

**Yearbooks provide unusual Look
At the Lives of Lehi High graduates
by Richard Van Wagoner (1990)**

Some of my best memories of Lehi High School focus on those long ago spring afternoons where we gathered to sign each other's yearbooks. The annual, fresh from the press was filled with photos, memories and ultimately, the sentiments of fellow classmates-most of whom we had known from our earliest years.

Lehi High School's first yearbook the "Purple and White", was issued in the spring of 1913. Woodrow Wilson was our president then, the Panama Canal had recently opened, and a Michigan surgeon made headlines by implanting a dog's brain in a man's skull. The patient didn't live to utter a single bark. William E. Racker was Lehi's Mayor at the time; the Salt Lake and Utah Electric Railroad (popularly known as the Orem Interurban) had recently made its' maiden run through town, and the "History of Lehi" authored by Hamilton Gardner was being typeset.

For the next six years, a yearbook was published without fail by the student body. Because of the worldwide influenza epidemic in 1919, schools did not open until February so no annual was released that year.

Economic depression made funds unavailable for the years 1922, 1923 and 1924. A 1943 paper shortage, during the middle of World war II, also made it impossible to issue a yearbook at that time.

During the past year after considerable detective work and much cooperation from alumni, we have been able to locate a copy of each yearbook published by Lehi High School. The annuals are no part of the Lehi Historical archives in the library. Except for newspapers, no single source of information offers such a rich slice of local history.

For example, consider the following terms from various yearbooks: Silver Loving Cup ('12) Flag Rush ('15) Wolverines ('30) Cuttin' Capers ('40) K.O.V.O. ('58) Pepettes ('60) Model U.N. ('64) Twerp Twirl ('73) Pionettes ('77) and Pep Club ('89). Give yourself a ten if you recognized all those local terms.

Can you remember the formal dances of your high school days? In the earliest years, Lehi High had just an autumn Harvest Ball and a spring Junior Promenade. Until the completion of the new Lehi High School in 1921, these dances were in the Smuin Dancing Academy which is now the Victorian apartments in the black west of the Lehi Stake Center (Today it is Abbington Manor). By 1920, a Senior Hop was added and the Sophomore slide was inaugurated in 1959, when the new High School was opened.

Initially school dances were theme oriented around holidays such as Thanksgiving and St. Patrick's Day, but in the years after World War I, they became centered around a song. A lot of those Golden Oldies' includes "A Night to Remember" ('40); "Garden in the Rain" (1952); "Moonlight Serenade" ('55); "Canadian Sunset" ('57); "Misty" ('60); "Al Di La" ('63); "A Song for Young Love" ('70); "I Need You" ('77); "Sweet Dreams" ('82) and "I Can't Help Falling in Love With You" ('87).

In addition to memorable dances and songs and other activities, early yearbooks until 1960 contained brief descriptions of each graduating students. Here are some of those colorful captions from the past B.J. Lott ('21)- "I, loving freedom and untried, no sport of random just." Raymond H. Stewart ('25) "A remnant of chivalry--He would be happier if the night were longer". Lowell A. Brown ('28) "My only books were women's looks and folly's all they taught me." Glen Wanlass ('20) "let me have men around me that are fat".... Carma Gray Price ('47) She could teach Lana Turner a few things about wearing sweaters. Dee Ray Russon ('52) "When there's mischief, he will be"; De Vere Fowler ('53) "Say it with flowers..A kid loaded with ability." Gary Lewis ('53) "A living example of perpetual motion."; Donna Evans Gordon ('54) "Here I am, you lucky guys, " Julian Mercer ('54) "He was innocent himself once-but live and learn"; Russell Felt

(‘58) “unaffected by anything but sports”; Stanley Wanlass (‘59)-The things he hasn’t done aren’t worth doing.”

Early yearbook also contained a wealth of Jokes, dated now and probably a bit funnier then. If you didn’t like the jokes, consider in all seriousness these cheers.

*Oskie wow wow,
Wiskee wee wee,
Old Muckie eye,
Ole Lehi High,
Eat ‘em up,
Here’s to the Lehi Athletes,
Here’s to the Purple and White,
Here’s to the good old Lehi spirit,
Yearbook 1915.*

The editor of the 1940 Lehisian sums it up well why we all enjoy pulling out our old annual on occasion.”A yearbook is its own excuse for being-if it preserves by means of word, bits of wit and wisdom love and laughter, tears and trials and the sense and nonsense of the school year; fit it records by means of the photographic lens, memories of schoolmates and teachers, happenings of the classroom and the campus, accomplishments on field and floor and stage. If it enables us to carry into the future such golden memories that we may often live again the joyousness of school days. If this book does these things, it achieves its purpose”

Congratulation Lehi High School Class of 1990

(note: This yesterday was abridged for length. To read the complete article, come to the Archives.)