

Memories of Molalla High School

By Steven J. Eyman, class of 1938

I was a member of the class of 1938 and I enjoyed my four years at that beautiful high school building. The story I am writing is about the 1931 basketball team, before I attended high school.

When the high school was built, the gymnasium was about ten feet short of the present length required for gymnasiums, thus instead of using the center line for over and back, there were two black lines on each side of the center circle and the farthest black line was used as a center line. Also the seating area was limited even though it included a small balcony.

In 1931 Molalla had a veteran team. They had five seniors and one sophomore. The team had a winning record of 18 wins and 5 defeats. The county championship came down to a rematch with Oregon City at the Molalla Gym. Everyone crowded into the seats that could, and the thing that impressed me was that people had even put ladders up to the north side of the building to look in the windows. The climb was about 25 feet off the ground.

Molalla won the game and the county championship by one point. They lost at the next level. The team consisted of: Elton Everhart, Howard Slyter, Ralph Holman, George Hibbard, Donald Larson and Alvin Cordill. George Hibbard was the star and he went on to play at Oregon State College. During his senior year at O.S.C. he was captain of both the baseball and basketball teams. He later coached at Jefferson High School in Portland, but succumbed to a rare illness at an early age. Ralph Holman was the tallest man and played center. Center jump was mandatory after each basket. Ralph became a lawyer and retired from the Oregon Supreme Court. Alvin Cordill was a senior and he was the only substitute they used the entire season. After high school Alvin attended Oregon College of Education in Monmouth, but worked most of his life in the timber industry. Elton Everhart had the Everhart Funeral Home for many years. Howard Slyter made lumber his life work.

I'm sorry the high school was torn down. It was the only building in Molalla that had any character. I know all of us who went there enjoyed it.

Note: Roberta Eyman Daniels, Steve's sister, was in the class of 1931. She attended the Annual Alumni Luncheon in 2012 celebrating the 81st year since her graduation. Seated next to her was Judge Ralph Holman, '32 honored for the 80th year since he graduated. Steven Eyman died in 1999.