.

The electric trolley offered an alternative to the horse and buggy. Telephones became a modern convenience allowing for not only emergency use but also entertainment. With the use of party lines, neighbors could listen to other's conversations—a definite problem for teenagers.

Orville and Wilbur Wright made their first flight in 1903 proving that men could fly. The invention of the Kodak Brownie camera, which sold for \$1, allowed families to record their special events.

People of all ages enjoyed what became known as the age of gaiety. Barbershop quartets performed for audiences and Buffalo Bill shows became popular with the closing of the American frontier. Drug stores and cafes offered ice cream sodas for 10 cents and a meal for 30 cents. Women provided their own entertainment by "calling" on neighbor women.

Americans were in love with baseball. The American League was established in 1900, and the first World Series began three years later. People of all ages enjoyed the circuses and rowdy vaudeville shows. School girls idolized Maude Adams, the most popular actress of the time. She was a Stephens College drama teacher who built their nationally-known drama program.

Newspapers became an important part of American so-

ciety with the inauguration of rural free delivery in 1896 which brought daily newspapers to rural communities.

The turn of the century was an exciting time for education in Columbia. With the Civil War and reconstruction behind them, Columbians thrived on a new sense of optimism. There was a renewed interest in the importance of education.

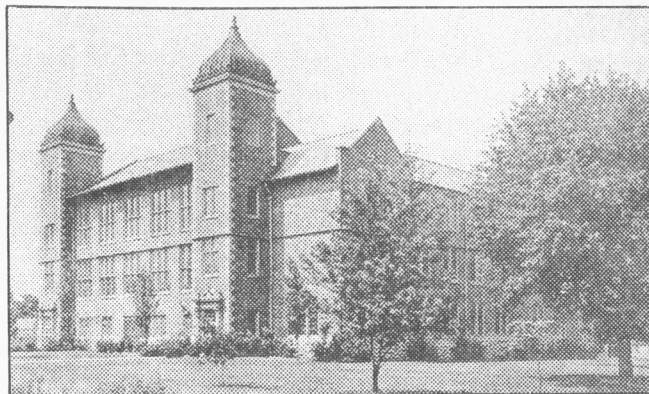
Although students had been graduating from high school in Columbia since 1892, a established high school program became necessary when the University eliminated its preparatory program in 1893. Columbia high school received approval of its course of study on November 11, 1895.

High school in Columbia began simply. Students were divided into courses of study: Classical, Scientific, English-Latin and English. Although there were 177 days in the school term, the average days attended by students attended about 120.

As high school attendance grew, in large part as a result

of the Compulsory School Attendance law in 1905, it became obvious that a high school building was needed. In 1899 Columbia built its first high school, the present-day site of Jefferson Junior High School. The building was formally opened in January, 1900 and was expected to handle growth for eight to 10 years but was outgrown in half that time.

In 1909, Columbians voted to build a new high school. The building was erected on the site of the old high school but was three floors rather than two.



Present day Jefferson Junior High School was the site of the original Columbia High School. Photo courtesy of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

This building later became a part of Jefferson Junior.

Black students attended Frederick Douglass School. Education for black children began as a Baptist school as early as 1867 and later as Cummings Academy and then Excelsior School and finally named Frederick Douglass in 1898. The "separate but equal" Supreme Court decision in 1896 allowed for the continued segregation of schools until Brown vs. Board of Education in 1954.

High school students immediately wanted extracurricular activities. A literary society was established in 1898 and a choral union and orchestra in the following year. High school sports were not initially present, but students established their own teams and made do without a coaching staff.

Columbia's public high school program grew and expanded rapidly undergoing numerous changes in its early years.

America in the teens

1910–1919

In the second decade Americans began with a feeling of bliss and optimism. Although there were problems in America, citizens were confident that the problems could and would be corrected. There was a common belief that America had moved beyond the savagery of war.

Americans were experiencing many changes. They were seeing the early stages of movies. Cars grew in popularity as Henry Ford's use of assembly lines decreased the cost for a Model T. "The cost of a car in 1914 was about \$300," said Columbia resident Eugenia Wyatt.

Americans enjoyed avant-garde art for the first time in 1913, and ragtime bands expressed the optimism of the time.

The country was undergoing many changes. Women's suffrage groups demonstrated their strength for the first time in 1910, and people had a more relaxed attitude towards women smoking and drinking socially.

The changes in the times also created a need for change in government. Income taxes were created in 1913 through the 16th Amendment. In 1919, the 18th Amendment was added which regulated the consumption of alcohol. A year later, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote.

The second decade of the 20th century became known as the decade in which America's innocence was lost. In April of 1917, the optimism of America changed forever when the United States entered World War I, the war to end all wars.

Americans united in the war effort. War bonds were sold to help pay for our military support. Americans willingly participated in meatless and wheatless days and strong propaganda got women actively involved in the Red Cross.

Wyatt clearly remembers Registration Day which was June 5, 1917. Her father, who was in his forties, was required to register for the draft. "My dad had to register, but he was up in his forties. That was the second time they had registered," she said.

America was so caught up in the war, that it had far reaching effects in America as well as overseas. During the war, German topics, including Beethoven, were removed from schools all over the country, and Germans in America were harshly discriminated against.

Racial tensions also grew. Forty seven people, mostly African Americans, were killed in race riots in East St. Louis, Illinois in 1917. An incident in Chicago set off a week long racial war in 1919.

During this tumultuous era in American history, the Columbia High School program saw growth that moved curriculum beyond the basic 3R's. Vocational training was added to Douglass' curriculum early in the decade and to Columbia High School a year later.

In 1912, a commercial department was added to Columbia High School with a tuition fee. The fee was eliminated in 1913 when the teacher was employed permanently.

The yearbook, which was named the Cresset, was published for the first time in 1912. By 1914, the high school had courses in trigonometry and plane and solid geometry.

A teacher training course was introduced that same year. The course gave students a two year teaching certificate which allowed them to teach in rural schools. Although Wyatt attended school in Centralia, she took advantage of a similar program which allowed her to begin teaching when she was 17.

"I took a teachers' training course in high school and started teaching when I was 17 after high school," Wyatt said.

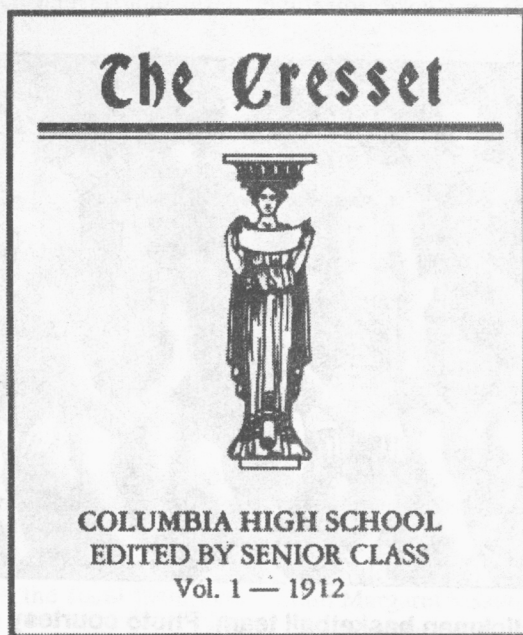
In 1911, Columbia High School adopted Dr. Max Meyer's grading system, believed to make grading universal. The system used a grade curve which placed 50 percent

of students at medium, 22 percent at both superior and inferior and 3 percent at each excellent and failing.

The high school program expanded outside the classroom as well. The first school sponsored sport, basketball, was introduced in 1910. In 1913, the district began fire drills and a school physician began examining children for infectious diseases.

Columbia schools closed for several weeks in 1918 because of the flu epidemic. Wyatt remembers staying home to avoid becoming ill. "I think our schools were closed at that time for a few weeks. You just didn't get out where people were around," she said.

The second decade of the 20th century began with optimism but ended with a much more complicated lifestyle for all Americans.



Title page from the 1912 yearbook, the first volume of the Cresset.

Columbia grew in the twenties

1920—1929

Roaring is the adjective most often used to describe the 1920's, often seen as the era of Al Capone and the Mafia defying prohibition. Most people think of the twenties as the time when flappers went to underground clubs to drink liquor and dance the Charleston. But for students at Hickman during that time it wasn't exactly roaring. "Well actually, there really wasn't much to do," said Opal Fewell, Hickman class of '29, "We'd either go to a show or go to the ice cream parlor for a coke; sometimes someone would have a party, but it was really pretty dull."

Even if the 1920's weren't one big party, it was a decade of unprecedented economic growth. Columbia was in a building boom. As John Crighton said in his "History of Columbia and Boone County," The population was growing...it rose from 10,392 to 15,066 at the end

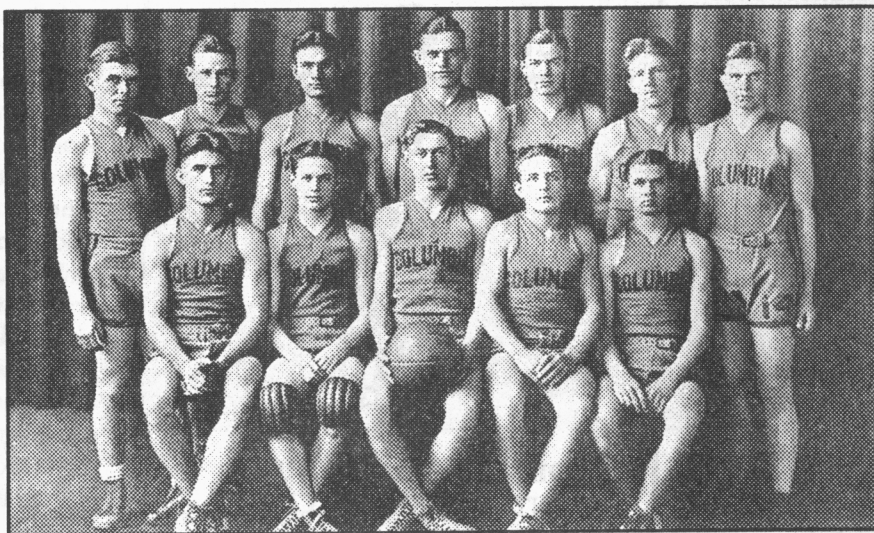
of the twenties. Also during this decade approximately one and a half million dollars worth of new construction was carried on at the University. The town added the Hall and the Missouri Theaters. The first motor home, the All States Tourist Camp, opened and Highways 40 and 63 made Columbia a tourists' mecca. But by 1929 the economy was not prospering for all people and in October the stock market crashed, a prelude to the Great Depression of the 1930's.

"Not a lot of people had much money back then, like they do now," recalled Fewell. But even if there wasn't a lot of economic growth, there was a lot of growth in the population. Columbia High School, built

for 500 students, was bursting at the seams with 800 students. The board of education agreed to buy 40 acres of land owned by the daughter of David H. Hickman. On April 17, 1925 Columbia voters approved of the site of what is now Hickman High School. The name Hickman was selected not just because David H. Hickman owned the land, he was also a legislator who supported the bill to create public secondary schools in Missouri.

There were other changes at the high school level in Columbia as well. In 1920 the first issue of the **Purple & Gold** came out, but not without its share of controversy. Many students attacked the idea of a school paper because it was thought that it would take resources away from the

Cresset, the yearbook. The **P&G** weathered the criticism and is still around today. There are some similarities between today's **P&G** and that of the 1920's including the humor column which in the twenties was called "Smartweed and Picklegrass." The paper brought up issues still seen today, like the low salaries teach-



The 1925 Hickman basketball team. Photo courtesy of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

ers get, "If teacher's continue to get paid less than coal miners, then we won't have any teachers in the future," warned a 1920 article.

A high school education remained a luxury and many students went right into the work force after grade school. Classes were small and students' lives centered around school curriculum and activities and sports. Girls took home economics and business courses, while boys took manual training courses and advanced math.

Another big difference between Hickman of the twenties and that of today is the school spirit. "When I went to school, everyone went to the ballgames," said Fewell, "Nowadays when I go to a ballgame, there's nobody there."

Fondly remembering the thirties

1930—1939

Hickman students, bored by a history lecture, watched as the top of the Tiger Hotel was being completed downtown. Sixty-three years later these same class members had their class reunion at that same hotel (now the Tiger-Kensington retirement hotel). These Hickman alums have

fond memories of their high school days.

The thirties were both good and bad times. Then the depression hit Columbia and the rest of the nation. Columbia saw only minimal change because many felt economically stable with booming construction in the town. The first hit was when the Hamilton Brown Shoe Company closed in January, 1931. The closing resulted in the loss of jobs for 275 employees.

The closing of the shoe company, the general business slump along Broadway and low funding for Stephens, Christian College (now Columbia College) and Missouri University created an unprecedented unemployment and relief problem for Columbia which still depended on the local farm community for much of its profits.

During the thirties the political world and the country stayed in the hands of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt who was re-elected in 1936 and became a hero with his ideas to put people back to work through many government programs.

Several disastrous events during the middle of the decade lessened the hope of Columbia citizens. In 1936 the coldest winter and hottest summer ever recorded swept through the area which caused the Dust Bowl in the southwest and a terrible drought with wind and dust storms carried dust as far north as New York. The winter was called the Great Freeze of '36. The ground froze 36 inches deep—gas pipes in downtown Columbia froze and citizens feared that a building would blow up.

WPA workers built the Hickman stadium, leveled the football field and worked to grow vegetables which launched the hot lunch program in Columbia. The Hickman cafeteria was located on the site of the present-day

faculty lounge.

People across the nation escaped to movies and made idols of their favorite stars. In 1934 the Flash Gordon comic strip started entertaining young boys across the nation, and Patsy Dolls entertained young girls. Flash hit the silver screen in 1938 with exciting pictures released by Universal Studios.

Hickman students took their dates to soda fountains, ice cream parlors, hiking trips, picnics, weenie roasts and the theater. The movies were not only a great escape but also popular hang-out and date spot. People watched as Shirley Temple, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and the Marx Brothers graced the silver screen and made them laugh their troubles away for only 10 cents per show.

Columbia itself was occupied by some famous stars.

Don Faurot became MU's coach in 1935. The top female singer, Jane Froman, lived in Columbia in 1936 and future billionaire Sam Walton was elected as Student Council president in 1935.

Fashion was still feeling the flapper movement from the twenties and short skirts and short hair with pin curls and cloche hats (swim cap style) were in. Fashion was a big concern to high school students. "We didn't wear jeans—we wore dresses. We were very fashion conscious,"

said Margaret Sisson, a Hickman class of 1933 graduate.

Patent leather shoes, white gloves and coats with fur around the edges were all the rage. Letter sweaters were proudly worn by the guys and flaunted at school events.

High school was an important part of the lives of its students. Young people devoted much of their time to school activities.

"The school was the center of our attention," said Carl Brady a 1933 Hickman graduate. Hickman won all of its football games in 1932, and Jefferson City had already established itself as the biggest rival. The students all came to the sporting events, but parents didn't because of their other commitments. "They were all too busy making a living," said Brady.

Most of the social activities were within the school and students were active. "(Homecoming) floats and sports were emphasized in our day," said Sisson.

Hickman graduates from the 1930's remember their Hickman years as a time when everyone was united and enjoyed each other. "We were closer then—even with the sophomores. You just were together more," said Brady in summary of his high school experience.



Frances Douglas, Carl Brady, Martin Scott and George Miller reminisce at their 63rd high school reunion. Photo by Alexis Underwood.

The war years

1940–1949

For the first time in 20 years the forties brought a shortage of workers because the men had been drafted to fight in World War II. Along with women, teenagers were called upon to fill the void. For the first time in modern memory teenagers had money of their own to spend on whatever they wanted, and advertisers lost no time in taking advantage of this new market. "We would go to Harper Parlor Drugs to jelly (hang out) and have some cokes," says O.V. Wheeler, Hickman class of '43.

In 1944 "Seventeen Magazine" published its first issue. It was the first publication to cater to the concerns of teenagers. It gave reports on the latest fashions, such as the briefly popular zootsuit, talked about the latest songs on the jukebox at the soda shop, and asked teens about their biggest concerns. Among the magazine's findings were that 50 percent of all girls viewed their figure as their top priority, and 37 percent of the boys were primarily concerned with having a good build. The universal concern, which one-third of all boys and girls viewed as their most serious problem, was acne.

But the 1940's weren't just about good bodies and acne; the era was darkened by U.S. involvement in the second World War. After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, a wave of patriotism swept over the country.

The war brought a lot of changes to Hickman High School as world geography and international relations were added to the curriculum so that students would be able to understand what was going on in the world. The desire to be at the top in technology caused an increase in enrollment in math and science classes, and advanced versions of these classes appeared at Hickman for the first time.

Boys were suddenly young men going off to war which touched everyone's life. Many would drop out of school in order to enlist, but others stayed in school and participated in military training program. Wheeler became involved in a training program. "I was in the Navy V-5, which was the Aviation Officer Training Program. Those who couldn't go

off to war, worked on keeping the patriotism alive at home by writing essays like "Why I am Glad to be an American", and buying war bonds," said Wheeler.

Sugar, meat, shoes and gasoline were rationed. "The rationing wasn't too bad," remembers Wheeler, "It only really affected the kids with the family car; they couldn't waste their parents' gas." The war effort touched everyone and the Cresset, Hickman's yearbook, was not published for several of the war years.

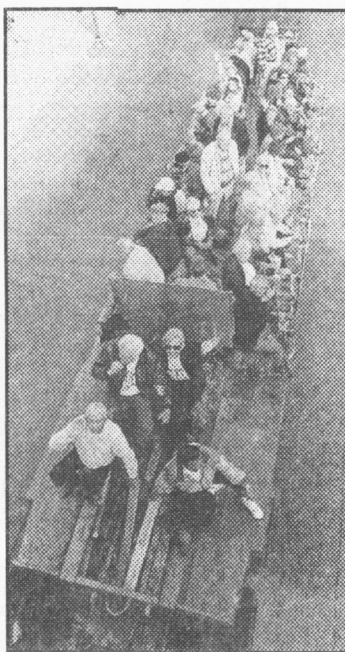
The end of the war meant the return of the soldiers and celebrations to welcome them back. Women and children who had worked during the war were expected to return to the home, but many chose to remain in the work force. The war had introduced women to the working world, and they were given respect for the first time for doing their part to help the war effort.

After the war, the nation breathed a sigh of relief and people could return to more recreational pursuits. At Hickman the end of the war meant the return of the infamous green and white sophomore beanies. Starting in 1947, sophomores had to wear beanies until the last home football game where they were all burned in a large bonfire. Sophomores also had to whitewash the rocks in the Hickman parking lot.

Without as many job opportunities because of the returning veterans, teenagers had more time to "mess around" at soda shops and listen to the jukebox where Frank Sinatra and the Big Bands competed for the over 5 billion nickels put in these machines each year. Young people also enjoyed

being able to buy shoes and gasoline without rationing.

There was a sense of freedom after the war, but high school students still saw numerous restrictions. Girls were not allowed to wear slacks to school and long skirts became popular. Dior's New Look was popular. Boys were not allowed to wear jeans, and their shirts had to be tucked in. Most students didn't drive to school, so they were at their parents mercy for the car on the weekend. Roosevelt died during his third term and Missourian Harry S. Truman became the first president from Missouri. As the decade ended the post war years were in full swing.



Hickman class of 1941 rides on a float in the Homecoming parade. Photo courtesy of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Halfway through the century

1950–1959

Between the war years and the turbulent sixties were the relatively peaceful fifties. While this may have been a transition time for the nation, for Hickman it was full of change.

In *Brown vs. the Board of Education* in 1954 the Supreme Court ruled that separate but equal was no longer the law, but it took four more years before six students from Douglass High School transferred to Hickman. Chief Justice Earl Warren gave the unanimous opinion of the court, stating, "We concluded that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

A sit-in at J.J. Newberry lunch counter on Broadway in Columbia gathered a mixed racial group to occupy all the seats at the counter for two-hour periods. The sit-in prompted owners to open restaurants to all races. Although mixed races had already been admitted to the University of Missouri, other places were just now becoming open to everyone.

Change was also a factor of the fifties. The Korean War and the firing of General Douglas MacArthur by President Harry Truman made news at the first of the decade. Missouri's first president was followed by four years of Dwight Eisenhower, a former World War II general.

Meanwhile back at Hickman, in 1953 ninth graders came from the junior highs to practice football with the upperclassmen. High school was the center of a teen's life in the fifties. Many of their parents had graduated from Hickman, and they were interested in the students and their clubs and activities. Penny dish suppers and intramural sports were important to teens. Each homeroom had a team, and each room built a float at Homecoming and provided a basket for the needy at Christmas. Ernie's at the corner of Garth and Business Loop 70 was Columbia's Arnold's (Happy Days) with teens hopping from car to car on the weekend nights. Students were told when they came to Hickman that this was the "best school in the state"

and state-wide competition proved them right.

It was also a time of conformity where young people did what they were supposed to and didn't try to be different. Television was new and this popular new media helped fads sweep across the nation.

Fads consisted of tube dresses, shorts that started getting shorter, paste-on rhinestones and pop-it beads. Drive-in movies were popular and 3-D movies with Polaroid glasses hit the theaters.

Contests, such as a baton twirling contests and a hula hoop derby became popular. Across the nation, college campuses formed a new fad called "cramming." Students crammed as many people as they could into a phone booth.

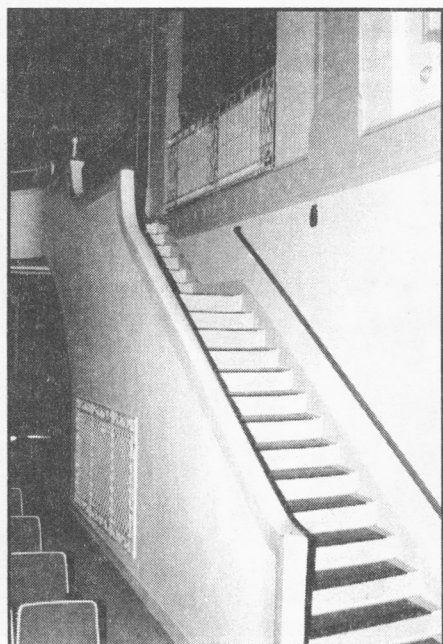
Magazines were big. The first issue of "Sports Illustrated" was published in August 1954. "TV Guide," "Playboy," "MAD" and "JET," were popular.

In 1951, power steering showed up in cars and the first birth control pill was manufactured but not available to the public until years later. The interstate highway system began in 1956.

Hickman, too, mixed tradition with modern inventions. According to Virginia Perkins, class of 1953, Hickman had a May Pole dance and a Senior Prom and senior skip day. "A bunch of us girls skipped school when Hank Williams died. We went to a girl's house and listened to his music and danced." Few students had cars, "mostly seniors," but everyone went to Dairy Queen for lunch. "After school was out we went to Woolworth's or Crown drugstore and got cherry cokes and sundaes." The girls were all in the pep club. "We wore letter sweaters, purple wool skirts and bobby socks," said Perkins.

Top singers were Patti Page, Jo Stafford, Teresa Brewer, Peggy Lee and Kay Starr. Elvis Presley was just beginning at the last half of the decade. These were the singers that Hickman student skated to at the Rollerina (where Empire is now).

Elvira Sloop Gritch enrolled at Hickman, continued with her class and graduated in the late fifties. Rumor has it that she even matriculated to University of Missouri.



During the 50's descended the stairs from senior heaven, and the juniors marched up to "senior heaven" and gave the "senior cheer". The seniors gave the "alumni cheer". Photo Alexis Underwood.

A turbulent time

1960–1969

Sophomore beanies, letter sweaters, Sadie Hawkins dances, home football games describe Hickman High School in the 1960's. The decade was one that held great change both for Hickman as well as the rest of the world. It was in the late fifties and early sixties when the first Douglass students began attending integrated public schools. Assistant principal John Kelly attended Hickman as a student from 1958-1960 and was one of the first African American students to do so.

"The black community was trying to integrate the schools. Hickman had better facilities than the black schools," said Kelly.

Kelly remembers the transition as a difficult one. "It was not a very friendly place because the community was still adjusting to the changes," said Kelly.

"It was good college preparation, not only academically, but it was good preparation for the racism I had to face at that time," added Kelly.

Science teacher Janet Lasley attended Hickman from 1960-1963 and remembers it as "a good school then too." Her class was the last to wear the infamous beanies.

"We were the last class to wear beanies. Sophomores wore beanies from the first day of school to Homecoming. If we got caught without our beanies, girls had to sing in an assembly and boys had their pants taken away," she recalled.

During the early sixties students spent much of their free time involved in school activities. Lasley feels that there was much more school involvement then.

"Dances were a bigger deal," she said. "There was a Sadie Hawkins dance. The girls asked the boys, and everyone dressed up in hillbilly clothes."

"Assemblies were held every week with different club directing the assemblies. There were a lot more traditions then," Lasley said.

At each assembly, the seniors sat in the balcony which was known at the time as "senior heaven." There was a rumor that underclassmen who went into senior heaven would

be thrown over the balcony by the seniors.

Hickman also went through some physical changes in the sixties. Money from bond issues throughout the decade allowed for a wing of vocational classrooms and labs to be added. A building surrounding the swimming pool (which was put in earlier) was also built, allowing for year-round use of the pool.

In 1966, Hickman was designated as an area vocational school, and students from other schools without vocational programs began enrolling in classes at Hickman.

The sixties were a time of both happiness and turmoil for the rest of the world. John F. Kennedy was sworn in as

the youngest U.S president ever elected. The Kennedys were thought of as the perfect young American family.

Also in 1960, the birth control pill was marketed and the sexual revolution began. The introduction and use of this product caused many social implications.

Fashion rapidly changed. Revealing mini skirts showing several inches of thigh became quite popular along with unisex outfits. Schools had rules regarding the length of skirts, and girls

whose skirts were too short were sent home to change.

The movie "Bonnie and Clyde" was a hit introducing the "gangster style" which was sported by many teens. Dress was definitely original and trend setting. Girls still could not wear slacks to school except on very cold days when the temperature dipped below a certain degree.

November 22, 1963 is a date that no one will forget. President John F. Kennedy was shot while riding in a parade in Dallas and was pronounced dead later that afternoon. The nation was shocked. Vice President Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as the new president that same day.

The sixties held many lasting memories one of which happened in the last year of the decade. July 20, 1969 is a date that citizens of the era were very proud of and will never forget. It was on this date that Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the moon and placed an American flag which still stands there today. He was the first person to walk on the moon. it was a "small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."



**A sophomore beanie is displayed in the main hall.
Photo by Alexis Underwood.**

Second high school built 1970–1979

Disco, platform shoes, the Brady Bunch and the Sex Pistols. Ahh the seventies. The decade when the nation saw the end of the Vietnam war, the historic voyage of Apollo 13 and a great Bicentennial celebration.

Locally, a new high school was built and the popular downtown disco club, Studio 16 (which is now Shattered), came alive every Friday night with the sounds of the Village People.

"The Groove Tube" was a controversial movie during the 1970's. It starred Chevy Chase and included nudity. Everyone bragged about getting in to see it but movie theaters tightened their admission regulations.

In the early seventies, students minds were full of concern for much more than "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll." Students worried about what the future held for the nation. In 1973, Watergate exposed corruption in the United States government. Richard Milhaus Nixon became the first president in history to resign the position. The nation was in turmoil. As one student wrote in the 1974 Cresset, "The future was a major concern. Watergate, Nixon and talk of impeachment along with the economic picture dominated their attention. Scandals in government, food and fuel shortages, worldwide problems such as wars in the Middle East and the continuing one in Southeast Asia, contributed to student worry."

The feminist movement was in full swing in the seventies—this was evident at Hickman. For the first time in 1974 a woman, Joan Lowenstein, was elected as student body president. Female students were given the opportunity to compete in athletics in 1972. Volleyball was first offered to females in 1974. "The reason I got to play sports was because of Title nine," said Nancy Dunagan, who also played basketball in high school under the direction of coach Robert Lee. "Coach Lee was my basketball coach. He was one of the best coaches I have ever had in my life. He would give me pep talks that

improved my playing," she said.

A second high school became necessary because of overcrowding at Hickman. In 1973 Rock Bridge opened giving us a cross-town rival and both schools had hockey teams that played at the Ice Chalet. Sports remained an important part of teenagers lives. "I was on the golf team—that was a big deal," said Jerry Murphy, a 1979 graduate.

In 1971, the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 which let Hickman seniors vote and feel more included in politics and the direction of the nation. The decade brought youth

searching for acceptance and belonging which started a religious revival and the idea of trying to find yourself. Yoga, meditation, communal living and Eastern religions such as Islam became objects of attention and practice.

The attitude of being free brought bra burnings, and in 1974 study halls at Hickman were opened as daily unassigned time periods and many people took advantage of this escape by going to Taco Bell or Dairy Queen for a soda.



1979 Homecoming queen candidates. Photo courtesy of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

Columbia hang-outs like Pizza Hut, The Silver Mine, the Pinnacles and downtown were popular on dates. As well as these, the movie spots were great fun on the weekends. The Missouri Theatre and the Sky High drive-in showed movies such as Towering Inferno, M.A.S.H, Young Frankenstein and cult movies like Rocky Horror picture show and Harold and Maude. Young people also went to the river and caves which were big party places according to Gracie Sapp. Another popular place for teenagers was the Road Apple. "There was a place called the Road Apple that people could rent out and throw parties. It was mostly college students, but sometimes high school students went," said Murphy.

On T.V. Charlies Angels, Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids, Eight is Enough and Scooby Doo along with The Young and the Restless entertained teens during the week.

Fashion reflected this through Fara Faucet feathered hair and afros. Corduroy pants were big with guys and wearing toe socks with sandals were a preview for todays Teva or Birkenstock trend.

President visits Hickman

1980–1989

President Ronald Reagan set the tone for the eighties. America elected an aging movie actor as president, and America entered an era of trickle down economics and tax cuts. It was a time of growth and prosperity for Columbia. No one

worried about the mounting national debt. Ask any Hickman student of the eighties and he'll say the visit of President Reagan to Hickman in 1986 was the highlight of the decade. Rumors of the visit had floated through the school for weeks, but no one was really sure it would happen. For **Purple & Gold** staff members it was a chance to wear real press passes and work with the Washington press corps which set up headquarters in the Media Center.

Actually the day was a blur for many. The President was made an honorary Kewpie at a ceremony in the auditorium and then talked to students and townspeople in the gym. Lunch was cooked by his personal chef and eaten in the dining hall—not typical school cafeteria food. Still a president of the United States had visited Hickman.

Other highlights had to be the Excellence in Education (Blue Ribbon) Award identifying Hickman as one of the best secondary schools in the nation in 1984. Rock Bridge settled in as the “other school” across town and the local paper liked to refer to the cross-town rivalry although the two schools seldom played each other in major sports like football and basketball because of different classifications.

“I played sports in high school. I’ve noticed that athletics have improved and (today) there is a higher level of competition in girls’ sports,” said

Kelly Kurtz, class of 1984.

Students listened to Prince and “Purple Rain” and carried Z-Nite cards for inexpensive admission to local theaters. Fast food establishments continue to grow, and Columbia built a huge new mall that would prove to be an attraction to regional shoppers between St. Louis and Kansas City. There was an all-Missouri World Series with the St. Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Royals.

The Mall soon became a part of students’ lives as did working. Over 65 percent

of all Hickman students had jobs and most had cars. The eighties brought problems with parking and seniors grumbling about sophomores and cars and problems with where to park. Students partied on weekends at McCubbin’s, went to Easley for picnics, listened to INXS and Pink Floyd.

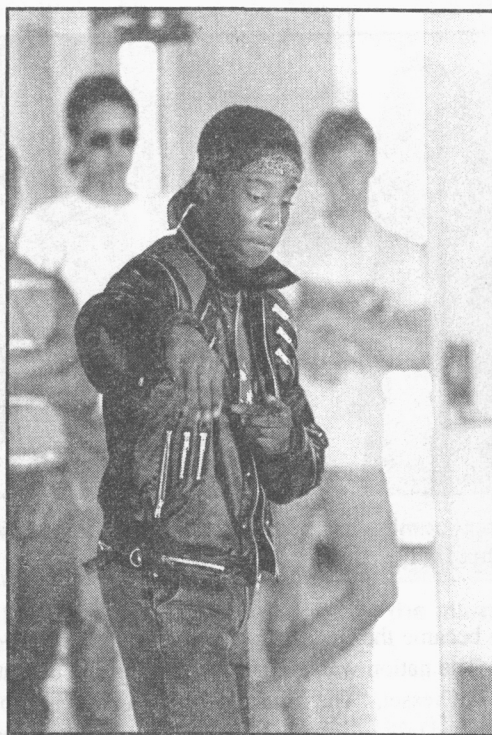
“Shakespeare’s was popular,” said Tranna Foley, class of 1988.

At the beginning of the decade no one had heard of AIDS but soon students were getting the information in health class and a series of assemblies sponsored by the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics. AIDS had spread to teenagers and the sexual revolution began to slow. Safe sex was an important message to teens.

Eighties fashion included big hair, swatch watches (not just one, but sometimes two or three), pinch-rolled jeans, the “punk” and “yuppie” look, flowered jeans and double socks.

“Mini skirts were in. Jeans, sweatshirts and T-shirts were popular then too,” said Foley.

As the decade ended, students said goodbye to Dr. Kenneth Clark, who was Hickman’s principal for 25 years, and looked forward to the last decade of the twentieth century.



Break dancing was popular at Hickman in 1984. Photo courtesy of the Columbia Daily Tribune.

The end of the Century

1990–1996

Ending the century, the nineties began with a new principal—Deanna Corn who replaced Dr. Kenneth Clark in 1991. Corn arrived at Hickman determined to make the school student-friendly. One of her goals was to get students more involved with the school and all of its activities. The spirit she ex-

pressed herself allowed them to do just that. Corn attends all the school functions, often wearing purple and gold, supporting the Kewpies.

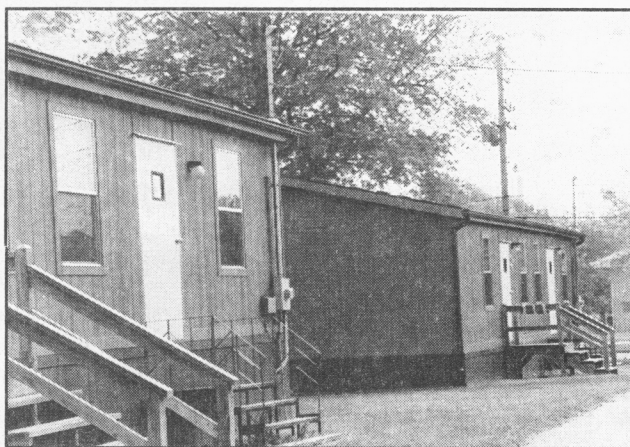
It was an era of tattoos, piercing of just about any body part, rock 'n' roll music, rap music, new country music, alternative music, Doc Marten shoes and jeans for everyone. Students complained about the overcrowded parking lot, but with 65 percent of the students working, nearly everyone had a car and 48 percent were part time students; parking was impossible.

AIDS, teen violence, crime and an uncertain future were still national problems, but teens felt isolated from these problems. National sports heroes Magic Johnson and Greg Luganis had AIDS. Three people were killed in a robbery at the Casey's convenience store in Columbia.

Teachers concentrated on multiculturalism and the Brown Bag Chautauqua, a noontime luncheon meeting for students and faculty. Diversity was the buzzword of the decade. One of the most popular assemblies was the Multicultural Assembly starring students performing skits and dances from different cultures. Hickman boasted students from 30 different countries. People of many races came together as one as they stroll the halls each day. The diversity of the school is what set it apart from all the rest and made it unique. Students were given the opportunity to learn about many different cultures by simply talking to their

neighbor in class. Each of these interactions allowed students to become more in touch with reality and able to face "the real world."

Restructuring was the talk among faculty who met and talked about what kind of school would best educate students for the twenty-first century. Rock Bridge High School changed to block scheduling, but Hickman did not. Douglass was reopened as the third high school with an alternative curriculum.



Trailers offer a temporary relief to overcrowding.
Photo by Alexis Underwood

As Columbia continued to expand and grow, both to the far south and north, overcrowding was the biggest problem for the school district. Three new middle schools were built, some with trailers, and plans for a third high school were still ten years away. Hickman added eight trailers, called Kewpie Village. The enrollment reached nearly 2000 students by the middle of the decade. Tech prep and school to work programs were begun with students going to the Career Center to take work-related classes. Hickman added

two computer labs and students began to prepare for the technology of the next century.

In 1996 Hickman became one of the first secondary schools in the nation to win the Blue Ribbon Award for the second time.

Nationally, the Berlin Wall came down, the Gulf War began and ended, the unibomber was caught, the Federal Building in Oklahoma City was destroyed with 168 dead. The "trial of the century" was O.J. Simpson's trial for murdering his ex-wife and Ron Goldman. George Bush lost the '92 election to Bill Clinton and the country had a member of the Baby Boomer generation as president. The government temporarily shutdown during budget debates. Children of the Boomers, high school students, were called Generation X. As the century drew to a close the seniors at Hickman marched proudly as the hundredth graduating class from a Columbia high school—into a new century.

The future

1997...

High school in Columbia has seen many changes over the past 100 years. It has endured economic disaster, wars and national tragedies.

The Victorian era saw the beginning of high school in Columbia. It was a time of inventions and expansion.

The second decade of the 20 century was plagued by the first World War, the war to end all wars. The country united in the war effort.

The 20's were a carefree time when the country enjoyed growth and advancements from the war era. Flappers and the Charleston exemplified the times.

With the 30's came the depression when times were difficult for everyone. Americans again united this time to help each other through the hard times.

America was riveted by a second World War in the 1940's. As the soldiers went off to war, women and young people entered the work force to fill the void.

The 1950's were a complacent era. It was also a time for change. With the Brown vs. Board of Education decision in 1954, schools all over the country were integrated.

Major national events oc-

curred in the 1960's. John F. Kennedy became the youngest president and embodied youth and the ideal family. His death shattered American's sense of security. The sixties also saw the beginning of the Vietnam War.

Disco, hippies and rebellion characterize the 70's. Alternative lifestyles and self exploration became popular at this time.

The 80's were filled with the election of Ronald Reagan to the presidency as a father figure. The Iran Contra affair and the explosion of the Challenger monopolized the media air waves during the 80's.

The 1990's began with the Berlin Wall coming down and yet another war—this time in the Middle East. It is an era of individuality.

History holds tragedies, triumphs and tribulations. Over the past hundred years, high school has survived all these events.

There are no certainties. No one can be sure what the future will bring, but there will undoubtedly be more wars as well as more stories of success.

High school has many special memories for people of all ages. It is a time of exciting changes and important events. People of all ages can reflect on their high school days, and the high schools in Columbia have provided a place for memories to be made.

Acknowledgments

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Staff Members who worked on the research staff:

Christopher Cook

Stephanie LaHue

Stacy Rozier

Jamie Schultz

Michelle Stephens, Editor

Jamie Holliday, Special Design Editor