

## The Chelsea Experience

By Robert Hood IV

My step dad and I are close, he loves my brothers and I, but he doesn't talk too much. He's told me some stories about his school career but he never found school as fun as I do. He's a very sarcastic and joking guy. Because of how tired he usually is his jokes keep him from being bitter. Through the interview, he uses sarcasm and I will reflect on what he said with my knowledge of him.

I say to him, "Describe your high school experience at Chelsea Public School."

He tells me sarcastically "Painful." He didn't find school very interesting and he was bored a lot of the time, so I think he's saying painful as in dull and boring.

I ask him "What kind of student were you?"

He responds, "Shy...in class at least. I was very quiet and just did my work." He still is a quiet guy. He doesn't talk much, especially if he doesn't know you. But if you're one of his friends, he will talk and cuss and laugh like any other guy would talk with his buddies.

I ask him "How would you describe your life now?"

He says "Wonderful. Very fulfilling. Better than I expected. Far from boring." He is being funny in this answer. He is saying that sarcastically but also not sarcastically. He sits in the barn and it's so boring. But I can understand why his life is better. He was a shy guy who farmed and then went home and went to bed. Now, he's married to my mom. They both make each other happy. He has my little brother Jon and I. But he also has two sons of his own, Jesse and Landon who are three and one and they both make my step dad so happy. I can see the joy in his face when he comes home and the two little ones run up to hug his leg to welcome him home. He is definitely happier than he described himself in high school.

I ask him "What memories do you have that stand out to you when you went to school in Chelsea?"

He says "School was pretty boring. I didn't get in trouble." He was a good kid in school. He didn't talk much. He was just one of those kids that didn't speak unless someone talked to him. He was kind of like me.

I then ask him "How has Chelsea helped you in your life today?"

He then responds by saying "I don't remember a lot from school." I bet he didn't. It's not like he uses his "writing skills" to milk a cow. He got his knowledge of agriculture in vocational school at Randolph.

Then I ask him "Are there any other things you want to share about?"

And he answers back and says "Nothing I would want to share the first time." He loves to joke around.

He wasn't the type that wanted to go to college. His job was to take over the family farm and keep it going. He hopes to see Jesse and Landon taking over the family farm later when he gets old. He's definitely an awesome dad. He loves me and all my brothers so much and he takes care of us and works so hard. I hope I can work as hard as he does someday to show him that I'm a hard worker too. He has done a lot for my brother and I. He has taken Jon and I in and treated us like sons. He is a great guy and an even greater dad.

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## Interview with Ernest Kennedy

By Hunter Trombley

I interviewed Ernest Kennedy. Ernest is my great grandfather. I enjoyed interviewing Ernest, it was interesting learn some of the things I did. Ernest is a tall, thin man. Most wouldn't guess his true age. He's a happy person always willing to lend a hand to someone in need. The first question I asked Ernest was "What was your high school experience at Chelsea Public School like?" He replied "It was a long time ago, about sixty-three years ago. There were not nearly as many students, and there were only four teachers and one of them was the principal." The second question I asked him was, "What kind of student were you in high school?" He said "I was a so-so student I got mid grades and I did not do a lot of homework. I took business courses like typing, bookkeeping etcetera." For my third question, I asked him, "How would you describe your life now?" He said, "Life is good. I can do what I want when I want. Life is busy and I enjoy family." For the fourth question I asked him, "What is one memory that stands out from your high school experience at Chelsea Public School?" He said, "Practicing typing and half the year we could look at the keys, but the teacher left and a new teacher came and would not let us look at the keys, but now I can type over 100 words per minute." For the fifth question I asked him, "What do you feel Chelsea Public School has given you that has helped you in your life?" He replied, "The skills to type, keep books, and work at the Court House for forty-five years." For the final question I asked Ernest, "Do you have anything else you would like to share about your experience at Chelsea Public School?" All he said was "Everything was better in the good old days, I'm now eighty-one."

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### My Teacher and My Friend

By Alex Richardson

I slowly walk into the gym. The entry way is very wet and the gym is scorching hot. No one is in the gym yet. I arrive early so that I can see Mr. James Blondin. The first time I met him I was in the fourth grade. He was in the high school and I was in elementary school. I met him at a summer camp called Camp Kid. He was very nice to me and we got along. He was one of the only high schoolers to notice me. He always called me Big Al. I was the biggest kid in my class and that name stuck Mr. Blondin is now the gym teacher at Chelsea Public School. When I walk into the gym he asks "You ready for the interview? Can we do it during our class right now because this is the only time I can?" I then reply "Sure okay." I then ask him numerous questions about his high school years.

Mr. Blondin says his Chelsea experience was normal, but like today's age he says he knew everyone. Mr. Blondin describes how it was easy to get help from the teachers and to have good grades and be successful. James was an above average kid that did his work and earned good grades. James liked all of his teachers and he got along with all of them. When I ask him what kind of student he was he says "a goof ball." Mr. Blondin says he goofed around some times, but he got his work done. He talked a lot in class but knew when to stop. When he describes his life now, James replies it is "pretty good," that he is at a "good point" in his life. He says it is weird but good to see his old teachers and classes every day. James says that a lot of good memories come to mind when he walks down the hallways and into the gym where he works. He shares with me two memories and they are of playing in the Division IV basketball and soccer championships. He says a lot of his good memories are related to sports. His second memory is of Anne Stevens' philosophy class. He says, "she always made you feel like you were on the same page and she would always set goals." We then move to the subject on what Chelsea has given him to help him in his life. He describes how it helped him by giving him a foundation of what he wanted to do. He also says it shaped him through sports, school plays, and school bands. James says it has helped him as a person and that it has given him determination. The last thing he says to me is that he doesn't regret anything, and that he misses being in high school and seeing his friends.

Doing this interview has shown me that Mr. Blondin and I are very alike and that from now on I will keep on with my dream and do what I want in my future.

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## **The Good Days**

**By: Garrett Royce**

When my dad, Dave Royce, arrives home on that cold night wet, tired, and covered in the scent of propane after a hard day's work, I figure this might be the right time to ask him a few questions about his younger years. His black mustache is coated in icicles and his Empire Heating Systems hat has cobwebs draped over it, he looks like he is a walking basement. After a shower and a bite to eat, we sit down to watch T.V. and I grab a piece of paper and a pencil and begin to dive into the pool of my father's past.

My dad was in the Chelsea class of 1984 with a graduating class of thirty-two. It was a time of good kids, good teachers, and a lot of fun for him. He was an average student who loved to play sports; he recalls one special memory during basketball season. The team's halfway through the last quarter of the final game of their regular season. Dave's bringing the ball up the court and made a sharp pass to his shooting guard Tim McCullough who was smacked to the floor by an opponent; Dave scooped the ball up from the floor and went to pivot when an opposing guard ran and smashed into his leg. He fell down as the reverberation of a loud crack entered his ears, he tried to stand up and get the ball, but he felt weak, he looked at the crowd with their jaws dropped and in shock. My dad's team did make it to the championships that year but he was not able to play due to a broken fibula and a dislocated ankle. Later in the interview, I ask my dad what he feels Chelsea has given him, and he thinks that a good work ethic and a high school diploma are two things, but he also says Chelsea strengthened his sense of character

and humor. He says that life is so boring now and he wishes he was back in high school because it was a lot of fun.

Overall, my dad has many memories from his high school years. And when I ask my dad if he had anything else to add he says, "Garrett, small schools yield friends for life."

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## **A Strong Piece of Chelsea**

**By Alexander Richardson**

This man has been here at Chelsea for countless years. He is truly a part of Chelsea. I have worked with him for two summers now, and he knows this school inside and out. This man is Terry Libby. He graduated in 1966. He works at Chelsea now as a person who works and fixes the school, his title is Head of Maintenance, and he is also Chelsea's co-athletic director. If anything breaks or does not work, the person to go to at Chelsea School is Terry. He can fix anything. When I have worked with him he has been the nicest person you could ever imagine. He has never been mean to me during sports, or when I have worked for him. When I first met Terry I was in elementary school, I had to ask him to fix a window and I was so scared. But even though he had a busy day, he took time out of his day to follow this little elementary student to his room and fix a window. He did this without getting angry, having to help a little kid, he had no complaints.

I asked Terry a list of questions about his high school experience and he gave great, short answers. One question I had was "What was your high school experience at Chelsea Public School like?" He answered that it was very enjoyable to him, and that he played all the sports, which he is still very active in, and that he chased all the girls. Another question I had was "What kind of student were you in high school?" Terry said that he was an honor roll student, and as he said he played sports, he was in the glee club, he was in many one act plays, and he was on the student council. So you could say that he was a very active student. After that question I asked him "How would you describe your life now?" Terry said that he is still walking down the halls, still enjoying the school, and still very active in sports. Another question I had was "What memory or day stands out the most in your high school years?" Terry thought long and hard and in one sentence he summarized the tragic day. Terry said "The day JFK was assassinated." Terry did not say anything else, but I could tell it was a bad day. One of my final questions was "What do you feel CHS has given you that has helped you in your life?" Terry's answer was that he now has a sense of belonging. A place where he is welcome. As we ended the interview I asked Terry if he had any last remarks, and Terry said that he hopes the high school stays, and that the school needs the community, but also that the community needs the school.

I realized from working with Terry that he is a man that will never be forgotten, and that he will always be part of this school. He is a nice and great man, and he is a big part of Chelsea.

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## **My Cousin Nate**

**By Sam Amber**

Over the Thanksgiving break I saw my cousin Nate Dowling. Nate went to school here at Chelsea Public School and graduated in a class of 28 in 2007 with high honors as the valedictorian. He played basketball and soccer, and lacrosse for the two years the school offered it. He also was enrolled in advanced math and eventually taught calculus as a senior with P-Cal.

We sat down in the family room in his parent's house, Nate on the rocking chair across from me, and I on the couch, a chess game in progress between us. When I asked of his experience at Chelsea Public School he spoke of the good times he had at Chelsea, and said that he didn't feel like there was an overwhelming amount of work. He added that he had fun at Chelsea, mainly "stealing things from Steck's chem closet," he said with a chuckle. He stated that his favorite class was his chemistry class with Mr. Steckler (Steck), and that the main factor in being successful was mostly just getting his work done, and getting his work done obviously paid off because now he is a senior at Yale.

After that, I asked Nate about his life now and how everything was going. He talked of his classes and said that he's busy, but happy. He is a math major, so he is taking a couple of math classes and a class on Egyptian hieroglyphs. He also plays club soccer and intramural basketball. He says of his life, "All in all, it's a pretty good time." When I asked him, he told me of the help that Chelsea has given him to get him to where he is now. One part of the help was, of course, the grades he earned, but he also gained much from the small school experience, like being able to be very sociable with people he just met, in his words, "Being able to talk to strangers, when other people aren't social because they're from the city." Another part of Nate's life that Chelsea has helped Nate with is getting involved in sports. He said that "In most schools you can only do one sport, but in Chelsea you can do many." Now he plays soccer and basketball at Yale and can use those sports to stay fit later in life.

When I asked about Nate's fondest memories he laughed a bit and talked about how class with P-Cal was fun, and that he won a couple of pocket-protectors for getting 100 percents on some tests, but mainly he spoke of one event that was a highlight in high school. "I think that mining class we took," was his response when I asked him about a highlight in high school. He is referring to when he and two other students tried to dig up the time capsule put at the cornerstone of the school by the class of 1912 during the alumni dinner. Although they dug pretty deep into the ground, breaking a piece of the concrete going around the perimeter of the school, they still didn't find the time capsule. He got in a bit of trouble for this action, but speaks of it as a fond memory.

Overall, I could see after we concluded our interview that Nate is very happy with his new life as a Yale math major. He will graduate this year and probably move on to Princeton graduate school for more mind-boggling math. Although he is moving on towards the future, looking back at the past still makes him chuckle.

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# The Family of Chelsea

By Taylor Brinkman

Many of you may know Jodi Emerson because she graduated from Chelsea High School not too long ago, in the class of 2009. In fact I can still picture her, energetic and bubbly, smiling, laughing, and talking to just about everyone in school. I've known her since I was in preschool. Her mom used to work at the preschool I went to and was also friends with my mom, so Jodi would play with my sisters and I when our moms planned a get together or when she had to go the preschool after school. When I finally went to Chelsea School too I'd always say hi to her in the halls, and she never ignored me despite such a big age difference. It was nice to know not all the big kids we're scary! Here is how she feels about CHS and what she's up to now.

**Q: Describe your high school experience at Chelsea Public School.**

Jodi: It was wonderful! I loved knowing everyone. Most people hated it, but I loved walking down the hallway and everyone saying good morning knowing me. I really liked my teachers. I miss Chelsea sports too. The small teams made you work so much harder and you know your teammates so well.

**Q: What kind of a student were you in high school?**

Jodi: I was a scholarly student. School was and still is really important to me. I was athletic and was into theatre for a while too. I wasn't really a part of one specific group, I got along with almost everyone and bee bopped around between everyone.

**Q: How would you describe your life now?**

Jodi: I see my life now as stressful. I'm in nursing school and play club lacrosse. I'm also treasurer of the nursing board, and leader of a children's cancer center for St. Jude, so I'm usually very busy.

**Q: What is one memory (or two) that stands out from your high school experience at Chelsea Public School?**

Jodi: I would say one would be winning the state championships for basketball and lacrosse. When other schools were three times our size and underclassmen, family, and alumni would come all the way to our games and were so supportive, win or lose, all of the seasons. Another memory is every moment since kindergarten I would be greeted at the entrance of school and get my morning hug from Lily Trombly☺

**Q: What do you feel CHS has given you that has helped you in your life?**

Jodi: I would say Chelsea gave me teamwork skills. Because it's a small school, you have to step up and fill shoes that aren't being filled. For example, if someone is sick and can't make a game you play the whole game just so your team won't play a man down. Chelsea also helped me with talking with my teachers if I am struggling in class. They were so supportive now I'm not afraid to ask for help or talk to my professors.

**Q: Do you have anything else you would like to share about your experience at Chelsea Public School?**

Jodi: Chelsea was a great experience for me K through 12. I love that it offers students to go off and try different experiences like The Mountain School, island schools, and VAST as great programs. Another thing from Chelsea is my friends, I made very close friends who I still talk to and stay close with now, and I'm sure we always will. I love to see my classmates at UNH's reactions when I say I graduated with 30 kids. Chelsea's like a family. I'm very proud I graduated from CHS.

I hope after this interview if you didn't know Jodi you do more than just by name now, and if you already do you've learned a little more about her and her life currently. Thank you, Jodi! And good luck!