

Social studies teacher, Mary Jo Willmann, is shown instructing a class of sixth graders at the Alexandria Middle School. The 438 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students enrolled at the middle school attend class seven periods a day, from 7:45 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.



Student Council members at Marie Thurston Elementary School are shown during their morning flag raising. With 439 students, Thurston is the largest of the three public elementary schools. Students attend class six hours per day, 180 days per year, from late August to early June. The school is named for Marie Thurston, a former principal from 1955, when the school opened, until 1964.



Orestes Elementary students (l-r) Jeremy Pollen, Jessi Wood, Annie Alexander, and Kacy Irwin talk with fifth grade teacher, Betsy Baker. With 179 students, Orestes is the smallest school in the corporation.



Cunningham students (l-r) Derrick Davis, Brian Petty, Daniel Stinson, and Gary Turner are shown planting flowers with principal Julie Alexander and teacher David Libler. The school's 217 pupils pay an average of \$60 per year in fees. Breakfast and lunch are served daily, as they are at all Alexandria schools, at a cost of \$.80 for breakfast and \$1.10 for lunch. Students from low income families may receive free or reduced-fee meals. Corporation wide, 32% of the students fall in this category.

The Alexandria Community School Corporation

consists of five schools. The system is composed of three elementary schools (K-5), one middle school (6-8), and one senior high school (9-12). School buildings and related facilities are constantly monitored and upgraded to insure structural and aesthetic excellence.

The School Board, elected to their positions by an informed and concerned public, is dedicated to providing the best possible educational opportunities for the students of the community. They are the policy-making body of the corporation.

The school corporation employs 217 people, making it the largest employer in Alexandria. All employees of the corporation are dedicated to educational excellence. Teachers are encouraged to participate in continuing professional development activities in order to bring new and exciting learning opportunities into the classroom.

The curriculum strives to be flexible, effective, and relevant to the needs of the students both for today and for their future. The corporation is making a substantial commitment to providing advanced computers and technology for all students at all grade levels. All buildings have computer networks linking laboratories with classrooms and outside resources through telecommunications. In addition to a strong academic program including advanced placement and gifted/talented classes, the corporation offers several vocational training options and a wide-variety of extra curricular activities.



Six hundred eighteen students attend Alexandria-Monroe High School and 85.6% of them graduate. 48% pursue college or some type of higher education. Students are in class from 7:45 a.m. until 2:50 p.m., and approximately 60% have after school or weekend jobs.



School busses provide free transportation to any student in the corporation who does not live within walking distance of the school. Only 30% of the high school pupils ride the bus, although the number is much higher for elementary and middle school students. Approximately 50% of high school students own their own cars or trucks, or have one available in the family to drive to school.



Students are shown leaving Saint Mary School under the watchful eye of Sister Mary Denis, principal, and Father Phillip Haslinger, parish priest. One hundred twenty students, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attend the school in grades K-8. The school day begins with 8 a.m. Mass for the students, who enjoy their new school building, which was constructed in 1988.



Band director R. Dale Preston gives instructions to students left to right: Jennifer Jessie, Corie Small, Mike Varvel, Brandon Sprister and Andy Waymire. Students may start band instruction in the sixth grade. Marching band begins in high school. Thirty-seven members currently comprise the band and color guard, and a newly formed jazz ensemble has 12 members. The band shows signs of growth however, as there are 65 members in the middle school band.



High school technology teacher, Monte Sprague, instructs students in the use of a drill press. Shown left to right, are Rachel Morgan, Ryan Swisher, Chris Chambers, and Jeff Cox. 1943's shop class has given way to 1994's technology class. Teachers Dennis Shaw and Sprague instruct their students a total of nine periods a day in drafting, computer-aided drafting, manufacturing, transportation, graphic communications, construction, and production. Male/female ratio in the classes is approximately 80:20.



Youngsters at Orestes Elementary School enjoy the freedom of recess on the school playground. Students have one recess each day at 11:30, which lasts twenty minutes.



Principal Dave Wood addresses the 131 members of the 1994 graduating class. Co-valedictorians Ben Lustig and Matt McDaniel also spoke to the class, which included 19 students receiving academic honors diplomas. 15% of the students have been involved in a co-op program to help them prepare for future careers.

With the traditional June ceremonies, members of the 1994 class are graduated from Alexandria-Monroe High School



Commander Norman Paar calls to order a meeting of the American Legion, Post #87, which has 232 members in Alexandria. The local post works to aid other veterans and their families, as well as sponsoring Boy's State and various academic awards. The National Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Veterans Administration and is recognized as the originator of the G.I. Bill of Rights. Membership is restricted to service personal who served during a war or conflict. Shown here are: Charlie Raines, Phil Davis, Paar, Jack Bowers, Jim Donahue, Shorty Burdsall, Bob Jones, Earl Hubbard, Herman Brown, and Bob Andrews.



Senior Guild members gather for an afternoon of bridge. In addition, the 150 members enjoy dinners, trips, and euchre. The Guild also offers blood pressure screening for its members. Shown here left to right are: Fancheon Hodson, Helen Johnson, Glenna Lynch, and John Coy.

In the 1943 booklet, much copy was devoted to the war,

and how it was affecting and changing the lives of those in Alexandria. Fifty years later, thankfully, there is no war to discuss in this booklet. Many of the pictures in the earlier publication involved war-related duties and activities. There were servicemen in uniform and women pictured working in factories, replacing the men who had been drafted.

We chose to use these pages to depict some of the things people in Alexandria are doing in 1993-94. While there are activities and groups which still cater to veterans, such as the American Legion, VFW, and the Vietnam Veterans Moving Memorial Wall, there are also an increasing number of organizations and activities for senior citizens.

Beulah Park and the pool are as popular now as they were 50 years ago, although a new pool had been constructed since then.

Golf is a popular activity, enjoyed by both men and women.

But still the best recreation for some is the time spend gardening, doing yard work, or as in this picture, on hands and knees cleaning grass from between the sidewalks bricks.



John Glotzbach, a 36 year resident of 406 W. Monroe, works to remove grass from between the bricks of his sidewalk. Many of the city's brick sidewalks have been replaced by cement, just as nearly all the brick streets are now paved with asphalt. Some residents want to preserve at least some of the brick streets and sidewalks for historic purposes, especially those paved with the "star" bricks.



The bath house, built in 1939, has been painted recently and refurbished and still serves the needs of swimmers at the Alex Pool. Over 200 people per day use the pool during the summer months.



Beulah Park is still a popular place to play for many local children. Although new play equipment has been added and updated through the years, the ever-popular swings and slides look much the same as they did in 1943.



Park Superintendent Steve Simison kneels beside the Vietnam Veterans Moving Memorial Wall, a mobile replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Linda Jones, owner of Little Dutch Cleaners, organized the event and raised money to bring the wall to Alexandria in the fall of 1993. Thousands of people viewed the wall, and searched for the names of loved ones killed in Vietnam.



Neal Johnson, foreground, one of the developers of Yule Golf Course, prepares to tee off on #1. The 18-hole course opened in 1968. Completing the foursome are Jon Cooper, retired teacher; John Wilson, retired principal; and Doug Johnson, local insurance agent.



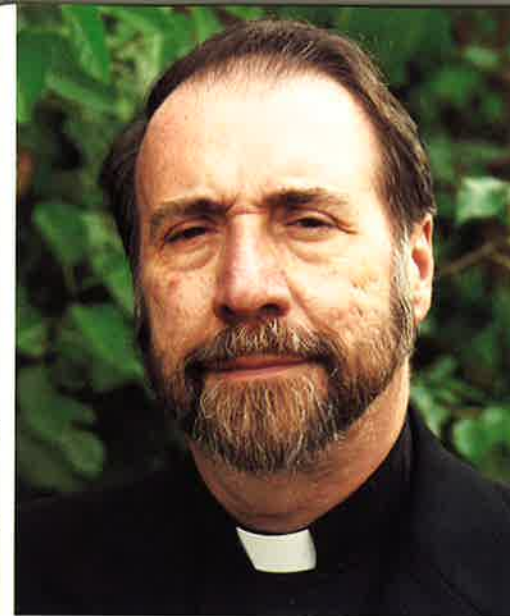
Paul Thurston grows corn, soybeans, and wheat on 1200 acres and owns 1,000 head of beef cattle. He winters in Leesburg, Florida now, and son Phil helps with the farming.



Mary Catherine Schmidt is a registered nurse, but has worked at the family business, Rite-Way Plumbing, since 1946. She still does all the bookkeeping for the store, where her son Eric serves as president of the corporation.



Beth Smith, a young wife and mother of two, Brittney and Jordan, also works full-time as a dental assistant for Dr. David C. Steele. She is in charge of all the orthodontic patients in the practice. Her husband Mark is an agent for Farm Bureau Insurance.



Father Phillip Haslinger has served as the priest of Saint Mary since 1985. He celebrates Mass each weekday at 8 a.m., Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday at 8 and 10 a.m. The building of Saint Mary's new school is one of his major accomplishments.



Anne Baker Nelson remembers posing as a 12-year-old Girl Scout in the original 1943 booklet. She graduated from Alex High School in 1949, worked for the Indiana Employment Security Division, is married with four children and four grandchildren. She is glad she stayed in Alex, likes the friendly people, but misses some of the businesses she frequented as a teen, such as Rothinghouse Drug Store and the Kid Canteen.



David C. Steele, D.D.S., has practiced dentistry 23 years in Alexandria. He is also a photographer and pilot, served on the City Council and as president of the Chamber of Commerce. He is best known for his involvement with the trees and beautification of downtown Alex, the Monroe Township Groundhog Society, and his love of practical jokes.

Here are some of the faces which can be seen on Harrison Street, in the homes and churches, and in social gatherings around Alexandria



Police chief Steve Skaggs has served on the Alexandria Police Department for 23½ years. He graduated from the Police Academy in June of 1971 and became chief in 1991.



Lisa Rinker, wife of John and mother of Tiffany and Lance, works as a dental hygienist, serves on the School Board, and is active in Tri-Kappa and Cunningham PTO. She and husband farm 1200 acres of corn and beans, own 175 cattle, and a few hogs for 4-H stock.



Orvis "Shorty" Burdsall served in the U.S. Marines from 1946-48, but is best known around Alex as a retired basketball coach and principal. From 1954-1964, Shorty's Tigers won the sectional three times ('59, '61, and '63). He was high school principal from '64 to '87 and retired in '89 as Special Projects co-ordinator for the school corporation. He is a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.



Jerry Young has served as pastor of the Christian Congregation Church since 1975, where the average attendance in the Sunday morning service is 220. The church building was remodeled and enlarged in 1990. His greatest achievement is his "beautiful, wonderful family" - Chris, his wife of 25 years, and his children Kellie, Carrie, and Kevin.



Tiffany Frazee, age 18, is a freshman at Ball State University, who works at the pool in the summer and Marsh Super Market during the school year. With a double major of Special/Elementary Education, she hopes to find a teaching job in or near Alex.



John Noffze graduated from the College of Mortuary Science in 1959 and came to Alex in 1961. He spent 35 years in the funeral business, served as president of the Indiana State Funeral Directors Association and recently retired as owner of Noffze Funeral Homes. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, was active in Jaycees, is a member of the Lutheran Church, and one of the key leaders of the community.



The 1993-94 Alexandria-Monroe Boys Basketball team. Front row: Athletic trainer Linda Wolf Paddock, Mike Semon, Brad Howell, Glen Stewart, Mickey Hosier, Chris Hahn. Middle row: Freshman coach Matt Day, Ryan Kildow, Jason Kettery, Jeff Urban, Scott Starr, Ben Lustig, Brad Justus. Back row: Asst. freshman coach Marty Carroll, Mark Smith, reserve coach Doug Bellar, varsity coach Garth Cone, athletic director Ron Garner.

The 1993-94 Alexandria-Monroe Girls Basketball team. Pictured left to right, Front row: Michelle Carmody, Leann Hellmann, Marisa Hunter, asst. coach Tim Fowler, varsity coach Jon Howell. Back row: Bree Bennett, Rachel Garner, Trecia Fisher, Malena Mason, Jamie Winstead, Danielle Wilson, manager Karen Decker, Heather Eskew, Adrienne Pierce, Kelly Hicks, manager Nicole Sumner, student trainer Steffani Plackard, statistician Joe Isenburg.



Alexandria Art Circle, pictured left to right: Marg Sweeney, Joanne Sullivan, Erlene Burdsall, Nancy Steele, Doris



Donahue, Ona Kay Sigler, Dorothy DeVoe, Adrienne Owen, Carolyn Cunningham.

The new swimming pools, constructed in the mid-70's, provide recreation for over 200 people a day during the summer months. Admission is \$1.00 for those 18 and under. A



new water slide, completed in 1994, adds excitement. A new concession stand and eating area, accessible from the pool, sells candy bars for 50¢ and coney dogs for \$1.50.



Methodist Church members Garnett Beeman, Jim Griffin, Marilyn Savage, and Reanelle Heritage re-pose a picture from the 1943 booklet taken in the same spot. The church still holds "pitch-in" dinners and the chicken and noodles, meat loaf, macaroni and cheese, and pies and cakes served at them have changed little in 50 years — still the best food around!

In 1994, Alexandrians are no longer dependent on their

home town to provide all their entertainment and social life. Since gas was rationed 50 years ago, people were forced to find their fun in town. Today, people drive to Indianapolis to watch the Pacers or the Colts play ball, or to Cincinnati to watch the Reds. No one gives a thought to driving 25 - 50 miles to eat out, see a play or movie, or hear a concert.

But some local forms of entertainment have changed little in 50 years. Alexandria still loves its basketball teams. Since 1976, both girls and boys have played high school ball in Alex. Jon Howell, coach of the Lady Tigers for 12 years, compiled a 15-4 record for '93-'94 and has sent two players — Sabrina Slone and Jodi Martin — to the Indiana All-Stars.

Boys' coach Garth Cone starts his program in the 4th grade, has produced Sectional Champs in '89 and '94, and won ten CIC Championships. Coaching the Alex Tigers for 19 years, Cone had a 17-7 record for the '93-'94 season. The Tigers are ranked 17th going into the '94-95 season.

Various service and social organizations still flourish locally, too. The Alexandria Art Circle, pictured above, is a 100-year-old social club whose object is "the advancement of culture." The 25 members meet monthly at each other's homes for a noon luncheon, business meeting, and an educational program. With more women working outside the home, clubs of this sort struggle for membership. Many groups of this type are comprised mainly of older, retired people. Art Circle's youngest member is 41 and its oldest member, Doris Thomas, is almost 92.

Church activities and the swimming pool and park are also still popular forms of local entertainment.



Nine-year-old Mitchell Tanner attends church each Sunday with his grandparents, Paul and Vada Tanner, at the First Christian Church. Formed in 1831, the church is the oldest in Alexandria. Rev. Mark Poindexter serves as pastor, where Sunday morning attendance averages 125 people.

The First United Methodist Church pictured here appears structurally almost identical to the photo in the 1943 booklet. Alexandria now has 26 churches, although only 38.8% of the people of Madison County are church goers. Church memberships range from the Catholic Church with 563 to Calvary Baptist with 12. In the foreground, is Molly Johnson Wisheart, who attended the church as a child, with daughters Megan and Rachel.



Joe Stark, pastor of the Lutheran Church, counsels with a young couple prior to their marriage. Pictured with Stark are Marcie Slayton and Matt Collis.



Freedom of thought is still an enduring part of the heritage

of Alexandria. Fifty years ago, there were 8 Protestant churches in Alexandria, plus the Catholic Church of St. Mary. Today, there are still 8 mainstream Protestant churches, plus St. Mary. However, 18 other churches of various sizes and beliefs also flourish in Alexandria, so that almost everyone who so desires can find a church service to their liking.

One of the oldest churches in Alex, the Methodist, founded in 1845, averages about 100 people in attendance on Sunday morning, while the Baptist, in their new church building on State Road 9 South, has from 250 - 300.

The function of the church in 1994 has changed for many people, just as lifestyles, work hours, living arrangements, and morals have changed over a 50-year period. For many, though certainly not all, the church no longer serves as the center of their lives, the place they go for spiritual guidance, for education, and for recreation. Some churches have seen a decline in membership, especially among young people.

Many churches offer a new variety of programs to keep pace with today's society. Various youth programs are offered after school and on Sunday evenings. There are sports teams, nursery schools, and outreach programs to help low-income families. But for 60% of the families in Madison County, Sundays are simply the seventh day of the week, not the Sabbath, a day to shop, work, golf, sleep late, or simply sit and read the Sunday paper in your bathrobe.



The newly-remodeled Alexandria-Monroe Public Library was dedicated in 1990. According to Director Nancy Norris, up to 1,000 people per week use the facility. The architects for the new library maintained the original beauty of the structure, while doing away with cumbersome features like the long flight of front steps, thereby making the library accessible to the elderly and handicapped. Pictured are Sara and Carly Gerhart, who visit the library frequently.



Rev. Jerry Young leads the parishioners of the Christian Congregation Church in their Sunday morning worship service. The church is well-known for its large, enthusiastic crowds, great music, active youth organization, and especially for the food tent that it operates at the 4-H Fair every year.



Director Nancy Norris describes some of the material available at the library to students April Williams and Aaron Thompson. In addition to books, magazines, videos, and newspapers, the library has 6 computers for the public's use. The library also has a children's area with small tables and chairs. Children's librarian Gloria LeMaster leads a special "Library Time" just for preschoolers.



Rev. Mark Poindexter, far right, unloads groceries with some of the 20 volunteers who work for the ERF (Emergency Relief Fund). Founded in 1984, the ERF provides food, toiletries, and vouchers for goods and services to low income families in the Northern Madison County area. Located at the Lutheran Church, the service is open three mornings per week. The Alexandria Ministerial Association sponsors the program, which has helped 200-300 families in the past three years. The ERF limits the number of times each family can be helped in order to serve more people.



The Nazarene Nursery School, operated for 26 years by the Nazarene Church for children of all denominations, provides eighty 3, 4, and 5-year-olds an opportunity to socialize, learn, and play. Pictured with Jeanie Pate, a teacher since 1973 are: Johnna Wilham, Danielle Estep, Heidi Hiser, Erin Overman, Matthew Fields-Stone, Erynn Hensley, Jesse Doughty, Sarah Almack, Jordan Baker, and Landyn Kaufman.



Bill Schribner, owner of Detail Tool & Die, and Greg Walls are shown operating a coordinate measuring machine, which is used for quality inspection of manufactured parts. The 29-year-old business has been in its current location 20 years. They design and manufacture plastic injection molds for companies in the U.S. and Mexico.



Citizens Bank Vice President Harry Blowers (right) assists Randy Osborne and son Matt with their safe deposit box. In 1943, citizens kept their war bonds in the boxes. Today, safe deposit boxes may contain U.S. Saving Bonds, which currently pay about 4% interest. The boxes cost \$20 - \$40 per year to rent and are used for old coins, deeds, wills, jewelry, and other valuables.



Pastor Cliff Richardson greets parishioners Bus Adams, Jerry and Bettie Bean, and Thelma Robinson prior to the Sunday morning service at the First Baptist Church. The 375-member church moved to its new building on State Road 9 in April, 1992. Richardson has served as pastor for 20 years, and conducts services on Sunday morning and evening, and Bible study and prayer meeting on Wednesday evening. One of the features of the new building is a Family Life Center, which hosts receptions, fellowship dinners, blood draws, and basketball and volleyball games. The church has a strong youth program involving 55 children ages 8-18. It also offers a group for retirees called SALT (Seasoned Adults Learning Together) and Body Recall, an exercise class which meets 3 times per week.



Carolyn and Ernest Phillips were pictured in the 1943 booklet working in their large Victory Garden, where they grew corn, tomatoes, beets, potatoes, beans, and sweet potatoes. Most of the produce was canned. After the war, in the late '40s, the Phillipses built a house on their Victory Garden, where they still live today. Their garden now consists of a few tomatoes and green pepper plants, which they call mangoes, as

Although in 1994 they aren't referred to as Victory Gardens, Barber Tom Colvill and wife, Shirley, enjoy working in their 20' x 40' garden. Tom has gardened for 25 years and spends 2-3 hours a week cultivating green beans, corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, and zucchini. Produce is eaten fresh, frozen, or given away. In the past, many of the vegetables were canned, but the Colvills no longer do any canning.

Although much of the land around Alexandria is still farmland, the family

farm has seen great changes over the past 50 years. The small farm with cows, pigs, and chickens, usually passed from father to son to grandson, has largely disappeared. Now there are fewer, but often bigger, farms. Farmers may own part of their ground and cash rent or share crop the rest. Over half the farmers work other jobs to supplement their income. They drive trucks or school busses, or work for various manufacturing companies to make ends meet.

There are 848 farms in Madison County and the average size farm is 263 acres. Only 1.7% of Alexandria's population in 1994 is involved in farming.

Corn and soybeans are still the main crops grown, along with wheat, tomatoes, and hay. Beef cattle and hogs are the main livestock, with a small number of farms owning milk cows, sheep and chickens.

In 1994, an acre yields 140 - 150 bushels of corn, which sells for less than \$2.00 per bushel. Beans are \$6.00 or less per bushel, with a yield of 50 bushels per acre.

Farm equipment today includes a combine, chisel or moldboard plow, disc, no-till drill, no-till planter, tractor, field cultivator, and a sprayer for herbicides. Today's equipment is much larger and more powerful than fifty years ago. It is also far more costly. A new combine costs \$120,000, while a tractor sells for \$80,000 - \$90,000. A no-till drill is \$24,000.

Due to government encouragement to eliminate open soil, most farmers use a no-till method of farming with very little fall tillage. Use of herbicides and fertilizer has helped increase yields and made no-till possible. With less livestock, crop rotation is not as common as in the past.

And approximately 50% of today's farmers rely on computers to aid in their record keeping and marketing.



Scenes like this are common around Alexandria in the fall. The barn of George Beck overlooks a field of ripened corn.



The Blake home, now occupied by Jack and June Martin and their children, was featured in this spot in the original booklet, and still looks much the same. Jack is employed at Delco Remy and June cares for the home and their large garden. She cans, freezes, and preserves much of the produce. Country homes in the '90s have all

the conveniences of city homes, unlike 1943 when the house had no phone or indoor bathroom. The home now has 2 phones, 3 TV's, a VCR, washer, and dryer. But like the old days, the family still uses well water, heats with a wood burning stove, and hangs clothes out to dry on the original clothesline pictured in the 1943 photo.



Kay Cox is shown checking his hogs. Cox, a full-time farmer, tends 800 acres, some of which he owns, and the remainder, rents. He grows corn, beans, wheat, and hay, raises feeder pigs and cattle. Cox owns about 600 hogs and says that self-feeders allow farmers to feed far more hogs in less time. Kay's wife, Sue, works for A.C. Delco.

Farmer Bob Blake is pictured combining beans on his 500 acre farm. He supplements the family's income by working at AC Delco, while wife Janet (foreground) works on the farm full-time. The couple, who has two daughters, Lisa and Jennifer, raises beans and corn, and keeps a few dairy calves which the girls show in 4-H. The Blakes have used the no-till method for the past five years. Bob's great uncle, Joe Blake, was featured with his family in the original booklet.

