

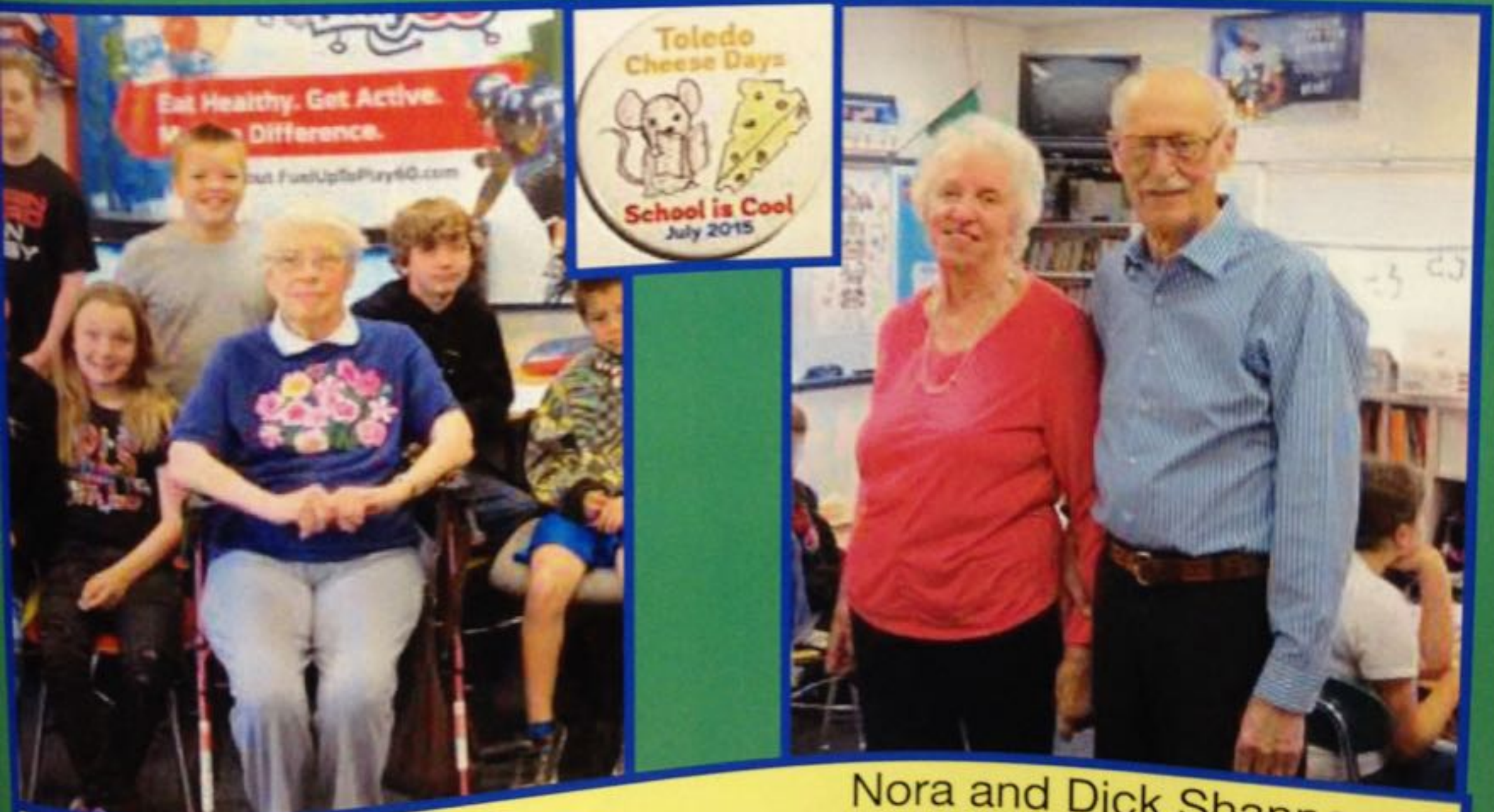
TOLEDO LIONS CLUB PRESENTS

CHEESE DAYS

2015

JULY 9 - 12

SCHOOL IS COOL



Ruth Herren

Nora and Dick Shannon

2015 BIG CHEESES

Cheese Days Events and Activities

Thursday, July 9

COLORING CONTEST

Age categories: Preschool & Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade, and 3rd & 4th Grade.

Prizes will be awarded for each group. Pick up contest picture at Toledo Market Fresh. Must be turned in before July 5th to Toledo IGA Market Fresh.

6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

2015 TOAST OF THE BIG CHEESES

Morgan Arts Centre • 190 Plomondon Rd., Toledo.

Featuring Malcolm Clark Band. Tickets: \$12.50 per person at the door. Public is welcome.

6:30 p.m. — Introduction of the Big Cheeses Ruth Heron and Nora and Dick Shannon. Hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, cake and coffee. Many fabulous door prizes. Presented by the Toledo Lions Club.

Friday, July 10

10 a.m. 19TH ANNUAL "CHEDDAR OPEN" GOLF TOURNAMENT

Registration starts at 9 a.m., 'Shotgun' start at 10 a.m. Location: Newaukum Valley Golf Course. Four-man scramble. Cost: \$55 per person, lunch provided. Golf carts not provided. Pay at the course. Contact: John Sanford 864-6474 or Dale Pomeroy 864-6317. All proceeds go to the Toledo Lions Club.

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. SECOND TIME AROUND GARAGE SALE

Located at the Head Start building behind the Toledo Senior Center. Once again, the Mighty Fine Seniors offer their Second Time Around Garage Sale. All proceeds benefit the Toledo Senior Center. Sponsored by the Mighty Fine Seniors. Contact: Jan Rohrig 864-2744.

3 p.m. START OF TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Events: Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles

Anyone 12 years of age and over is welcome to participate. Entry fees: \$5 per event.

Tennis Tournament pre-registration: Entry forms available at Betty's Place or from Mrs. Armstrong. Due to scheduling, please pre-register. Awards: Trophies for first-place winners & ribbons for second-place winners. Balls furnished. We are anticipating a grant from USTA to repair the tennis courts. Contact: Signora Armstrong, 864-2594.

6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. FROG JUMPING CONTEST

Location: Toledo High School track. Entry Fee: \$1 per frog. No limit on the number of entries. Frogs available for rent. Cash prizes: 1st place \$15, 2nd place \$10, 3rd place \$5. Contact: Adam Hackett. 360-508-1764

6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. BINGO

Place: Toledo High School multipurpose room. No limit on cards. Proceeds go to the Toledo Youth Soccer Club. Hot dogs and concessions available. Contact: Ronda 262-3090.

Saturday, July 11

5am-11pm - Coffee House serving coffee, hot chocolate, muffins and donuts at car/motorcycle show.

7 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. or as long as the food lasts.

HAM & ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Location: Toledo Senior Center, 150 Cole St. Toledo Ham, pancakes, eggs, biscuits & gravy, juice & beverage available. Suggested Donation: \$5. Contact: Esther Borte 864-4506.

7 a.m. - 5 p.m. 15TH ANNUAL CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

Location: Toledo Middle School football field. Sponsored by: Toledo Lions Club and Businesses. \$20 Entry fee. Awards at 3 p.m. Contact: Brad Dykstra 864-4634 or Ron Smith 864-4391.

8 a.m. CHEDDAR CHALLENGE!

Registration 6:45-7:45 a.m. at the Toledo Fire Station. Race starts at 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. 3-mile run/walk & 8-mile run for all ages. Cost is \$5 for race or \$15 for race with T-shirt. Contact: Kristy Marcel. Sponsored by Toledo Girls Softball.

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. SECOND TIME AROUND GARAGE SALE

Located at the Head Start building behind the Toledo Senior Center. Once again, the Mighty Fine Seniors offer their Second Time Around Garage Sale. All proceeds benefit the Toledo Senior Center. Sponsored by the Mighty Fine Seniors. Contact: Jan Rohrig 864-2744.

Cheese Days Events and Activities

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. KIDS FUN FEST

Location: Toledo Middle School gym. Hosted by the Toledo High School Honor Society. Fun and games for kids, including: End of the rainbow, dinosaur dig, rock muncher, tattoo parlor, soda walk & much, much more. Contact: Jill Smith or Megan Corey.

9 a.m.-2 p.m. Toledo Library Bake & Book Sale

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. QUILT AND ART SHOW

Location: Toledo Middle School commons room. Contact: Esther Borte 864-4506.

10 a.m. YOUTH BBQ HAMBURGER STAND

At the Toledo Middle School car show. Presented by New Life Gateway Youth Ministry. Burgers, chips, pop by Toledo Elementary School. Concessions stand will be open.

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. CHEESE DAYS BAZAAR

Location: Kemp Olson Memorial Park 611 Cedar Street. The Toledo Park Board is renting 12x12 spaces for \$10 per day per space. Contact: Toledo City Hall 864-4564

11 a.m. TOLEDO CHEESE DAYS PARADE

This year's parade theme is "School is Cool" Parade marshals are the Big Cheeses, Ruth Herron and Dick and Nora Shannon. Parade registration in the morning at Toledo Middle School. All parade entries are assigned assembly and dispersal plans. Children are assigned a special place near the head of the parade.

Parade route starts at 5th & Augustus Street, moving east on Augustus to 2nd, south on 2nd to Oak, then west on Oak to 5th. Ribbons will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place winners in all divisions of the parade. The judges will be at the Presbyterian Church to decide upon the winners and present ribbons. It usually takes the judges up to one hour to determine the winners.

Crowd Control: Safety is our biggest concern. We have become increasingly concerned with children getting too close to the wheels of parade vehicles while chasing candy thrown by parade participants. Parents are asked to please help by keeping a close watch on their youngsters. Drivers of large trucks & other dangerous vehicles have been instructed not to throw candy from their vehicles. The Toledo Lions will police the main areas of the parade route to attempt to keep children from getting into dangerous areas. Toledo Boy Scouts will be selling pop.

Noon - FREE CHEESE SANDWICHES AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The cheese & bread is donated by Toledo Market Fresh. Cowlitz Prairie Grange is in charge.

Noon - 5 p.m. BARBECUE

Location: Toledo Market Fresh parking lot. Price: \$7 per person, featuring Babyback ribs, corn on the cob, potatoe salad, beans, roll and pop. Sponsored by the Toledo Market Fresh. Contact: Dave Coulter 864-2161.

Noon - 4 p.m. INFLATABLES and DUNK TANK by the GAP.

Contact Horst Malunat 360-751-5664

1 p.m. AUCTION

Location: Toledo Middle School football field. Auctioneer: John Fishburn. Many fine handcrafted and corporate-sponsored items will be auctioned. See list of auction items on page 30.

2:15 p.m. SANDY'S PIZZA EATING CONTEST

Location: Toledo Middle School field. \$100 prize. Sponsored by Sandy's Pizza, Toledo.

4 - 8 p.m. WINE AND CHEESE TASTING GARDEN

Location: Toledo boat launch. Taste local wine, beer, cheeses, and spirits. Tickets \$10 includes a keepsake glass. Contact Pam Olmstead 864-2855.

4-8 p.m. **Toledo Made** Location: Art Gallery 505- 205 Cowlitz St. Come see Arts, Crafts, and Products made by folks who live in the Greater Toledo Area. Contact Di Morgan 864-4ART.

4 p.m. WOMEN'S ALUMNI SOCCER GAME

Location: Toledo High School field. If interested or want to play, call Horst Malunat 360-751-5664.

4 p.m. **60th Toledo Class of '55 Reunion.** Parker's Steak House in Castle Rock, WA. 4pm Social Hour, 5pm Dinner. Contact Barbara Ray Nelson 503-472-4951 or Nancy Berlin Newell 560-469-4474.

6 p.m. MEN'S ALUMNI SOCCER GAME

Location: Toledo High School field. If interested or want to play, call Horst Malunat 360-751-5664.

Sunday, July 12

8 a.m. CHURCH SERVICES Attend the church of your choice.

All Day TENNIS TOURNAMENT (continued)

8 a.m. HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

Sign up by 8 a.m. Start playing at 8:30 a.m. Entry fee \$5. Total payout each class. Three classes: Beginners, amateur, advanced. Contact: Stan Spears 864-2096.

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. SECOND TIME AROUND GARAGE SALE - FILL A BAG FOR \$1

Located at the Head Start building behind the Toledo Senior Center. Once again, the Mighty Fine Seniors offer their Second Time Around Garage Sale. All proceeds benefit the Toledo Senior Center. Sponsored by the Mighty Fine Seniors. Contact: Jan Rohrig 864-2744.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CHEESE DAYS BAZAAR

Location: Kemp Olson Memorial Park. The Toledo Park Board is renting 12 x 12 spaces for \$10 per day per space. Contact: Toledo City Hall 864-4564

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. ALL CLASS REUNION

Location: Kemp Olson Toledo Community Park
Featuring THS Class of 1953 (60 Year), Class of 1963 (50 Year), Class of 1967 (45 Year), Class of 1968 and the Class of 1969.

11:30 - 2:30 p.m. - LIONESSE CLUB OF TOLEDO has CHEESE CAKE BY THE SLICE

Location: Toledo Community Park. Cheesecake with choice of topping, \$3 per slice. Contact: Jeanne Spratt 864-6976. All Proceeds go to the Lioness Scholarship fund and other projects benefiting the Toledo community.

barbecue beef, baked beans, cole slaw, garlic bread, watermelon, beverages. Price: Adults \$7, senior citizens, Jr. and children under 12 is \$6. Sponsored by Toledo Lions Club.

Following BBQ, 12TH ANNUAL PIE AUCTION

Location: Toledo Community Park. We will be auctioning 15 pies following the Lions Club BBQ. Be sure to come down and get your bid in on these delicious goodies. Toledo Volunteer EMS and Firefighters Assn. Thanks for your generous support.

Following the barbecue, many clubs will be drawing winners for their raffles, including the GOOD IDEA CLUB • LIONESSE CLUB • MIGHTY FINE SENIORS • LIONS CLUB SHED RAFFLE

Toledo Lioness

Suggested donation \$1 per ticket for our "BBQing Fun" (BBQ plus accessories). All proceeds go to the Lioness Scholarship fund and for projects benefiting the Toledo community.

2:30 p.m. LIONS CLUB BEEF AUCTION

Location: Toledo Community Park at the BBQ.

4-8 p.m. **Toledo Made** Location: Art Gallery 505- 205 Cowlitz St. Come see Arts, Crafts, and Products made by folks who live in the Greater Toledo Area. Contact Di Morgan 864-4ART.

The Story of Toledo Schools, 1882 - present

By Jake Morgan

We can all remember our favorite school teachers and what the classrooms were like when we were students, but children grow up, teachers retire and are replaced by new teachers, and school buildings get older and also get replaced with newer ones.

According to information from the book "The Toledo Community Story," the first official schoolhouse in Toledo, Washington was built in 1882 on the south side of Cowlitz Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The building was referred to as a "little shanty" with split-cedar benches that accommodated 8-12 students. The Toledo student population quickly outgrew the structure.

A new, two-room schoolhouse was constructed in 1889 on the hill where the Toledo Middle School now stands. In 1901, a four-room building with a bell tower was built nearby for both grade and high school students.

At the start of the 20th Century, Toledo had wooden sidewalks and kerosene street lamps. Our town also had two general stores, two hotels, two saloons, two doctors, a drug store, a meat market, a grist mill and a blacksmith. Travelers could rent a horse team and buggy for \$1.50 a day and steamer boats still ferried passengers and goods to and from Portland.

A hundred years ago in 1915, there were more than a dozen small schoolhouses located in the greater Toledo area with names like Knab, Windom, Sunnyside, Lacamas, Osceola, Eadonia, Salmon Creek and the O.K. School, but these began to disappear as the school districts consolidated and started bringing children to Toledo on school buses.

A new brick high school was built in 1922 at St. Helens Street and State Route 505, where the Fir Lawn Funeral Chapel building now stands. The main road through Toledo was originally called the Oregon Trail before it was renamed Highway 99 and later Jackson Highway. The high school offered courses in



Dewey Turner, Toledo Principal from 1931 - 1964

bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting and commercial arithmetic. Students had to buy their own books and pay to rent typewriters from the school.

A teacher's contract from 1923 required that female teachers not be married or keep company with men, nor ride in carriages or automobiles with men who were not related to them, and to be at home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Teachers were not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol, wear bright colors, dye their hair or be seen loitering in downtown ice-cream shops.

The four-room, grade school building with the bell tower (where the middle school is now) was outgrown and replaced in 1934 and the newer building became the new high school.

The previous high school (on the site of the current funeral chapel) became the grade school. That building was replaced in 1940.

Many longtime Toledo residents who are still alive can remember attending Toledo schools during the mid-1930s and 1940s when principal Dewey Turner (who was also a teacher, bus driver and a 1920 Toledo graduate) would command respect from unruly boys by slapping a large leather razor strop on their desks.

“Our childhood here was typical of so many farm families in the area — we worked!” said Don Buswell, a 1939 Toledo graduate and 2003 Toledo Big Cheese. “Usually our chore duties began when we were about six or seven years old and started with milking and taking care of chickens. Then there was the haying, land clearing, gardening, wood cutting, threshing, manure hauling and fence building.”

Toledo began planning for a new elementary school in 1948 when the school had more than 300 students. The town held ten mill levies to raise funds. Six acres owned by Pendleton Miller were gifted to the school and the building was completed in late 1952 at a cost of \$346,742, about half of which was provided by the state board of education. The new, one-story building with the flat roof had 12 classrooms, a multi-purpose room, a library, a kitchen, health room, teacher’s room and other offices and supply rooms. Each classroom had wash basins and two toilets.

Former Winlock teacher and coach George Murdock (and 1989 Big Cheese) became superintendent of the Toledo School District in 1955 and began working to expand the high school grounds and level the large field at the present location of the middle school. Teacher Gary Springer became principal of the Toledo Elementary School in 1964 when Dewey Turner retired after 33 years. In those days, boys who misbehaved at school were spanked with a wooden paddle. Springer continued as principal of the elementary school until his retirement in 1987, and was named a Big Cheese in 2009 with his wife Marge.

In 1967, state projections indicated the Toledo School District was about to expand again and a special building fund of \$2.5 million was created for a new high school. A partially wooded, 40-acre site on a hill north of Toledo was purchased from Toledo graduate Ray Wallace (and 1996 Big Cheese) and construction was completed on the present-day high school in the summer of 1975. Denny Clark was named the new high school principal and held that role until his retirement in 2001.

The former high school building was remodeled in 1975 to become the new middle school with Mick Filla named as the principal. This building had a large gymnasium with a stage, wide hallways and classrooms with large, sliding blackboards. In 1994, the elementary school was remodeled to its present state, and in 1996, the middle school was also completely remodeled. Toledo students attended classes at St. Mary’s while the renovations to the schools were completed.

The present high school building is 40 years old and is in need of modernization.

* * *

The Toledo Historical Society will have a table in the city park during Cheese Days to answer questions about our town’s history and sell paperback copies of “The Toledo Community Story.” There will be a large map in the park showing the locations and pictures of all the previous Toledo-area schools, most of which no longer exist.

Most of the information for this article came from “The Toledo Community Story,” which was first published in 1952 and revised in 1976, as well as from interviews and past issues of the Cheese Days Magazine. The Toledo Historical Society is planning to publish an updated version of the book in early 2016 and requests updated historical information from the community.

Jake Morgan is a 1997 graduate of Toledo High School.



TOLEDO HIGH SCHOOL



TOLEDO GRADE SCHOOL

2015 Toledo Big Cheeses

Ruth Herren

A long time ago, I was asked to be a Big Cheese, but at that time to be a Big Cheese one had to be a native of the Toledo area. I was not, so I had to decline.

I was born in 1919 in Centralia, at home. I went through the Centralia schools, including Centralia College, which at that time was located in a few rooms on the top floor of the old Centralia High School, which has since been torn down. I worked in the college office to pay my tuition.

Then I went to Western Washington College of Education (now WWU) to earn my teacher's certificate. While there, I worked in the YWCA for my room and board.

I returned to Centralia to teach five years at the old Logan School, since torn down, and one year at the Lincoln School, also torn down to make room for the expanding college campus.

Two summers later, I returned to college to complete my B.A. degree in Education. Also two summers I worked at Boeing in Seattle, and one summer in a chess shop in Centralia.

I met Bob at the Centralia skating rink and we were married in 1947 in the old Methodist Church in Centralia. That building was damaged in the '49 earthquake and had to be torn down. Our first year of marriage I taught in the old Toledo school, which was located where the mortuary now stands. The next five years I stayed home after our two daughters were born. Then I went to Vader to teach for eleven years, the first in the big frame building which was torn down after the newer building went up, which is now, sadly, gone. During this time I continued taking extension courses offered through several colleges to keep my teaching certificate updated. I returned after 17 years in the Toledo grade school.

When I first went to the Toledo Presbyterian Church, it was in the old church where the Mame? is now located. I am still an active member. In 1982, I joined the Cowlitz Prairie Grange in the old building, which a few years later burned to the ground to be replaced by the present building. I am still an active member.

The Threshing Bee was very important to Bob and he was involved early on. For many years it has been held on our field next to the airport. To advertise the bee, Bob and I took part in surrounding community parades. I would drive the pickup with Bob in the back, keeping one of his restored antique gas engines going.

Our older daughter Christine met her husband in college and they live in Port Angeles. Mary Jo married her high school sweetheart, Ken Pierce, and they lived in Seattle. We were saddened five years ago when he died of a massive heart attack. We have four grandchildren and one great grandson.

Bob lived to celebrate our 58th wedding anniversary, but passed away four months later in 2005. I have now lived for 68 years here on the farm on Cowlitz Prairie.



2015 Toledo Big Cheeses

Dick and Nora Shannon

Richard "Dick" Shannon was born in Montana in 1928 to Charles and Ruth Shannon, the oldest of five children.

"My family moved around a lot during the Depression while my dad searched for work," Dick said. This eventually brought the family to Chehalis, Wash., when Dick was in the ninth grade. After his parents raised five children, his mother Ruth went back to school and earned her teaching degree at what was then known as Central Washington College of Education in Ellensburg, Wash., now Central Washington University.

Dick played football, basketball and ran track at Chehalis High School, including participating in the state meet. He said, "I set the school record in the mile while running on compacted sand. My time was 4:43.1, and I held the record for 19 years."

Following graduation, he worked for a year for Northern Pacific Railroad. The railroad work took him all over the state living in box cars and eating in mess halls, with weekends at home. He then went to work for Weyerhaeuser. His duties included driving a gravel truck, road grader, shovel, and logging truck. He worked for Weyerhaeuser for nearly 40 years before retiring.

Nora Andrews (Shannon) was born in North Dakota in 1934 to William and Lily Andrews. She was the fourth born and only girl of five children. Her family moved to Chehalis when she was an infant. "My dad passed away when I was seven, and shortly after my family moved to Centralia," she said. Nora graduated with honors from Centralia High School and worked as a telephone operator.

Nora and Dick met through mutual friends and married on July 11, 1953. They lived in Chehalis until 1955, when their first son Richard was born. Nora then became a full-time homemaker. That same year they moved to Toledo. Soon thereafter they bought their 80-acre farm where they raised their five children and still reside. Their children are Richard Shannon Jr. of Toledo, owner of Smokey Valley Kennels; Jim Shannon of Toledo, an electrician; Tamera Shannon Wright of Graham, a principal; Tauni Hatfield of Silverlake, a teacher; and Kelly Davisourt of Seattle, a photojournalist.

Dick and Nora knew the value of a good education and the importance of daily attendance. They took their children to Toledo sporting events while they were in elementary school. As the kids grew old enough, they began participating in sports and music, which became the highlight of the family's recreational activities.

"Dick would rush home from working at Weyerhaeuser, change clothes, jump in the car with a plate full of dinner I had prepared, and eat it while I drove the family to the games and concerts," Nora recalled. This took place from 1968 to 1989, when their last child graduated and included college volleyball and basketball games, as they followed their three daughters playing at Lower Columbia College, Centralia College and Central Washington University. Dick and Nora didn't miss a beat attending Toledo sporting events as three of their grandchildren attended Toledo schools. They continue to follow Toledo athletics to this day, as this has become their favorite pastime extending more than 50 years.

"We sure treasure the friendships we have made with the players, coaches and fans as well as the comradery of following the teams to their tournaments."

Dick and Nora have coordinated the annual Weyerhaeuser retiree's potluck for the past 20 years. Nora has been an active member and officer of the Lone Yew Sewing Club for nearly 50 years, which awards scholarships to local high school graduates. They enjoy traveling to Arizona in the winter and trips to various other states and beaches. They both love gardening and sharing their fruits and vegetables and canned goods with others. Dick enjoys singing and playing his guitar and piano at family gatherings. They especially love visiting their five children, eight grandchildren, six great grandchildren and many friends and relatives.

On Saturday, July 11, the Shannons will be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary.

