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The 472 members of the 114th graduating class of Central High School will receive diplomas in Commencement Exercises at the George Welsh Civic Auditorium on Monday, June 7, 1976.

The Class of 1976 is considerably larger than the 13 member class that first received Central High School diplomas back in 1862. Central High School has changed dramatically through the years as it grew to meet the educational needs of a growing and changing community. However, Central's reputation as a center for academic excellence has not changed through the years.

In addition to the First Lady, Central High School has a long list of illustrious alumni including the late Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg. Other distinguished alumni include Constance Rourke, American biographer; Houston McBain, president of Marshall Field Co.; John B. Martin, Rhodes scholar, former Republican National Committeeman and former head of the President's Council on Aging.

Arnold Gingrich, founder and editor of Esquire Magazine; Willoughby Bouton, concert pianist; Seymour Beach Conger, foreign correspondent; Paul Goebel, former mayor of Grand Rapids and former member of the University of Michigan Board of Regents, and Roger B. Chaffee, astronaut, who was killed January 27, 1967, in a fire that swept through the capsule of Apollo I in a flight drill.

2,003 students were enrolled at Central High School during the 1975-76 school year. In addition to a comprehensive curriculum that is designed to meet the individualized needs of students the school offers a wide variety of extra curricular programs and services that assist in preparing students for becoming successful

productive citizens. During the 1975-76 school year Central opened a center for the education of bilingual students including Vietnamese students who reside in the Kent County area.

The history of Central High School is vividly described in the attached article which is a reproduction of an article from the 1962 Centennial edition of Helios, the Central High School Yearbook.

*G Rapids School*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Mel Vandegere*

*(616) 456-  
4949*



Grand Rapids Press  
5/28/76

Sheila  
6/1/76

## Roll Call on For Betty's Classmates

Central High School is still looking for Betty Bloomer's classmates.

Betty, a 1936 Central High graduate, will attend commencement exercises for this year's class at 8 p.m. June 7 at George W. Welsh Civic Auditorium.

What makes her attendance special, of course, is that she is married to Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States.

The graduating class also would like to have as many as possible of the 213 students who graduate with her in 1936 attend the ceremonies.

So far, only 50 of Mrs. Ford's classmates have requested tickets to the event, which is expected to fill the auditorium. "We still hope to get more," said Eileen Vogt, a secretary at Central.

Mrs. Ford has said she will make "appropriate remarks" at the ceremony.

Organizers of the commencement are requesting that each person who wishes to attend use his or her name as it appeared in the 1936 yearbook, and give the present address.

Tickets, available Friday, can be obtained by calling 459-0205.



central high school

one hundred fourteenth annual

# Graduation Exercises

george w. welsh civic auditorium

the evening of june seventh, 1976 at eight o'clock

## CLASS MOTTO OF 1976

"We are leaping over the hill,  
And we have a huge mountain to climb."

### The Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say! can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh! say, does that star spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

## program

Mr. John L. Kirchgessner, Assistant Principal, Presiding

Processional . . . . Central High Band and Orchestra

The Pledge to the Flag . . . . By the Audience

Invocation . . . . Rev. Richard A. Wilkening, Hope Lutheran Church

Welcome . . . . Mr. Phillip E. Runkel, Superintendent

Excerpts from **New World Symphony** . . . . By Dvorak  
Director of Band and Orchestra, Mr. Gregory Knowles

Introduction of Mrs. Gerald R. Ford . . . . Mr. Paul Kelly, Senior Class President

Commencement Remarks . . . . Mrs. Gerald R. Ford, First Lady of the United States

The **Star Spangled Banner** . . . . Francis Scott Key  
Director of Band and Orchestra, Mrs. LaNelle Roman

Conferring of Degrees . . . . Mrs. Vernis L. Schad, President, Board of Education

Presentation of Diplomas . . . . Mr. Wesley R. Perrin, Principal

Assisted by: Mr. James Edwards, Assistant Principal

Mr. Earl K. Mandeville, Assistant Principal

Mr. Jan D. Treur, Senior Class Advisor

Mr. Edward Merizon, Student Council Advisor

Distinguished Alumni Award . . . . Mr. Wesley R. Perrin

Senior Class Presentation . . . . Mr. Paul Kelly

Benediction . . . . Rev. Norman Heintz, Redeemer Lutheran Church

Recessional . . . . Central High Band and Orchestra

Please remain seated until the graduates have left the auditorium.



# central high school graduating list-1976

Bruce John Abbg  
Gloria Joyce Addison  
Sandra Jean Alyea  
Estella Amos  
Harry Anastos  
Laura Jean Anda  
Elizabeth Ann Anderson  
Kathleen Suzanne Anderson  
Stephan Charles Anderson  
William Michael Armock  
Brenadine C. Arnold  
Janet Rose Ashley  
Jose Manuel Rosalez Avila  
David A. Badger  
Sonia Baez  
Jonathan Scott Bagby  
Patricia Ann Baker  
Kevin Michael Balczak  
Tim Ball  
Richard Harry Balsitis, Jr.  
Allen James Baranowski  
Marianne Therese Barnes  
Paul D. Barscewski  
Rebecca Jean Bartaway  
Ronald Beards  
Kirk William Beckman  
Jerry E. Beeks  
Dianna Lynne Belk  
Jay Berry  
Thomas Bigelow  
Veris Louise Blackmon  
Allison Renee Blomeling  
Marcia Jean Boelens  
Mary Kathryn Boggs  
Teresa Gale Boggs  
Karen Lynn Boguslawski  
Cynthia Louise Borowka

Jerry John Bostelaar  
Kathryn Ann Bott  
Thomas C. Box  
Patrick Sean Boyle  
Debra Dorine Brailey  
Stacey Jean Braybrook  
James Michael Brechting  
Jamee Marie Breen  
Patrice Annette Breen  
Darlene Brewer  
Cheryl Ann Brewster  
John H. Briel III  
Rhonda Ranae Britton  
Carolynn June Brooks  
Beverly Careen Bryant  
Kurt Stephen Budnick  
Lynn Michele Bueche  
Leah Waudean Bugs  
William Russell Burchard  
Ronald Wayne Burggraaf  
Denise Kay Butler  
Edward Newton Campbell  
Roger Lee Carr  
Daniel Jesse Carvill  
John E. Cash  
Jeffrey Scott Cebelak  
Hing-Fai Chan  
Timothy Craig Chasseur  
Tyrone Chatmon  
Yum Buck Chin  
Dawn Marie Chisholm  
Budnick  
Renée Lynne Clay  
James Vernon Coates  
Gerald P. Cole  
Gary Coleman  
Christine Margaret Connell

Brenda Burnette Couch  
Cathleen Rose Crandall  
Timothy Alan Cross  
James Allen Crowley  
Mark Alan Currier  
Regina A. Dandridge  
Susan Lee Davidson  
Anthony Patrick Davis  
Theodore Eugene Dayson  
John Michael Deering  
David DeMaagd  
Wayne Alan DeWitt  
Ramón Diaz  
Deborah Ann Dickerson  
Adele Michele Dobrygoski  
Debra A. Dock  
David G. Dodger  
Janice L. Doran  
Elmer R. Drew  
Susan Kay Dryer  
Michael J. Dudek  
Martin Lee Duffield  
Deborah Ann Dunstan  
Harold James Ebenstein  
Sally Anne Eby  
Tamara Lynn Elders  
Chris Jayson Ellis  
Bruce Edward Emaus  
Timothy Eno  
Annette Marie Ernwall  
Derek Evans  
Carol A. Faasse  
Cheryl Fran Faasse  
Sherry Lea Fairfield  
Tammy Marie Ferrell  
Levi T. Figures, Jr.  
Sally Ann Figures

Leatha Carol Fischer  
Minnie Jean Fletcher  
David G. Flickinger  
Glenn Floyd  
Jeffrey Fluegel  
Kevin Thomas Foley  
Cynthia Marie Frierson  
Penelope Dean Fry  
Regina Gaines  
Laura Jeanette Garfield  
Deborah Marie Garmon  
Eugene Gary  
Steven L. Gibbs  
John Mark Gibson  
Kevin Eugene Gillespie  
Mary Rosalie Gills  
Kimberly Monica Glidden  
Susan June Glupker  
Pedro Gonzalez, Jr.  
Sarah Lea Gooden  
Rebecca Green  
Ida B. Griffin  
Richard Dale  
Grudzinskas, Jr.  
Vicki Lee Guthrie  
Becky Ruth Gutierrez  
Edwin Guyton  
Marjorie Ruth Hall  
Russell Hamlett  
Tina Marie Haner  
Carol Hankiewicz  
Sue Lynne Hansen  
William Mark Harrison  
Edward Remington Hart III  
Pamela Joyce Hassell  
Nancy Ann Hastings  
Dorcas Marie Heintz

Cheryl Ann Heyboer  
Halle Elizabeth Higgins  
Eleanor Hill  
Katherine Denise Hill  
Daniel Joseph Hojnacki  
Will Thomas Holton, Jr.  
Harriette Denise Howard  
David Brian Howe  
Mary E. Husar  
Katherine Elizabeth Irwin  
Paul Douglas Ivy  
Annette Jacobs  
Janice Lynn Jacobs  
Jennifer Louise Jacobs  
Robert Jonathan Jamo  
Tammie Lynn Jarvis  
Judith Ann Jenkins  
Bryant Johnson  
Jayne Lynn Johnson  
Constance Faye Jones  
Israel Undra Jones III  
Paul Michael Jones  
Ronald Emery Jones  
Emma Jordan  
Mark Conrad Justema  
Janie Ann Karrip  
Paul Joseph Kelly  
Debra Ann Kelting  
Diane Elizabeth Kelting  
Cindy Diane Kieviet  
Kathleen D. Kindig  
Darlene Emmetta King  
Sally Jean Kingsnorth  
Rocky Robert Kitchen  
Scott Charles Klukowski  
Karen Klunder  
Pamela Marie Kohlbeck

Ingrida Daina Kornets  
Jeramy John Paul Kubiak  
Edward Allen Kunst  
Diana Marie LaHuis  
Kathryn Jean LaMar  
Betty Jean Lauderdale  
Delia Leal  
Julie Ann Lemcool  
Sunny Arlene Lindsey  
John William Lipke  
Virginia Ann Long  
Cynthia Ann Loonsfoot  
Sam Lubben  
Timothy Allen MacDonald  
Irene MacMillan  
Timothy David Madura  
Kathy Beth Malfroid  
Brian K. Marion  
Eloise Marshall  
David A. Martin  
Juan Manuel Martinez  
Denise Mae Mason  
Gerald L. McCarthy  
John Theotis McClaurin  
Linda Marie McDonald  
Winters  
William John McDonald  
Kenneth McFerren  
Barbara Kay McIntyre  
Carolyn Elizabeth  
McKinney  
Wanderval Inetter  
McKinney  
Ethel McMillan  
Thomas Alan McSauby  
Delia McVicar  
Debra Sue Meeuwsen

Elizabeth Noreen  
Merdzinski  
Steven Michael Mervau  
Marcia de La Caridad Mesa  
Brian A. Meuser  
Monica Marie Mieras  
Joe Ann Miggins  
Beth Ann Miller  
Douglas Roy Miller  
Mark Albert Minnema  
Karla Jean Moelker  
Terri Ann Moore  
Yolanda Marie Moore  
Deborah Ann Mosley  
Joyce Ann Mutchler  
Doris Annette Nelson  
Terri Lynn Nelson  
Timothy Alex Nelson  
Joyce Ann Nerli  
Glenna Mae Neuman  
Joseph Gerard Niedzwiecki  
Donna Nisa Noah  
Molly Jean Nolan  
Cornelius Nordyke  
Lon Norman  
Debra Jo Nyenhuis  
Cynthia Lee Oom  
Robert Lee Osborn  
David Carroll Otte  
Edwin Goldie Owens  
Saundra Lynnay Palmer  
Jack Wayne Palmitier  
Noreen E. Palumbo  
Debra Kay Parish  
Charles Edward Patten  
Katherine Eileen Patterson  
Kimberly Denise Patterson  
Stephen R. Paul

Continued

Daniel Perez  
Vicki Jo Peuler  
Ruthann Annie Phillips  
Merri Jo Piette  
Terrance Joel Piette  
Doris Lynne Pingel  
Suzan Fatma Piskin  
Delores Elizabetha Pittman  
Russell L. Polson  
Suzanne Porchia  
Vicky Lee Portwood  
Kimberly Anna Potter  
Anthony Edward Prawdzik  
Gregory Scott Price  
Minnie Jean Price  
Chris Edward Pruett  
Dean Lee Pulte  
Teresa Kathleen Putnam  
Michael G. Quick  
Maria del Pilar Ramirez  
David Franklin Rance  
Daniel C. Ray  
Martha Ann Reyna  
Anthony Phillip Richardson  
Bradford Xavier Richardson  
Carol Jean Rittenhouse  
David Samuel Robinson, Jr.  
Robert Scott Rohloff  
Laurel Lee Rollins  
Susan Marie Rosloniec  
Cindy Lou Ross  
Sylvia Rosson  
Mary Katherine Rozegnal  
Eddie Marie Rucker  
Arnolds Rupmejs Ruperts  
Kenneth John Rusilowski  
Sharon Renae Sanders

Cherylou Sargent  
Yvonne Leigh Schaap  
Laura Ann Scharphorn  
Philip Joseph Scheidel  
James Henry Schmitzer  
Elisabeth Cornelia Schoonheim  
Kathy Schreckengust  
Todd Elliott Schuhman  
Deborah Louise Scott  
Lenore Elizabeth Scott  
Kimberly Ann Selbach  
Donald F. Serba  
Dennis M. Shamblin  
Thomas Brian Sherry  
James C. Short  
Tony Curtis Sinclair  
Debra Lynn Sleziak  
Christine Louise Smith  
Debra Lynn Smith  
Michael Eugene Smith  
William Wyatt Smith  
Sandra Kay Snyder  
Valarie Joan Spangler  
Susan Kay Spielmaker  
James Dale Spivey  
Kathy Marie Standley  
Theresa Mary Stanton  
David Durrant Stephens  
Terri Lynn Stevenson  
Melvin Stewart  
Robert Tyrone Stimpson  
Michael Paul Stott  
John Robert Stubbs, Jr.  
Susan Kay Swartz  
Marilyn Theresa Sylvester  
Sue Marie Sylvia  
Thomas Michael Syrba

Gary Lee Sytsma  
Kimberly Ellen Taylor  
Todd Harris Teachout  
Lisa Gayle Thomas  
Robert Lee Thomas  
Bennie Thorne  
Craig Phillip Thurman  
Kathleen Lucille Todd  
Mark Steven Todd  
Charles Ralph Tolhurst II  
Mark Tomasik  
Mary Trevino  
Lori Jean Tubergen  
Holly L. Uecker  
Ronald William Uecker  
James Alan Vander Kolk  
Scott J. Vander Wall  
Keith Thomas VanderWeide  
Duane Jay VanderZee  
Mark Joseph VanDriel  
Cheryl Lynn VanHaun  
David R. Van Holstyn  
Susan Kay van Oosten  
Cathleen Jane VanOrden  
James Ryan VanVliet  
Pedro Vazquez  
Ellen Ruth VerWys  
Jenny Ann Vinge  
Carol Joy Waem  
Gloria Gale Waem  
Helen Elizabeth Wagemaker  
Shell Kay Waidelich  
Naomi Z. Walker  
Barbara Kay Ward  
Laurie Sue Ward  
Joseph Michael Wardell  
Philip Robert Warn

Ellen Marie Weber  
Larry Darnell White  
J. C. Whitfield  
Carlton Andre Whitley  
Sherrie Leora Wiersma  
Anne Marie Wiggins  
Jean Marie Wilkening  
Kathy A. Williams  
Luberta Williams  
Sheryl Lynn Williams  
Tony Ray Willis  
Rodger D. Wilson  
Thomas J. Wisneski  
Marcia Elizabeth Anne Wojciakowski  
Cindy Lee Wood  
Lisa Anne Wood  
Wanda Jean Wood  
Linda D. Woods  
Kelly Jean Woody  
Kathleen Rae Worster  
Michelle Ann Wright  
Beatrice Yarbrough  
Michael David Young  
Patrick P. Zamarron  
Wayne Philip Zandbergen  
Laura Lee Zandstra  
Suzanne Rae Ziemski  
Vivian Elaine Zuidema  
Kevin Jay Zuidewind  
Kathryn Ann Zwier

IT IS TRULY AN HONOR FOR ME  
TO RETURN TO MY OWN HIGH SCHOOL  
AFTER 40 YEARS.  
THAT SEEMS LIKE A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

THE CLASS OF 1936

AND THE CLASS OF 1976

ARE MANY YEARS AND MANY CHANGES APART.

BUT I BELIEVE

EACH CLASS OF GRADUATES AND PARENTS

HAVE SIMILAR EMOTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

ON GRADUATION DAY.

I'VE SHARED THIS DAY WITH MY FOUR CHILDREN,  
AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT A SAD-HAPPY DAY  
THIS IS FOR ALL OF YOU.

FOR GRADUATES,  
THIS MARKS AN END  
TO A VERY SPECIAL TIME IN YOUR LIVES.

YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER  
YOUR TEACHERS AND FRIENDS  
AND, OF COURSE,  
THE EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE HAD.

TODAY YOU BEGIN

TO TAKE MORE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN LIFE  
AND TO PURSUE YOUR OWN SPECIAL DREAMS.

THAT'S BOTH EXCITING AND A LITTLE SCARY.

AS YOUR PARENTS AND FRIENDS

WATCH YOU START THE ADVENTURE

OF MORE EDUCATION OR A JOB,

THEY SHARE YOUR EXCITEMENT.



AS ALL PARENTS DO,

THEY WANT GOOD THINGS FOR YOU.

---

I'M SURE EVERY MOTHER IN THIS AUDIENCE

REMEMBERS THE FIRST DAY YOU WENT OFF TO SCHOOL

THE SAME MIXTURE OF HIGH HOPES

AND JUST A LITTLE PAIN

ARE SOMEWHAT THE SAME TODAY.

WE REALLY CAN DO LITTLE MORE  
THAN ENCOURAGE YOU TO FOLLOW YOUR OWN DREAMS  
AND TO ASSURE YOU OF OUR SUPPORT.  
TO TRUST AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELF  
IS THE BEST ADVICE WE CAN GIVE.

WE DO HOPE YOU WILL GROW AS INDIVIDUALS  
AND CONTINUE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

WHAT MAKES AMERICA SPECIAL  
IS THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL  
CAN MAKE HIS OWN PERSONAL PROMISES  
ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS TO DO WITH HIS LIFE.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE AMERICAN DREAM,  
WE REALLY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE COLLECTION  
OF ALL OUR DREAMS.

YOUR EXPECTATIONS WILL BE MATCHED  
BY SURPRISES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS.

BUT I'VE FOUND ,  
THE TRUE EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE OF LIFE  
IS TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

AS I WATCHED MY CHILDREN GRADUATE,  
I WANTED EACH OF THEM  
TO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO ACCEPT CHALLENGES  
AND THE COURAGE TO OVERCOME DEFEATS.

MY HOPES FOR THEM ARE THE SAME FOR YOU TODAY  
AND ALL YOUNG PEOPLE---  
MAY YOU HAVE LAUGHTER, FRIENDS AND JOY.  
MAY YOU LIVE UP TO THE BEST IN YOURSELVES.

IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR,  
MAY YOU USE THE LIBERTY AMERICA GIVES US  
TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

Not used

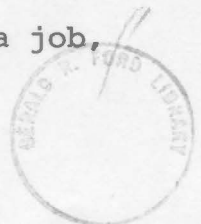
## Central High School Graduation Remarks

It is truly an honor for me to return to my own high school after 40 years. That seems a very long time ago. Although you and I studied in the same building, many things have changed at Central High School. The class of 1936 and the class of 1976 are more than years apart, because of many events and changes in the world.

The subjects you studied, the clothes you wear and the jobs you will have are different from those of my generation. But I believe each class of graduates and parents have similar emotions and expectations on graduation day.

I've shared this day with my four children, and I know what a <sup>combination</sup> sad-happy day this is for all of you. For graduates, this marks an end to a very special time in your lives. You will always remember the friends and the fun, but you are looking today <sup>to</sup> for new adventures. ~~Today is more a beginning than an end.~~ Today you begin to take more control of your own lives and to pursue your own special dreams.

Whether you continue your education or start a job,



Page Two

you will make your own decisions. / That's both exciting  
and a little scary. / Your life will never be / as

structured and predictable / as it has been in the past.

There will be fewer "required courses" and more electives.

To use a  
phrase you're  
all familiar  
with, /

As your parents and friends / launch you on this  
adventure, / I know they share your excitement. / As all  
parents do, / they want good things for you. /

I'm sure every mother in this audience / remembers  
the first day / you went off to school. / The same mixture  
of high hopes / and just a little pain / are somewhat the  
same today. /

We really can do little more / than encourage you  
to follow your own dreams / and to let you know we will  
back you up. / We all hope you will continue / to grow  
as individuals / and to keep educating yourself / about the  
world around you. /

~~I think of the lines from the poet George Santayana:~~

~~"It is not wisdom to be only wise, and on the inward vision  
close the eyes, but it is wisdom to believe the heart."~~

To trust and believe in yourself / really is the best advice  
we can give. /

You are unique / <sup>each</sup> with some talent and energy / only you  
can give to your community / and to your country. /



*C* *A* what makes America special / is that each individual / makes his  
~~What makes America special is that each individual can~~

~~make and keep his own promises to himself.~~  
own dreams / and lives in an environment where they can come true.

When we talk about the American dream, we really

*B* are talking about / the collection of all our dreams.

You graduate with many expectations, / and no doubt will  
encounter / disappointments and surprises. / But what makes  
America exciting / is that all of us / can expect the unexpected. /

~~2. [REDACTED]~~  
You begin with your own hopes and talents / and what  
happens / <sup>is</sup> ~~will~~ not always <sup>what</sup> ~~be~~ as you plan. / But if you ~~do~~ follow  
~~believe~~ your heart / and discipline yourself / to be the  
best you can be, / I believe you will find many rewards. /

I think of the parable / of the talents in the Bible /  
and of the man who used / ~~his~~ one talent well. / What is  
important in our lives / is not <sup>so much</sup> ~~what~~ we have / in the way  
of intelligence and talent, / but what we do with these  
gifts. /

As I watched each of my children graduate, / I wanted  
each of them / to have the strength to accept the challenges /  
and the courage to overcome the disappointments. / My hopes  
for them / are the same for you today / and all young people /  
may you have laughter, friends and hope / and may you live  
up to the best in yourselves. /



I don't believe those cynics who think this is a bad time for America. We've got our problems, but we've also got the courage to find solutions. We're

~~Page Four~~ preserving individual liberty and opportunity.

In this year of our Bicentennial, may you use ~~the~~ <sup>that</sup> liberty <sup>and opportunity</sup> America gives us to make our world a better place.

IT'S AN HONOR TO BE BACK AT CENTRAL---

EVEN THOUGH IT MAKES ME FEEL OLD.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS

SINCE MY CLASS RECEIVED THEIR DIPLOMAS.

OF COURSE, MY LAST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
WASN'T IN 1936.

IT WAS ONLY LAST YEAR,  
WHEN MY DAUGHTER GRADUATED <sup>From</sup> HIGH SCHOOL.

IN FACT,

IN MY FAMILY,

WE'VE HAD SIX ~~HIGH SCHOOL~~ GRADUATIONS.

Of course Two of them were  
college - And we have Two  
more To go -

~~THE~~ I KNOW

THAT WHILE EACH GRADUATION IS UNIQUE, *for each*  
*individual*

*Still* PARENTS AND GRADUATES



SHARE SIMILAR EMOTIONS

ON THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY.

FOR GRADUATES

TODAY MARKS AN END TO A VERY SPECIAL TIME  
IN YOUR LIVES.

IT ALSO MARKS A GREAT BEGINNING.

IT MAY BE SCARY TO THINK OF THE  
FRIENDS, TEACHERS, AND EXPERIENCES  
YOU'LL BE LEAVING BEHIND,  
BUT IT SHOULD BE EXCITING AND SATISFYING  
TO BE FREE TO PURSUE YOUR <sup>own</sup> SPECIAL DREAMS.

TODAY,

I KNOW EVERY MOTHER IN THIS AUDIENCE

HAS THOUGHT ABOUT THE FIRST DAY

YOU TRUNDLED OFF TO SCHOOL.

I KNOW THE SAME MIXTURE

OF HIGH HOPES AND JUST A LITTLE PAIN

ARE IN THEIR HEARTS RIGHT NOW.

AND LIKE THE DAY YOU FIRST WENT TO SCHOOL,  
THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN DO  
BUT PROMISE OUR SUPPORT  
AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE  
TO DEVELOP AND GROW.

TRUST AND BELIEVE

IN YOURSELF AND YOUR FELLOWMAN---

THAT'S THE BEST ADVICE WE CAN GIVE.

WHAT MAKES AMERICA SPECIAL

IS THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL

MAKES HIS OWN DREAMS

AND LIVES IN AN ENVIRONMENT

WHERE THEY CAN COME TRUE.

OF COURSE LIFE HAS FRUSTRATIONS ,  
AND THE BEST LAID PLANS DO OFTEN GO AWRY.  
BUT LIFE ALSO HAS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES  
AND I HAVE FOUND  
THE TRUE EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGE OF LIFE  
IS TO EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED .

WHEN I WATCHED MY CHILDREN GRADUATE ,  
I PRAYED FOR EACH OF THEM  
TO HAVE THE IMAGINATION TO DREAM,  
THE STRENGTH TO ACCEPT CHALLENGES ,  
AND THE COURAGE TO OVERCOME DEFEATS.

I ALSO ASKED THAT THEY BE BLESSED WITH LAUGHTER ,  
THE LOVE OF FRIENDS  
AND THE JOY OF LIVING.  
AND , MOST IMPORTANTLY ,  
THAT THEY LIVE UP TO THE BEST IN THEMSELVES.

AS I WATCH YOU GRADUATE,

I FIND MYSELF

RECITING THE SAME MOTHER'S PRAYER.



I DON'T BELIEVE THOSE CYNICS

WHO THINK THIS IS A BAD TIME FOR AMERICA.

WE'VE GOT OUR PROBLEMS,

BUT WE'VE ALSO GOT THE COURAGE TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

WE'RE PRESERVING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND OPPORTUNITY ,  
AND WE'RE HOPEFUL THAT YOU'LL MATURE  
WITHOUT EXPERIENCING THE HORROR OF WAR.

BUT THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE  
BY THIS BICENTENNIAL GRADUATING CLASS.  
PLEASE USE THE LIBERTY AND OPPORTUNITY  
AMERICA PROVIDES  
TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.  
THANK YOU.

It's been a long time

*my class*

It's ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ and an honor to be back at Central-- even though ~~I can't~~ it makes me feel old. I can't believe it's been 40 years since the ~~class of 1936~~ received their diplomas.

*high school*

*in 1936*

Of course, my last graduation wasn't ~~40 years~~ ago. It was only

last year, when my daughter graduated high school. In fact,

*in my family*

*6 H.S.*

~~between my children and myself~~, we've had ~~five~~ graduations.

And I know that while each graduation is unique, parents and graduates share similar emotions on this very special day.

For graduates, today marks an end to a very special

*your*

time in ~~their~~ lives. It also marks a great beginning. ~~xxxx~~ It may be

~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ scary to think of the friends, teachers,

and experience, you'll be leaving behind, but it should be exciting

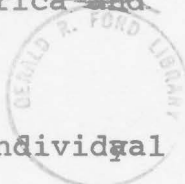
~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ and satisfying to be free to pursue your special dreams.

~~xxxxxxxx~~ every mother in this audience has thought about

Today, I know every mother in this audience has thought about the first day you trundled off to school, ~~and~~ I know the same mixture of high hopes and just a little pain are in their hearts ~~today~~ right now.

And like the day you first went to school, there is little we can do but promise our support and encourage you to continue to develop and grow. Trust and believe in yourselves---that's the best advice we can give. ~~It's the xxxxxx advice that's made America and Americans unique in the history of man.~~

What makes ~~America~~ our country special is that each individual





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Chavez*

Mrs. Ford's Remarks  
Central High School Commencement  
Monday, June 7, 1976  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

It's an honor to be back at Central---even though it makes me feel old. I can't believe it's been 40 years since my class received their diplomas.

Of course, my last high school graduation wasn't in 1936. It was only last year, when my daughter graduated high school. In fact, in my family, we've had six high school graduations. And I know that while each graduation is unique, parents and graduates share similar emotions on this very special day.

For graduates, today marks an end to a very special time in your lives. It also marks a great beginning. It may be scary to think of the friends, teachers, and experiences you'll be leaving behind, but it should be exciting and satisfying to be free to pursue your special dreams.

Today, I know every mother in this audience has thought about the first day you trundled off to school. I know the same mixture of high hopes and just a little pain are in their hearts right now.

And like the day you first went to school, there is little we can do but promise our support and encourage you to continue to develop and grow. Trust and believe in yourself and your fellowman---that's the best advice we can give.

What makes America special is that each individual makes his own dreams and lives in an environment where they can come true. Of course life has frustrations, and the best laid plans do often go awry. But life also has challenges and opportunities and I have found the true excitement and challenge of life is to expect the unexpected.

When I watched my children graduate, I prayed for each of them to have the imagination to dream, the strength to accept challenges, and the courage to overcome defeats. I also asked that they be blessed with laughter, the love of friends and the joy of living. And, most importantly, that they live up to the best in themselves. As I watch you graduate, I find myself reciting the same mother's prayer.

I don't believe those cynics who think this is a bad time for America. We've got our problems, but we've also got the courage to find solutions. We're preserving the individual liberty and opportunity, and we're hopeful that you'll mature without experiencing the horror of war. But there's an awful lot that needs to be done by this bicentennial graduating class. Please use the liberty and opportunity America provides to make the world a better place.

Thanks you.



Disting alumna Award  
from CHS

Press  
credentialling  
photos  
tags

Xearbook from 1936-  
presentation

walk w/ BF- Paul Kelly  
instrument/

remarks

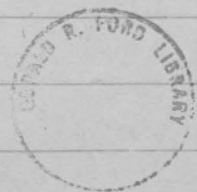
star spgled banner

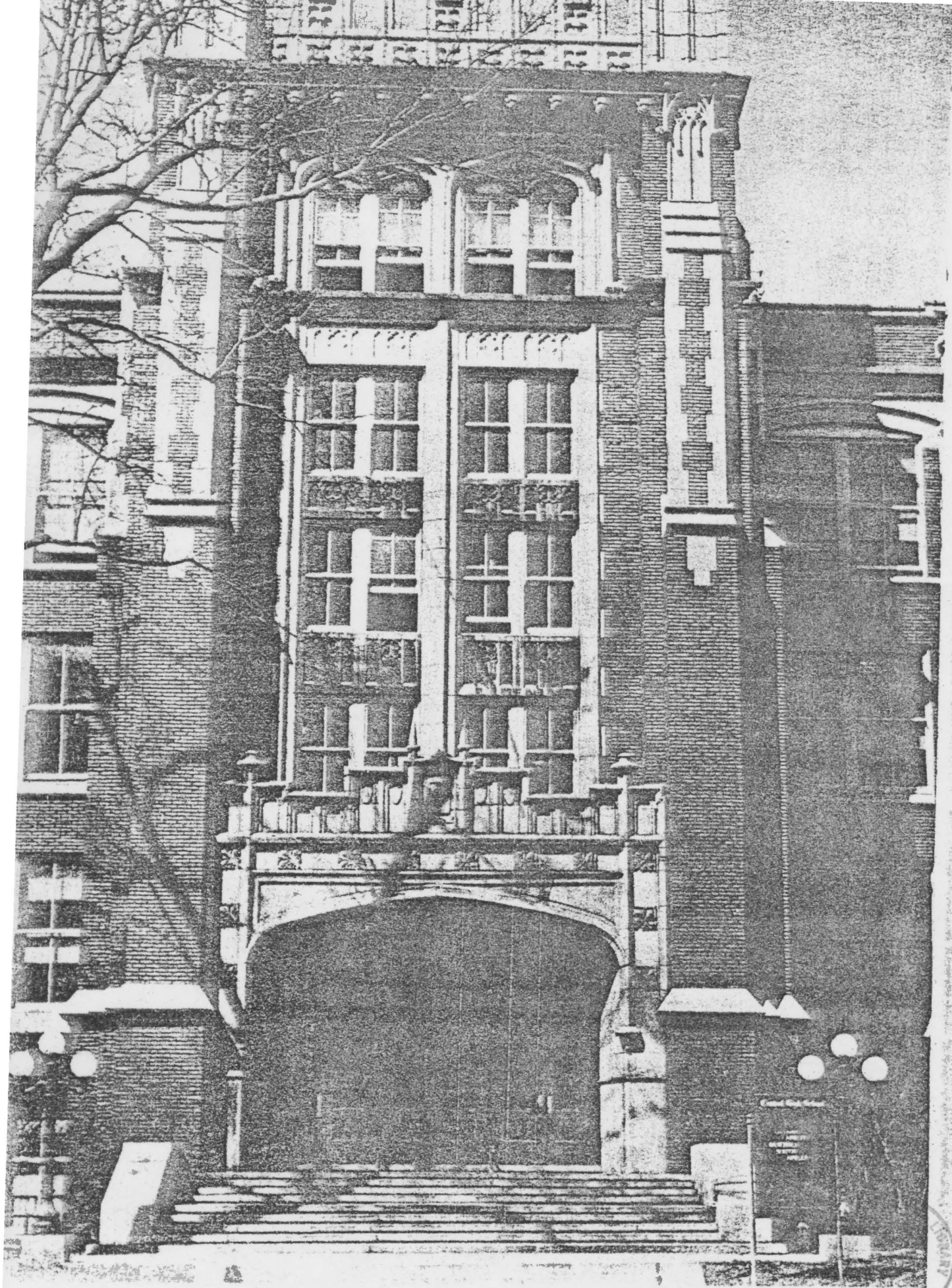
diplomas

awards

400 graduate srs

—  
honorarium





# central in review

Ever since its beginning, Central High School has followed a long tradition of graduating men and women capable of handling the grave responsibilities which the world offers. It all began in 1835 when the first school system in Grand Rapids was formed. Then in 1837, Miss Hinsdill was engaged to teach in a frame building on "Prospect Hill." Because of a growing population, the need for a larger and better equipped school became evident.

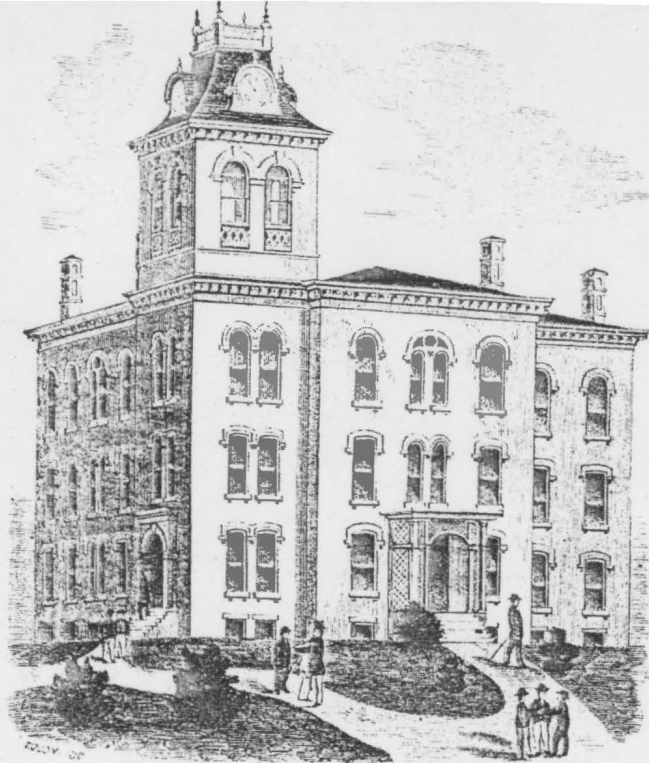
The first real school house was constructed on Fulton Street, at the head of Jefferson Avenue. This building burned in 1840. The new high school, called the Union, located on Barclay and Ransom, was then in progress of construction and was soon ready for occupation. The site of this building was purchased for \$645.00. One of the most modern buildings of its time, it was three stories high and featured a high bell tower on the southeast corner. It was from this building that in 1862 the first class, consisting of thirteen students, was graduated; before that time it was customary to have class exercises without granting diplomas. Indicative of the growth of education in Grand Rapids is the fact that in 1885 Central's enrollment was 292 students while a short two years later the enrollment had increased to 436 students. Again in 1908, excavation began for a new high school. With the dedication of this new building on January 13, 1911, Central High School pledged itself to the noble task of continuing its exemplary record of outstanding service. Constructed at a cost of \$445,000, the building was one of the most modern in the United States. Although basically the same as today, the building had several variations from the plan with which we are familiar. For example, the mechanical drawing room was located in the basement while the art rooms were placed on the fourth floor. With these modern facilities, Central High School continued its tradition of giving superior education to the present time.

The cover reproduced here is the cover of the first HELIOS. The name was chosen because it stood for Helios, the Sun God. Brightness, energy, and originality were the aims of the HELIOS. The following are excerpts from the first page.

"We are here. And the first thing in order is to tell why we are here and what we expect to do. As to our purpose. We purpose to issue a clean, original, business-like sheet, giving news of everything connected with the school. Whether we shall be able to achieve our aim depends largely upon the citizens. Hoping that our efforts will meet with popular approval, and that the public will take an active part in furthering the same interests, we commend our issue to the world."



*From the High School Journal of 1886*



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, Cor. Lyon and Barclay Streets.

Along with scholarship, a rigorous program of citizenship and sportsmanship was established at Central. Such subjects as Greek, astronomy and geology were as prominent in the early years of Central as English, math, and biology are today. Also important in its history is the fact that Central has had some of the most excellent and dedicated teachers on its faculty. Although well-educated teachers were difficult to obtain during the 1860's, Central High School staffed its faculty with the graduates of America's finest colleges and universities. With such excellent guides in the process of education it is no wonder that Central graduates have made an important contribution to the progress of the world. Until the early 1910's, fraternities and secret societies were allowed to operate as school sponsored organizations. They had initiations, pledges, and secret meetings, but they did not operate to such an extent as the fraternities and sororities in colleges. The first school paper which appeared similar to the present **Rams' Review** was published in 1886 under the name of **Journal**. The school yearbook was very different from the present **Helios**. The pictures of students, with the exception of class officers, were not included in the annual until 1907, and then they were taken by session rooms. These organizations and publications helped to instruct the students in handling responsibility and, therefore, in the future, accepting the responsibilities of good citizens. Sportsmanship has always been highly regarded and has become part of the liberal education which Central gives to all those willing to accept it. Both boys and girls have been taught the fine points of sportsmanship through football, basketball, softball, volleyball,



Three cheers for Cuba Libre,  
For the fall of Spanish laws,  
And for the boys who left the gridiron,  
To fight for Freedom's cause.  
E. L. M.

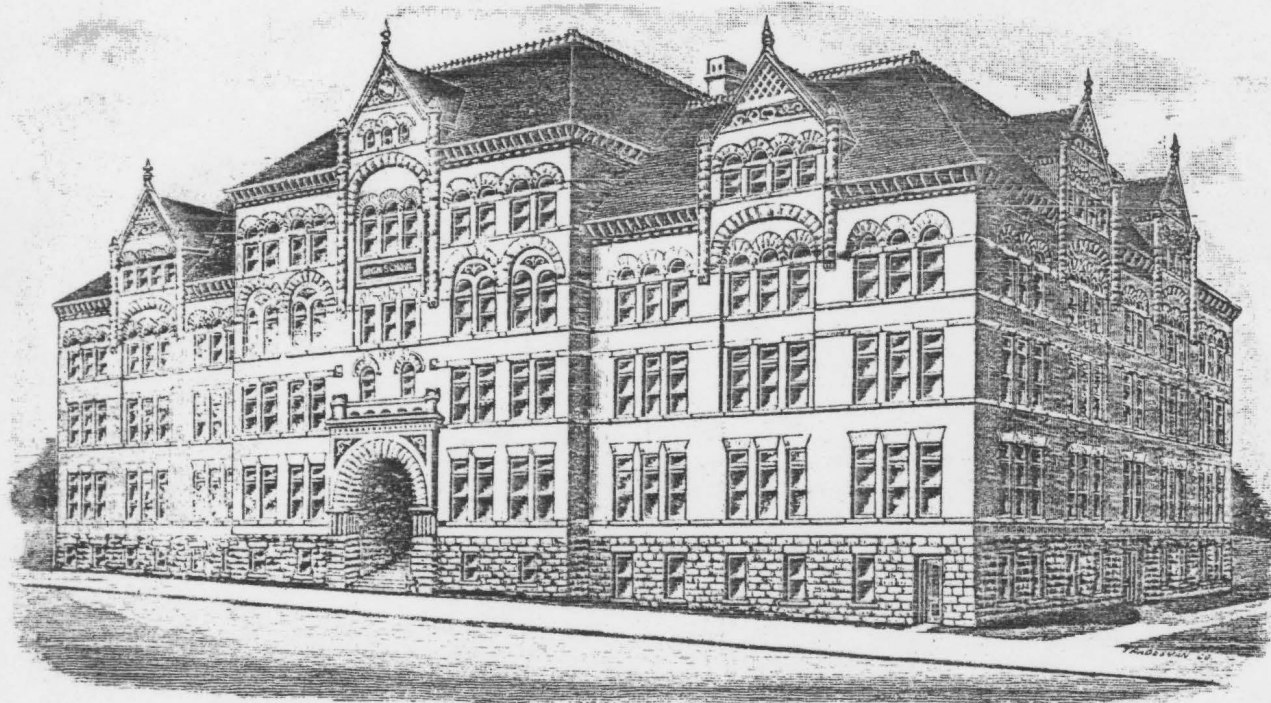
1898

and other sports. Keeping in the spirit with the past, there are at the present time two organizations, the Agona Club and the C-Club, which include students with interest and honors in sportsmanship. Until their deterioration, these organizations will profess the values of good sportsmanship, leadership, and citizenship. With reverent tribute, Central has always remembered its men and women who gave their lives for their school and their country. The first monument of its kind in Central's history is the stone placed on the east lawn of Central's campus. It was dedicated to the "Honor of the loyal service of the 6th, 7th, and 10th regiments, Michigan Cavalry Volunteers, from 1862-1864, who trained on the premises of Central High School." This memorial was given by the city of Grand Rapids and the Sophie De Marsac chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The tragic death in 1918 of Gordon Scott in a football game brought sorrow to the entire community. To commemorate the fine service of this outstanding young man and to inspire others to follow the high ideals of service to mankind, the school established the highly coveted Gordon Scott Cup, symbol of all the best in American youth. Death also swept away many Central men in the First World War. To preserve the glory of their deeds for future generations, a monument was placed on the front lawn. To further instill love of peace in the hearts and minds of men, the annual Armistice Day program was

begun soon after the World War I. This program has continued throughout the years as one of Central's most followed traditions. After the Second World War, the men and women of Central who had given their lives for their country in that conflict were also included in the ceremony. In November, 1945, a memorial plaque was placed in the front hall with the names of former students who had fallen on the battlefield during the second big war. Later, the Central students who died in the Korean War were also honored in the November eleventh ceremony. We all can take pride in the fact that Central High School has always honored those who gave the supreme sacrifice of life itself in defense of Democracy.

Since the Second World War, Central has experienced and absorbed many new changes. For several years after the war, many veterans were enrolled at our school and gave it a more mature atmosphere. Another interesting change was the breaking of the male hold on the cheerleading squad. The pre-war, all male cheerleading squad never reappeared as the girls took over the activity during the war. Recent years have also seen a great deal of modernization of the facilities of Central High School. The science department has especially benefited from this program. The addition of new and more counselors has been of great value to students since expert advice on problems is now readily available.

Helios 1892



*CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.*

Taken from Ransom street, looking north-east.

(Central Grammar School on the higher ground in the rear.)

Ransom street front. 210 feet Floor space, 850,000 square feet; to accommodate 1,000 pupils.

Estimated value, \$120,000.



## The New Buildings

Through these advances, Central has kept faith with the students it seeks to serve.

The final and only true measure of any educational institution is what the graduates it has sent out into the world have done to better the lot of mankind. Central has met this standard of excellence in a splendid fashion indeed! Foremost of Central graduates is the late Senator Arthur Vandenberg who was largely responsible for United States participation in the United Nations and for the inception of the Marshall Plan. Another celebrated graduate of our school is Stuart Edward White, noted author on pioneer life. Central graduate Christopher Zaranfonetis was a leader in the field of control of typhus. Other noted Central graduates are John Martin, former Secretary of State of Ohio; United States Judge Thomas McAlister; Lee Woodruff, editor of the Grand Rapids Press; Paul Goebel, All-American football player, former mayor, and University of Michigan Regent and Thomas Gilbert White, artist. In truth, this space is too limited to include the many Central men and women who have served their nation and the world well.

As we look back at the many years of service Central has rendered from its meager beginning in 1862 to the present year 1962, it has and will continue to graduate educated men and women capable of accepting the problems of this troubled world. It was and still is Central's task to mold the rough, unlearned sons and daughters into the citizens who will lead the community in the future.



## CLARA BINGELINK

Photo Committee (4); Class Typist.

*Mildness cures the tongue.*

## OLLIERAL BIBBY

Sr. Orchestra (1, 2, 3, 4); Interhigh (1, 2, 3);  
Dumexon (1, 2, 3, 4); Vice President (3); Presi-  
dent (4); G. A. A. (1, 2, 3, 4); Vice President  
(3); President (4); Agona Vice President (4);  
Penny Carnival (1, 2, 3); Operetta (2); Senior  
One Acts; Senior Play; Vodvil (1, 2, 4); Sock  
& Buskin (4); Deltrathenian (4); Monitor (3).

*As an actress, confessed without rival to shine.*

## MARY KATHRYN BLACKLOCK

Jr. Girls' Glee Club (1); Sr. Girls' Glee Club  
(2, 4); Pres. (4); Girls' Basketball Team (2, 3,  
4); Mgr. (3); Girls' Hockey Team (2, 3, 4); Mgr.  
(2); Meet Mgr. (4); Vodvil (4); G. A. A. (2, 3,  
4); Current Events Club (4); R. O. T. C. Spon-  
sor (4); Bars and Chevrons (4); J. Honor So-  
ciety (1); Vice Pres. Sr. Class; Co-chairman  
Ticket Committee for Sr. Play; Advisory Board  
Sr. Class; Monitor (1, 2, 3, 4); Sr. Booster  
Club (4); Jr. Booster Club (4); Vice Pres. (4);  
Const. Com.; Indoor (2, 3); Volley Ball (4).

*Her smile attracts us all.*

## ELIZABETH ANNE BLOOMER

Vaudeville (1, 2, 3, 4); Sock and Buskin (3, 4);  
Treasurer (3); French Club (3); Helios Ad Staff  
(3); Entertainment Committee, Senior Class;  
Monitor (2, 3).

*Come trip it lightly as you go on the light  
fantastic toe.*

## HEANOR WINIFRED BOGERT

Orchestra (1, 2, 3, 4); A Cappella Choir (1, 2,  
3, 4); Inter-Hi-Symphony Orchestra (2, 3, 4);  
Vodvil (3, 4); Penny Carnival (2, 3); Biology  
Club (3, 4); Operetta (2); Nativity (4); Motto  
Committee (4); Monitor (2, 3); Event & Com-  
ment Staff (3, 4).

*Music hath charms.*

## MADELYN JEAN BOGERT

Camp Fire Girls (1, 2); Monitor (2); Girls'  
Glee Club (2, 3); A Cappella Choir (4); Penny  
Carnival (2, 3).

*In virtue rich.*

## JOSEPH JAY BOSS

Boys' Glee Club (1); A Cappella Choir (2, 3);  
Football, 2nd (2, 3); Football, 1st (4); Basket-  
ball (2); Track (4); Golf (2, 3); Intramurals (1,  
2, 3, 4); Junior National Honor Society (1);  
Treasurer (1); National Honor Society (3, 4);  
President (4); Student Council (2, 3); Head  
Auditorium Usher; Ticket Chairman for One-  
Acts; Ticket Committee for Senior Play; Boy  
Advisor (4); Senior Advisory Board (4); Moni-  
tor (2); Captain (3); Penny Carnival (2, 3).

*The flying Dutchman of the Class of '36.*

## ROBERT BOURNE

Monitor (3); One Acts (4); Baseball (3).

*Gladness is the heart of man.*

## FRED M. BOYLON

Electrician, One Acts (2, 3, 4); Electrician, Na-  
tivity (2, 3, 4); Electrician, Vodvil (2, 3, 4);  
Electrician, Senior Play (2, 3, 4); Head Electric-  
ian (4); Monitor (2, 3); Auditorium Usher (4);  
Penny Carnival (2, 3); Deltrathenian Club (2, 3,  
4); Treasurer (3); Sock and Buskin Club (3, 4);  
President (4); Student Council (3, 4); Memorial  
Day Exercises (3); "Red Carnations" (3); Oper-  
etta (2).

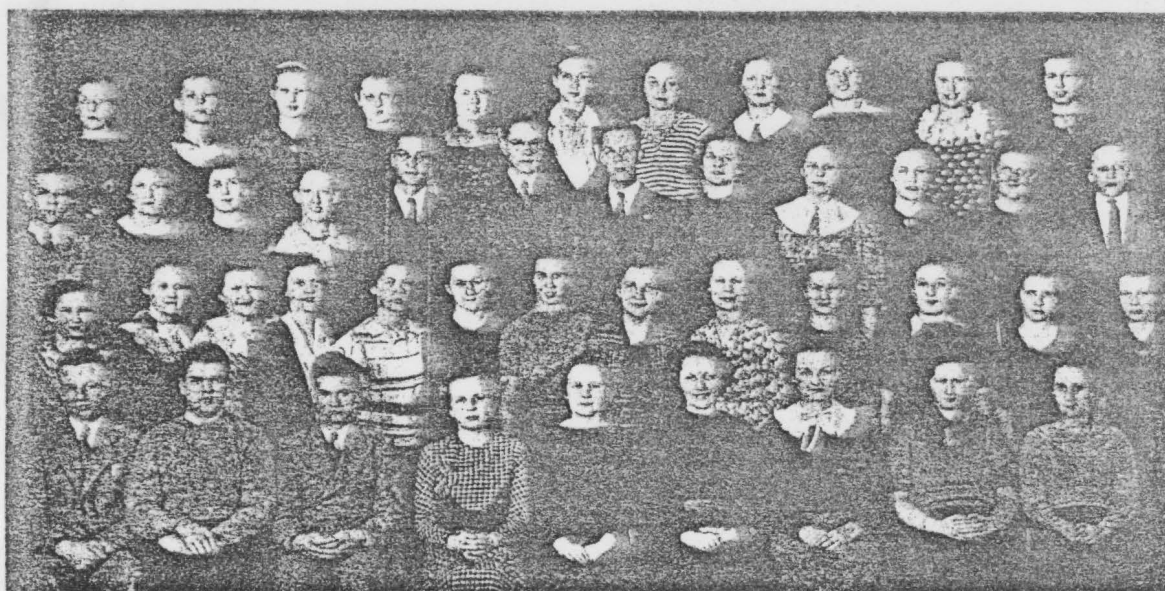
*Simon Legree at the sutches.*

## GORDON BRIEN

Hi-Y (3, 4); Track (3); State Crew (4); Monitor  
(2); Intramurals (2, 3); Helios Representative  
(1); Penny Carnival (3); Biology Club (3).

*He smiled as men smile.*





First row: James Everett, David Amberg, Albert Kempter, Elizabeth Dalrymple, Janet Anderson, Kay Miller, Marian Hazeltine, Celeste Cawthra, Marguerite Tapley.  
 Second row: Evelyn Pupel, Barbara Rose, Betty Hurley, Mary Barbara Putnam, Martha Jean Christy, Ione Grabill, Margaret Perry, Stella Mulone, Josephine Markoff, Marian Banks, Jane Scott, Virginia Waer, Ruth Mary Gamber.  
 Third row: George Koch, Mary Louise Harris, Maxine Graf, Peggy Pulte, Charles Crowe, Ben Litscher, Dewey Dnane, Betty Bloomer, Eleanor McCoy, Eleanor Welch, Mary Adelaide Jones, Serrell Hillman.  
 Fourth row: Jeanne Juell, Norma Greiner, Ruth DePree, Ruth Averill, Margaret Mills, Harriet Leetsma, Virginia Averill, Mary Walezak, Betty Lyon, Bobbie Van Steenberg, Elizabeth Friedrich

• "Le Cercle Francais" is an organization composed of those students who have completed one year of French, attaining an average of "B" or above.

It was originated in 1929, the aim being to promote interest in the French language and customs.

The meetings, which are held every third Wednesday of the month, are educational as well as entertaining. Games, French songs, plays, and marionette shows create a sociable atmosphere. Sometimes splendid talks are given by native French people. A few of the members have French correspondents whose letters add to the interest of the club.

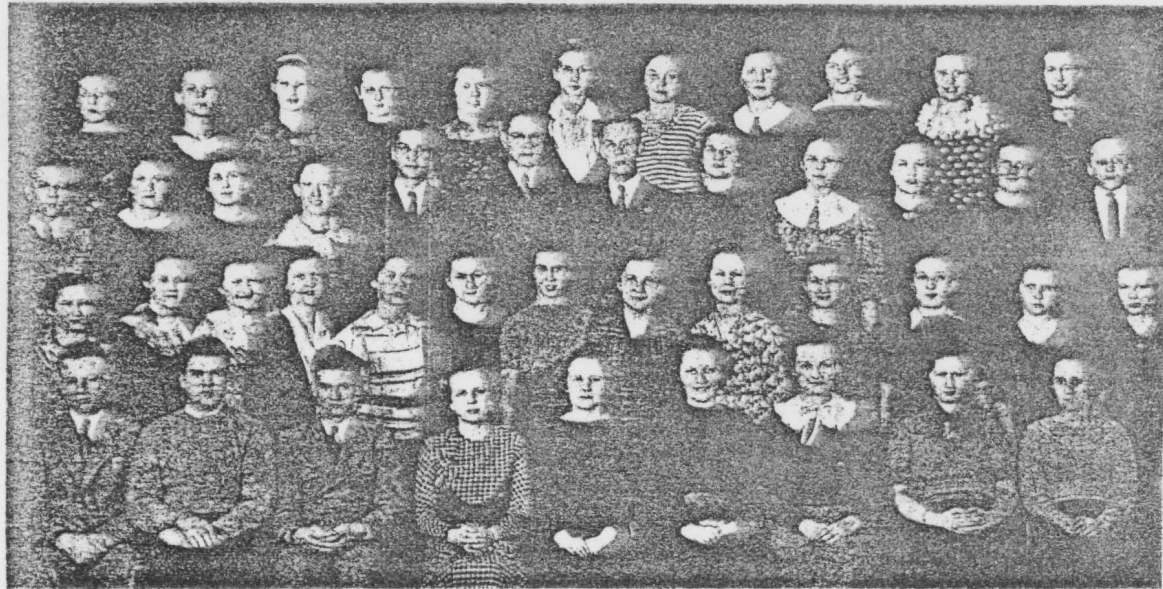
## OFFICERS

First Semester		Second Semester
KATHERINE MILLER	PRESIDENT	JANET ANDERSON
MARIAN HAZELTINE	VICE-PRES.	BETTY DALRYMPLE
CELESTE CAWTHRA	SECRETARY	MARGUERITE TAPLEY
DAVID AMBERG	TREASURER	ALBERT KEMPTER
ALBERT KEMPTER	SERG.-AT-ARMS	JAMES EVERETT

## SPONSORS:

MISS RUBY MCKENZIE AND MISS FLORENCE POWERS

# • Le Cercle Francais



First row: James Everett, David Amberg, Albert Kempter, Elizabeth Dalrymple, Janet Anderson, Kay Miller, Marian Hazeltine, Celeste Cawthra, Marguerite Tapley.  
 Second row: Evelyn Pupel, Barbara Rose, Betty Hurley, Mary Barbara Putnam, Martha Jean Christy, Ione Grabill, Margaret Perry, Stella Malone, Josephine Markoff, Marian Banks, Jane Scott, Virginia Waer, Ruth Mary Gamber.  
 Third row: George Koch, Mary Louise Harris, Maxine Graf, Peggy Pulte, Charles Crowe, Ben Litscher, Dewey Duane, Betty Bloomer, Eleanor McCoy, Eleanor Welch, Mary Adelaide Jones, Serrill Hillman.  
 Fourth row: Jeanne Juell, Norma Greiner, Ruth DePree, Ruth Averill, Margaret Mills, Harriet Leetama, Virginia Averill, Mary Walezak, Betty Lyon, Bobbie Van Steenbergen, Elizabeth Friedrich.

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## OFFICERS

### First Semester

KATHERINE MILLER	PRESIDENT	JANET ANDERSON
MARIAN HAZELTINE	VICE-PRES.	BETTY DALRYMPLE
CELESTE CAWTHRA	SECRETARY	MARGUERITE TAPLEY
DAVID AMBERG	TREASURER	ALBERT KEMPTER
ALBERT KEMPTER	SERG.-AT-ARMS	JAMES EVERETT

### SPONSORS:

MISS RUBY MCKENZIE AND MISS FLORENCE POWERS

# • Sock and Buskin



First row: Anthony Busser, Kay Miller, Chris Kuris, Russell Wilson, Lela Reily, William Proyen, William Hake, Hollis Baker.  
 Second row: Dr. Shackson, Bob Lewis, Fred Boylon, George Myers, Miss Havikhorst, Dean Dykstra, Bob Gilmer, Jack Bender, Miss Peet.  
 Third row: Dan Anderson, Paul Applegate, Bud Miller, Jack Pfeiffer, Dewey Daane, Gerald Middy, Don Cummings, Edward Hailwood.  
 Fourth row: Barbara Dorman, Carol Baldwin, Virginia Pound, Roberta DeVries, Gail Jenkins, Bobby Van Steenberg, Charlotte Kortlander, Betty Bloomer, Valda Spring, Jeanette Cornelisse, Dorothy Alexander.

• The Sock and Buskin Club stands, as its name implies, for every type of dramatic work. We gather our inspirations from the ancient dramatists of Greece as we do our name. During the past year we have tried to live up to the name and ideals of the Club. We have presented several one-act plays, among them were *Red Carnations*, *For the Love of Pete*, and *So H'at*, in which all members of the club have at some time and in some way taken part.

The Club holds its meetings the second and fourth Thursday of every month, one being a business meeting and the other a supper meeting, usually held at one of the member's homes and at which we present some sort of dramatic work.

The Sock and Buskin Club is a comparatively new organization at Central but in spite of its short life it has become very active and useful to the school as well as to its members.

The club has shown its ability by being well represented in the Senior Play, the Senior One-Acts, Penny Carnivals, and Vaudevilles.

We feel that the Sock and Buskin Club has become what it is today through the untiring efforts of Mrs. Nistle and we hope to carry on the ideals that she has set for us.

## OFFICERS

### First Semester

LELA REILY  
 RUSSELL WILSON  
 HOLLIS BAKER  
 WILLIAM HAKE  
 TONY BUSSE  
 SPONSORS: DR. SHACKSON, MISS PEET, MISS HAVIKHORST

PRESIDENT  
 VICE-PRES.  
 SECRETARY  
 TREASURER  
 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

### Second Semester

RUSSELL WILSON  
 CHRIS KURIS  
 KATHERINE MILLER  
 WILLIAM PROYEN  
 TONY BUSSE

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
1862

Fact Sheet

ADDRESS

Central High School (the present building has been utilized since 1912)  
421 Fountain NE

1976 STUDENT BODY

2,003 students, grades 9 - 12

1976 GRADUATING CLASS

434 (404 will be walking across the stage)

1936 GRADUATING CLASS

209

SCHOOL NICKNAME

Rams

SCHOOL YEAR BOOK

Helios

1976 SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

Paul Kelly, Class President  
Lisa Wood, Vice President  
Barbara Ward, Recording Secretary  
Carol Faasse, Corresponding Secretary  
Noreen Palumbo, Treasurer  
Debra Lynn Smith, Girl Advisor  
Jerry Bostelaar, Boy Advisor

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Wesley Perrin, Principal  
James Edwards, Assistant Principal  
John Kirchgessner, Assistant Principal  
Earl Mandeville, Assistant Principal  
Jan Treur, Senior Class Advisor

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Phillip E. Runkel, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. John Dow, Deputy Superintendent of Schools

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES

Some of the notable graduates of Central High School during its 114 year history include the following:

Mrs. Betty Ford (nee: Betty Bloomer)

the late Artuhur H. Vandenberg - United States Senator

Constance Rourke - American Biographer

Houston McBain - President of Marshall Field Company

John B. Martin - former Republican National Committeeman &  
former head of the President's Council on Aging

Arnold Gingrich - founder and Editor of Esquire Magazine

Willoughby Bouton - Concert Pianist

Seymour Beach Conger - Foreign Correspondent

Paul Goebel - former Mayor of Grand Rapids &

former member of the University of Michigan Board of Regents

the late Roger B. Chaffee - astronaut

Clarence Ellis - All-American Football Notre Dame

Terry Baar - All-American Football University of Michigan

The following is the copy that is on the Distinguished Alumnae Award that is being presented to Mrs. Ford:

Distinguished Alumnae Award  
Central High School  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
June 7, 1976

The first alumnae award is presented with honor to First Lady Betty Ford.

Possessing the attributes of candor, character and courage evident in her position in the White House, she exemplifies the class motto of 1936: To Thine Own Self Be True.



## CLARA BENGELINK

Photo Committee (4); Class Typist.

*Mildness ever attends thy tongue.*

## OLLIERAE BILBY

Sr. Orchestra (1, 2, 3, 4); Interhigh (1, 2, 3); Domecon (1, 2, 3, 4), Vice President (3), President (4); G. A. A. (1, 2, 3, 4), Vice President (3), President (4); Agona Vice President (4); Penny Carnival (1, 2, 3); Operetta (2); Senior One Acts; Senior Play; Vodvil (1, 2, 4); Sock & Buskin (4); Deltathenian (4); Monitor (3).

*As an actress, confessed without rival to shine.*

## MARY KATHRYN BLACKLOCK

Jr. Girls' Glee Club (1); Sr. Girls' Glee Club (2, 4), Pres. (4); Girls' Basketball Team (2, 3, 4), Mgr. (3); Girls' Hockey Team (2, 3, 4); Mgr. (2); Meet Mgr. (4); Vodvil (4); G. A. A. (2, 3, 4); Current Events Club (4); R. O. T. C. Sponsor (4); Bars and Chevrons (4); J. Honor Society (1); Vice Pres. Sr. Class; Co-chairman Ticket Committee for Sr. Play; Advisory Board Sr. Class; Monitor (1, 2, 3, 4); Sr. Booster Club (4); Jr. Booster Club (4), Vice Pres. (4), Const. Com.; Indoor (2, 3); Volley Ball (4).

*Her smile attracts us all.*

## ELIZABETH ANNE BLOOMER

Vaudeville (1, 2, 3, 4); Sock and Buskin (3, 4), Treasurer (3); French Club (3); Helios Ad Staff (3); Entertainment Committee, Senior Class; Monitor (2, 3).

*Come trip it lightly as you go on the light fantastic toe.*

## ELEANOR WINIFRED BOGERT

Orchestra (1, 2, 3, 4); A Cappella Choir (1, 2, 3, 4); Inter-Hi Symphony Orchestra (2, 3, 4); Vodvil (3, 4); Penny Carnival (2, 3); Biology Club (3, 4); Operetta (2); Nativity (4); Motto Committee (4); Monitor (2, 3); Event & Comment Staff (3, 4).

*Music hath charms.*

## MADELYN JEAN BOGERT

(Camp Fire Girls (1, 2); Monitor (2); Girls' Glee Club (2, 3); A Cappella Choir (4); Penny Carnival (2, 3).

*In virtue rich.*

## JOSEPH JAY BOSS

Boys' Glee Club (1); A Cappella Choir (2, 3); Football, 2nd (2, 3); Football, 1st (4); Basketball (2); Track (4); Golf (2, 3); Intramurals (1, 2, 3, 4); Junior National Honor Society (1); Treasurer (1); National Honor Society (3, 4), President (4); Student Council (2, 3); Head Auditorium Usher; Ticket Chairman for One-Acts; Ticket Committee for Senior Play; Boy Advisor (4); Senior Advisory Board (4); Monitor (2); Captain (3); Penny Carnival (2, 3).

*The flying Dutchman of the Class of '36.*

## ROBERT BOURNE

(Monitor (3); One Acts (4); Baseball (3).

*Gladness is the heart of man.*

## FRED M. BOYLON

Electrician, One Acts (2, 3, 4); Electrician, Nativity (2, 3, 4); Electrician, Vodvil (2, 3, 4); Electrician, Senior Play (2, 3, 4); Head Electrician (4); Monitor (2, 3); Auditorium Usher (4); Penny Carnival (2, 3); Deltathenian Club (2, 3, 4), Treasurer (3); Sock and Buskin Club (3, 4), President (4); Student Council (3, 4); Memorial Day Exercises (3); "Red Carnations" (3); Operetta (2).

*Simon Legree at the switches.*

## GORDON BREEN

Hi-Y (3, 4); Track (3); State Crew (4); Monitor (2); Intramurals (2, 3); Helios Representative (1); Penny Carnival (3); Biology Club (3).

*He smiled as men smile.*



From  
1936  
Central  
Yearbook





# Detroit Free Press

AREA CODE 313 PHONE 222-6400 • DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editorial Chairman  
LEE HILLS, President-Publisher

April 27, 1976

Mrs. Betty Ford  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Would it be possible to arrange a Free Press interview with you the weekend you are home in Grand Rapids for the Central High commencement?

As a reporter for the women's section, what I have in mind is a personality feature, ala hometown-girl-makes-good, your views on life from the perspective of growing up in a small Midwest city, and leaving that for the East, your views as a woman who seems quite successful in creating her own life after the children have grown.

I can meet you in Grand Rapids at the time and place of your convenience.

Sincerely,

*Judith Serrin*  
Judith Serrin

cc: Sheila Weidenfeld





J. Serrin  
**Detroit Free Press**  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

Bicentennial Want Ads

**17.76**

Only in the Free Press

G-54 WW



Mrs. Betty Ford  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C.

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# Detroit Free Press

AREA CODE 313 PHONE 222-6400 • DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editorial Chairman  
LEE HILLS, President-Publisher

April 27, 1976

Sheila Weidenfeld  
Press Office  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Weidenfeld:

Kay Pullen has told me there is a backlog of about a year on requests for interviews with Mrs. Ford, but I thought I would try anyway, since she is going to be in Grand Rapids.

As you may recall, one of our reporters has an interview set with her last summer at Mackinac Island, so I assume that means Mrs. Ford is agreeable in principle to the interview.

Any help you can give would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Judith Serrin*  
Judith Serrin





# Detroit Free Press

AREA CODE 313 PHONE 222-6400 • DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editorial Chairman  
LEE HILLS, President-Publisher

April 27, 1976

Mrs. Betty Ford  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C.

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Sincerely,

*Judith Serrin*  
Judith Serrin

cc: Sheila Weidenfeld





# Detroit Free Press

AREA CODE 313 PHONE 222-6400 • DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editorial Chairman  
LEE HILLS, President-Publisher

February 24, 1976.

Dear Mrs. Pullen:

Enclosed is the list of questions we are asking the candidates' wives for a Sunday feature in the Detroit Free Press, and the Knight newspapers.

I appreciate the time problems Mrs. Ford has. She may feel free to answer the questions either in writing or by telephoning me (313-222-6611 during the day; 313-921-6317 in the evenings) at her convenience.

We would hope to have the answers in about two weeks.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

*Judy Serrin*  
Judith Serrin

P.S. I realize that Mrs. Ford has answered the abortion and the ERA question many times in public; I included them mainly because I wanted everyone's list to be the same.





# Detroit Free Press

AREA CODE 313 PHONE 222-6400 • DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231

JOHN S. KNIGHT, Editorial Chairman  
LEE HILLS, President-Publisher

WHY SHOULD I VOTE FOR YOUR HUSBAND?

IF YOU WERE FIRST LADY FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS, WOULD YOU ALTER  
YOUR AREAS OF INFLUENCE ANY?

WHAT IS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR HUSBAND'S CAMPAIGN?

HOW IS THE ROLE OF POLITICIAN'S WIFE CHANGING?

DO YOU EVER WISH YOU WERE THE CANDIDATE?

HAVE THE CHANGES IN ATTITUDES OF AND ABOUT WOMEN MADE ANY DIFFERENCE  
IN YOUR LIFE, OR HAVE THEY BEEN IRRELEVANT TO YOU?

DO YOU SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT? WHY?

WHAT DO YOU FEEL SHOULD BE THE NATIONAL POLICY ON ABORTION?

WHAT CAN GOVERNMENT DO TO IMPROVE FAMILY LIFE IN AMERICA?

WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE CARE ABOUT WHAT CANDIDATES' WIVES SAY?

## POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel about campaigning?
  2. Do you think your campaigning has<sup>or</sup> influenced~~x~~ on your husband's chances?
  3. Do you influence your husband's policies?
  4. What do you think the role of a political wife should be?
  5. How has campaigning influenced your children's lives?
- 6.



SHEILA:

Obviously we are going to be ~~x~~ inundated with requests for interviews with Mrs. Ford as one of the candidates wives. I suggest we draft a series of questions and answers ~~and~~ or put together a series of quotes from BF on major topics. We obviously are not going to be able to come close to giving individual responses or interviews.

I do think we should do the United Features request, because it might blunt the number of requests. Also these types of features get big play in ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ smaller newspapers.

WHAT THINK?

Kaye

~~xxxx~~ P/S The attached two lists of questions were sent in after I explained you were on the road and I didn't know whether we would or would not be able to answer their individual questions. I had them sent to my attention to see they didn't ~~k~~ get lost.

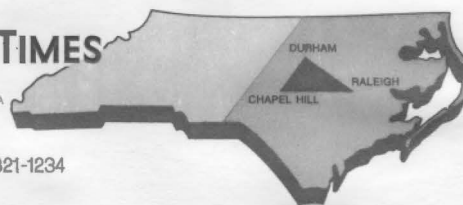
Kaye  
2 more questions



# The News and Observer THE RALEIGH TIMES

MORNING AND SUNDAY  
SERVING EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE

AFTERNOON  
COVERING THE CAPITAL AREA



215 SOUTH McDOWELL STREET • RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27602 • TEL. 919 / 821-1234

February 25, 1976

Kay Pullen  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ms. Pullen:

As we discussed today, I am enclosing a list of questions for Mrs. Ford to answer in order to gather information for The News and Observer's full-page feature story profiling the wives of all presidential candidates who have entered the state's March 23 primary.

We have conducted personal or telephone interviews with the wives of other candidates and are anxious to get a personal word from the first lady. The News and Observer is a regional newspaper covering eastern North Carolina with a circulation of 152,000.

My final deadline is March 12 and I would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

I would also like to thank both you and Mrs. Ford for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie B. Stallings*

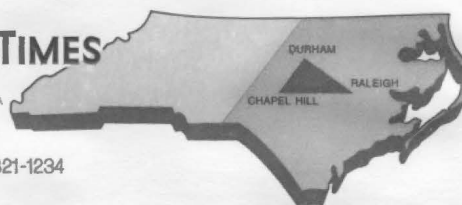
Stephanie B. Stallings  
Staff Writer

Enclosure

# The News and Observer THE RALEIGH TIMES

MORNING AND SUNDAY  
SERVING EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE

AFTERNOON  
COVERING THE CAPITAL AREA



215 SOUTH McDOWELL STREET • RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27602 • TEL. 919/821-1234

1. How have you seen the role or first lady change in the 26 years that you've been a political wife in Washington, D. C.?
2. Since you've been first lady, you've made that position much more visible and have used it to advocate certain positions. Was this intentional or is the American public just seeing the personality and feelings that have always belonged to Betty Ford?
3. Have you ever been at a loss for words in your role as first lady? If so, what were the circumstances of that occasion?
4. What's the question most frequently posed to you during interviews?
5. You don't seem to mind the publicity that accompanies your every move. Is this really the case? What questions asked by reporters annoy you the most and what subjects do you refuse to discuss?
6. Do you ever get up in the morning and wish you could go back to bed for an extra hour or two of sleep and not have to worry about dressing up and meeting a day-long list of appointments. If so, what do you do to overcome these feelings? What gives you a quick energy pick-up while campaigning or at the White House?
7. How do each of your four children feel about your husband's being President. What was their reaction to his decision to seek election in '76 and the resulting pressures of campaigning?
8. What pressures has the White House placed on your family?
9. What's the biggest honor you've ever received?
10. If you had it to do over again, would you change or rephrase any of the answers that you gave in your much-publicized "60 Minutes" interview? If so, which ones and how?
11. Were you surprised at the reaction, both pro and con, generated by that interview?

2/27 Kaye  
Any interest?

The White House  
Washington

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<sup>SHEILA</sup>  
PMS ~~SUSAN~~ WEIDENFELD MRS FORD'S PRESS SECRETARY

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC

WE ARE DOING A SERIES OF SYNDICATED STORIES ON THE WIVES OF THE  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND WANT TO INCLUDE MRS FORD IN THE  
COLLECTION BEING SENT TO 105 PAPERS VIA UNITED FEATURES SYNDICATE.  
WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION IN SETTING UP DATE TIME PLACE IN  
WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

MARIAN CHRISTY

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7 PMS ~~SUSAN~~ <sup>SHEILA</sup> WEIDENFELD MRS FORD'S PRESS SECRETARY

8 WHITE HOUSE

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The White House

Washington

1976 FEB 26 76 PM 4 08

### 31st Annual Lions Club Fish Fry

You will be presenting three trophies: the Sweepstake Trophy for the best Float; Sweepstake Trophy for the best Band; and the Host Band Trophy. There is a host band annually.

The winners will not be selected until the day you present them.

20 cities

20 bands

21 floats

Committee of judges are members of the Lions Club

expect 10,000 people

expect to raise \$30,000 (people buy fish)

this is a three day event and very important to the people of the community

proceeds go to Costa Mesa which gives it to numerous and various charities such as: boy scouts, girl scouts, boys clubs, etc.

