

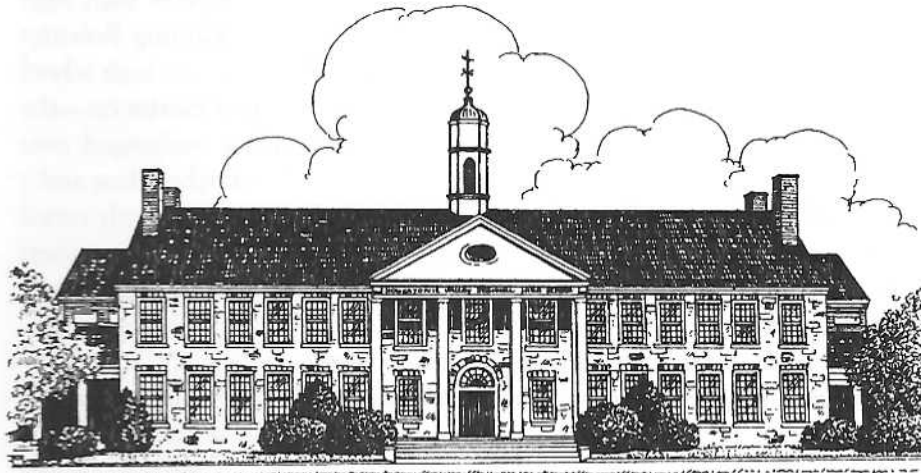
The Housatonic Valley Regional High School



Seventy-Five Years
1939-2014

By
Edward M. and Mary T. Kirby - Class of 1945
Dr. Russell H. Coward, Jr. - English Teacher 1980-2000

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FOREWORD

Founded seventy-five years ago in 1939 through an Act of the Connecticut Legislature, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School was innovative at inception. Sited at the foot of dominant Barrack Mountain and overlooking a former meadow embraced in a graceful bow of the Housatonic River, the school is blessed with a dramatic backdrop and pastoral vistas, providing extraordinary athletic fields. HVRHS, New England's first regional high school, continues as a pioneer comprehensive, four-year institution.

The fine academic offerings came to include a noted Humanities Program, Visiting Artists enrichment, and Advanced Placement in many disciplines. The award-winning Agricultural Science Technology curriculum has produced the Envirothon Team that successfully competes with high schools throughout North America. The popular award-winning Robotics activity is supported through local expertise. Established at the high school in 1950 by our founding principal, American Field Service carries on—the oldest continuing chapter in the United States—having exchanged over 260 students from abroad and from our high school. Block scheduling and a Life Skills requirement for freshman have provided our students with varied instructive exposures facilitated by flexible scheduling. Integral to student success have been all-inclusive athletic offerings. The six-town community and the professional staff take pride in the extensive range of opportunities, particularly in our less densely populated rural area.

Having undergone three major expansions, the HVRHS facility is a venue for community organizations and showcases student/ community productions. The 2004 summer-storm destruction of the venerable 250-year-old White Oak prompted the creation of an Arboretum and Landscape Committee. Through the initiative of this volunteer group of adult graduates, teachers and students, a new White Oak now occupies the site. This courtyard and the grounds surrounding the gracious façade of the main building with its adjacent buildings are becoming the site of a unique teaching arboretum, under the guidance and cooperative efforts of the A&LC.

The communities' deliberations over commitment to their high school and the resultant cost conclusively support an innovative education for our young people as the foremost priority. The Housatonic Valley Regional High School stands as testament to sustaining the three-quarter century-old vision for learning in Region One and meeting the future's challenges.

Ellery W. Sinclair, Class of 1956
English Dept. 1964
Chairman 1972 – 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This booklet is addressed to the thoughtful and caring individuals who possess the curiosity to learn more about the history of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Based on an early decision in 1987 the intent was to place the greatest emphasis on the formation of the regional concept, the early years of the school and its distinctive legacy in the following years. To us these topics of intellectual challenge promoted by many citizens are those whose history will become more difficult to retrieve as time passes.

In September 1989 The Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Fifty Years, 1939 –1989 was published. For that booklet we thank particularly the late John Leo Mahoney, gifted teacher, athletic coach and principal. His assistance in editing and proofreading while serving as an excellent resource in gathering information is owed our belated gratitude and appreciation.

For The Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Seventy-Five Years, 1939 – 2014, the major contents of the 1939 booklet were incorporated, the appendices updated and the history of the past 25 years was undertaken by a former member of the HVRHS faculty. For their excellent cooperation and vision, recollections, research, corrections and proof-reading we extend heartfelt thanks to HVRHS Alumni Association board members Chairman Pat Mechare, Dorothy Cecchinato, “Bunny” McGuire, Julie Lang, Pat Miller, Ruth Epstein, Dean Hammond, Judi Moore and Christian Allyn. We also thank David Lindsay for his contributions to Dr. Coward for his documentation concerning the recent 25 years. Their enthusiasm has given life to the last two and a half decades of recollections and the recording of a glimpse into the history of HVRHS.

This adventure through the years has been both enjoyable and time consuming. To those who wish you were mentioned and were not, we too wish you were. Such is the difficult choice of a project of this scope. Finally, the greatest tribute is to the ambitious and energetic forebears who met a unique challenge in the 1930's and established this splendid institution known as HOUSATONIC.

Ed Kirby, Mary Kirby and Russ Coward
September 2014

HOUSATONIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS

"Although Dame Nature spread a heavy blanket of wet snow over the 600 men, women and school children attending the laying of the cornerstone at the new Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Canaan, yesterday afternoon, she couldn't dampen the ardor of the speakers and the enthusiasm of the audience at this momentous and historic event."

"The formal exercises, despite the unexpected avalanche of sticky snow that the strong wind drove into people's faces and covered their hats and garments, went off on schedule."

"The partially completed high school, resplendent with American flags and bunting adorning towering posts and rough timbers, also was covered with a coating of white. People, as they arrived at the structure, quickly sought covered shelters; having to plow their way over water-covered cement floors. They stood in small groups eagerly awaiting the start of the ceremonies. Chairs had been placed adjacent to the cornerstone, but only a few took chances of sitting on the wet seats."

"As word came that the exercises were ready to start, the various groups emerged from their shelters, some gathering around the speakers, others standing on the wet ground with many of the younger folks climbing onto the scaffolding and brick casements to watch the proceedings."

"Samuel A. Eddy, chairman of the board, opened the program with a brief welcome and introduced the Rev. Lee M. Dean, pastor of the Falls Village Congregational Church, who gave the invocation in which he blessed the building and the board members for their work."

"Mr. Eddy then stated that he was very happy to have so many present on such an inclement day, and turned the program over to Howell N. White, the vice-chairman. Mr. White declared that he felt this an honor that really belonged to Mr. Eddy - the guiding spirit in the erection of this new school."

"He stated further that as this was the first regional high school in Connecticut and New England, the opportunity is great, and with that spirit in mind, this project was launched. It is our wish to make it an outstanding school, he added, and we deeply appreciate those who have helped in its success."

So stated the lead article in the April 13, 1939, issue of the Connecticut Western News, written by editor Walter R. Grannan for the occasion. In the same issue of the News, Henry Wellington Wack added the following in his editorial: "The advent of the Regional High School is of incalculable importance to all the towns it is to serve. Its cost to the State, the Town and the taxpayers is impressive. Its upkeep and operating outlays as an institution of youth development, training and inspiration, will be quite heavy from year to year. ... what the Regional High School Board has officially done in this instance was done only after a thorough test of all the human qualities involved in each applicant for appointment and in the teaching profession, without regard to political or social preferment."

"Moreover, the new principal is presumably a man not only of wide

teaching experience, but also of administrative initiative and executive ability, alive to the needs of youth in a nervous world of tomorrows, not of decadent and outmoded yesterdays. . . The past two decades have been a time of radical flux in American educational ideas and methods and drastic changes in school structures and their equipment, both manual and scholastic. Our new school should be as much an experimental laboratory as fixed in its instructional processes. There is nothing static in any form of life. When growth ceases, decay sets in- nothing can stand still and thrive. Nature constantly demonstrates that immutable law. ... The new school should be an inspiration to our boys and girls striving to equip themselves for responsible participation in the life of their time. To parents it should be an object of new interest and a freshened public spirit."

The dream was realized; the dream that came about in the early 1920s when the first seeds of the concept of a regional high school began to germinate in the minds of a few imaginative individuals in the hills of northwestern Connecticut. Today Housatonic Valley Regional High School stands as a monument to those who had the foresight to bring a dream of better education to a rural setting.

EDUCATION IN THE EARLY YEARS

To have a full understanding of the development of the regional concept, it is necessary to go back a few decades in history and view the educational structure of six towns. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, and the early part of the twentieth, towns were divided into school districts. The number varied from town to town. By 1873 Sharon had 18 districts, Cornwall 17, and Kent 14. It is interesting to note that in 1873 Ulysses S. Grant was president, Frederick Miles of Salisbury was a representative in the U.S. Congress and the local iron industry still operated. Some of the school districts combined to provide greater educational advantages for the children. Yet they were still usually of the one-room variety. Between 1873 and 1923, all the towns gradually consolidated their districts.

It is impossible to determine precisely when the idea of a regional high school first appeared since records of early discussions were not kept. The possibility of finding a way to consolidate schools on an inter-town basis seems to have been first suggested in 1923 by William M. Teague, Rural Supervisor, later Superintendent of Schools. Until 1972 the State provided a superintendent and supervisor of instruction for all six towns. The first public mention of the concept was in 1924 at a meeting of the Salisbury League of Women Voters. There, during a discussion of the problems confronting rural schools, the wish was voiced that a way should be found to allow high schools to operate in larger units. Why couldn't several towns combine their funds to develop such a school?

In attendance at that Salisbury meeting in 1924 were a few people from neighboring towns and Supervisor Teague. While the questions and suggestions presented provoked little discussion or enough interest for further pursuit, the seed had been planted. A few people began to discuss the idea

with friends. While many seemed receptive to the concept, it was apparent that most felt the idea would never become reality.

Years passed. Things tend to move slowly in these hills. William Teague continued to pursue the idea, eventually receiving support from the Director of Field Services in the State Department of Education. But two local women who were members of the League of Women Voters, and in attendance at the 1924 meeting, continued their efforts at the grass roots level. Lucille Mathews Woodward had come to Salisbury from the midwest where she was familiar with the various types of consolidated schools common in that area. Mrs. Woodward was the mother of two children whom she expected would attend public high school. With a teaching degree, boundless energy and a limitless imagination, she would become the local driving force behind the regional dream. In her *Regional History* (the story of the building of the first regional high school in New England), Mrs. Woodward stated that her greatest contribution "was my complete ignorance of, and consequent failure to accept, the sanctity in which the towns hold their individual authority." She later was elected to the Salisbury Board of Education and became the first woman to represent her town in the Connecticut General Assembly.

The other woman, Alice E. Howell, the mother of four children, was a teacher by profession. Mrs. Howell is best described as enough of an idealist to be always a few steps ahead of what might appear practicable at the moment. She became a member of the Salisbury Board of Education and later served on the State Board of Education.

From these three people, Woodward, Howell and Teague, the concept started to grow; dreams, imagination and then diligent and conscientious planning. More people, with increasing belief in the materialization of a plan to build a school, began to join the movement. But there were roadblocks, too: the autonomy of the towns, the distance to transport students, and the condition of the roads over which they would travel, and in 1929 the Great Depression.

One of the interesting elements in the move toward the implementation of this new concept was the increase in the role played by women in public affairs. While the later activities were carried out primarily by men, it was the women of the community who provided the foundation for future development. Another factor affecting attitudes was the increased use of the automobile, allowing people to move about more efficiently, causing town line barriers to become somewhat less important. The Connecticut Rural Road Improvement Act of 1931 contributed to the betterment of the back roads of the towns and increased the opportunity for students to be within reach of school transportation routes.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the six towns that would one day become Regional School District Number One provided education for students in grades 1-12. Sharon, Salisbury, North Canaan and Kent included the high school level in their studies while pupils from Falls Village and parts of Cornwall attended North Canaan High School. Many of these students rode by train on the New York, New Haven and Hartford, Berkshire Line to their schools. Some students from Cornwall Bridge boarded the southbound

train every morning to attend Kent High School as many Cornwall and Kent youngsters had done in the early part of the century to attend New Milford High School.

While Salisbury, thanks to the efforts of Lucille Woodward and Alice Howell, was the forerunner in the effort to form a high regional school, other towns were both concerned and planning for the future. North Canaan High School, crowded and wishing a more diversified curriculum had set aside two mills a year in its budget as an accumulating fund to be used in the future. The fund was invested and amounted to a total of \$23,000 before it was discontinued during the Great Depression. Sharon High School, comprised of 70 students housed along with grades 1-8, needed more space and a broader offering of subjects. Because of these limitations a student in Sharon, failing Algebra I as a freshman, could not make up the course until the junior year. Due to enrollment many offerings could be available only on an alternate year basis. The case was very much the same in the other towns. In the southern area, Kent found it difficult and expensive to operate secondary school offerings for fewer than 50 students. In 1935 the number of high school students in each of the future regional towns remained at low levels. Canaan (Falls Village) had 23 and Cornwall 36. At the high school level Kent had only 48 students, overall there was a total of 19 teachers and a limited curriculum for over 400 students.

The towns in northwestern Connecticut were not unique in the problem of dealing with maintaining high schools for low enrollments. The problem existed in nearly all rural sections of the state. One member of the State Department of Education stated, "There was a danger of a mushroom growth of small inadequate high schools in the state." Those towns in Connecticut that had attempted to correct their situations by building small schools more often than not found it to be very costly and unsatisfactory. Other rural towns in the 1930s were finding the practice of sending students to larger towns or cities, on a tuition basis, increasingly expensive. As the larger districts increased their enrollments, they also became less inclined to accept students from outlying areas. When the outlay for transportation was added, the cost of secondary education to rural Connecticut in the Depression period became quite prohibitive. It is obvious that concern about secondary education in rural areas was not peculiar to northwestern Connecticut.

Two bills introduced to the General Assembly in 1933 were not the results of the efforts of the northwestern towns. Yet those bills would have a pronounced effect on the direction taken by the school boards of our area. House Bill 113 stated that two or more towns might unite to form a school without loss of state aid. House Bill 285 provided that the State Board of Education could establish and maintain or aid in the establishment of a high school in a town or a group of towns. Bill 113 was rejected and a substitute, House Bill 285, provided that: "The State Board of Education shall prepare a plan or system under which high school facilities may be provided for small towns." The bill was passed and subsequently became Special Act 374. As a result of this legislative action, the potential for the formation of a regional school moved closer to reality.

THE FORMATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

At a meeting of the Salisbury Board of Education in 1935, Supervisor William Teague suggested that the board would do well to consider consolidating with nearby towns. The board voted to invite boards of education from Canaan (Falls Village), North Canaan, Cornwall and Sharon to meet to discuss the matter on an informal basis. The meeting was soon held and it was voted to appoint two members of each board to study the possibilities of the project. Everyone was in agreement that action needed to be taken to alleviate the perplexing educational issues facing each town. It would be some time, though, before Kent was recognized as a possible member of the new high school district. Norfolk expressed an early interest but eventually dropped the idea, and only then did Kent join the move toward consolidation.

Addressing the problems created by the rejection by the 1935 General Assembly of bills that would make consolidation possible, discussion reverted primarily to the local level. Then in 1937 the General Assembly, after the defeat of Bills 712 and 83, finally adopted House Bill 1623. This bill became Special Act 428 and provided that any three or more of the towns of Canaan, North Canaan, Cornwall, Kent, Salisbury or Sharon, by vote at a town meeting, might establish a district known as Regional High School District Number 1 of Litchfield County. The dream of Supervisor William Teague, Lucille Woodward, Alice Howell and, at this point, many others, continued to move closer to reality.

While the possibility of the development of a new school still seemed financially prohibitive to the towns, the preliminary committee was soon replaced by a committee composed of a representative of each town board of education. The new group was charged with planning and providing publicity regarding the probable cost of a building and projected operational costs. In addition the committee was to determine such details as site, curriculum, transportation and the formulation of plans for town meetings so a decision could be reached in the early fall of 1936. When the plan went to vote, it was in the present towns of the district: Canaan (Falls Village), Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

During the summer of 1937, there was considerable publicity regarding regionalization in the six northwestern Connecticut towns. A persuasive agenda was created to inform the citizens of the area. It was emphasized that the boards did not wish to force the plan on the people. On the other hand, the boards made it abundantly clear that they unanimously recommended the adoption of the plan as the most effective means of educating the high school students of the six towns.

Special town meetings were held between August 31 and September 8, 1937, to present the plan, answer questions and vote on the plan's adoption. In Falls Village, North Canaan and Cornwall, the meeting votes were unanimous for adoption. Sharon and Kent passed the measure with a few dissenting votes. In Salisbury there had been some opposition by those who felt that with a larger number of students the town would pay an unfair portion of the cost. Action was ultimately postponed until the

regular October Town Meeting at which time the measure was passed by a three-to-one margin. As a result of the favorable votes in all towns, Regional High School District Number 1 of Litchfield County became a reality.

At a meeting on October 16, 1937, the Regional School Board was formed. The first board included Samuel A. Eddy of North Canaan, who was elected Chairman; Howell N. White, Salisbury; Charles L. Gold, Cornwall; Lee H. Kellogg, Canaan; Arthur E. Hotaling, Sharon and William E. Templeton of Kent. The board, after much discussion, selected a farm in Falls Village of some 75 acres on the glacial terrace and flood plain overlooking the Housatonic River as the school site. With the house and two barns the land was purchased for the sum of \$8000.

The Regional School Board set about the task of having the school built. After interviewing 21 architects, Ernest O. Sibley was selected to develop the plan for the building. By this time building costs had risen nearly 30 percent, and it became obvious that the original estimate of \$200,000 would fall far short of the amount needed to construct the building and secure a water supply.

In April of 1938 the decision was made to apply for federal funding through the Public Works Administration. At the meeting of the Regional Board in July it was announced that the grant had been approved through the P.W.A. and W.P.A. and that the money would be available promptly. Bids were opened in September and ground was broken the following month.

THE CORNERSTONE

When the cornerstone was laid in April of 1939, it contained a copper cornerstone box which was sealed with the following contents:

1. Copy of the 1938 Connecticut Register and Manual, autographed personally by Raymond E. Baldwin, Governor, and Sara B. Crawford, Secretary of the State.
2. Three 1938 directories of the Southern New England Telephone Company covering the six towns.
3. A silk flag of the United States of America.
4. A silk flag of the State of Connecticut.
5. Signed copies of the Legislative Act, 1937 session, creating the Regional School District Number 1 of Litchfield County and its Amendment from the 1939 session.
6. Copy of the Report of the Treasurer, Howell N. White, showing the allocation and expenditure of all funds to date.
7. Vial of earth containing samples taken from historical sites in each of the six towns.
8. Several other items including four contemporary government bulletins; photographs of the site before the school was built, the four high schools

being closed, and the Regional School Board; copies of six newspapers and lists and signatures of the faculty and prospective students for 1939-1940.

The building process progressed at a remarkable pace during the spring and summer. But because of some changes in the plans, completion of the school at the desired date in September was impossible. It was determined that the school would open on September 25, 1939. Architect Ernest O. Sibley provided the following description of the building:

“This first Regional High in Connecticut, housing as it does the beginning of an educational tradition of real significance in the State, constituted at once an inspiration and a challenge to the architect - to make the structure beautiful without subordinating its function, and economical without sacrificing quality.”

The building, of Georgian Colonial design, took advantage of the flat level of the glaciolacustrine terrace, 50 feet above the flood plain of the Housatonic River, where the athletic fields were to be located. Since 1939, thousands of Housatonic athletes have “run the bank” as part of their conditioning. Mr. Sibley, who obviously loved the regional concept, went on in his statement to further describe the facility. It would be basically of one story with the east two-story level including a library along the front, four classrooms and the future entrance to the proposed auditorium balcony. The total plan was for a “hollow square” concept with continuous corridors, allowing travel in either direction for students moving from class to class. The hollow square enclosed the foundation of the auditorium that would be built in the future.

The original first floor consisted of offices, a Commercial Department, a Homemaking Department, the cafeteria, really a multi-purpose room complete with a stage, and a service kitchen, gymnasium including a basketball court that was to become the pride of the Housatonic Valley Schoolmen’s League, health facilities, shops, science and agriculture rooms, four general classrooms and a number of accessory rooms.

The second story, on the east main center, consisted of a library running the full length of the front with a fireplace at either end providing the warmth of roaring fires during mid-winter academic and athletic meetings. Across the corridor to the west back were four classrooms for the English department, one with a small stage on the north end.

Student furniture in the building was for the most part of Colonial reproduction and very sturdy. Many of the original desks are still in use today by the grandsons and granddaughters of Housatonic’s first students.

Outside, the distinctive building was topped by a cupola and weather vane. The weather vane has attached letters for the four major directions of the compass. This decorative element apparently was never properly secured since north sometimes has a tendency to drift either east or west. But the fixture is there and it is impressive.

The total cost breakdown for the building was:

Land, building and equipment including P.W.A. and W.P.A. money	\$326,946
Paid by the local board on grading, sewer system, water and other items	\$ 20,234
Total cost	\$347,180

By September the semi-completed building stood majestically in the scenic valley of the Housatonic River. It would not only be the seat of public education for generations to come but also a monument to those who had the vision and determination to pursue a dream. Architect Sibley and the planners he had worked with truly believed that the appreciation of beauty was an essential part of education and that a beautiful environment would serve as a stimulus to learning.

THE STAFF IS FORMED

Yes, the building was beautiful and has served as the key to a learning environment. But people are the catalysts that enable learning to happen. Education is a people business and the people that began the educational process at Housatonic were special.

The first employee hired by the Regional School Board was Custodian John B. DuBois. John would hold that post for the next 25 years. Paul Wakelee Stoddard was selected as principal and teacher of English. Mr. Stoddard had been a teacher of English at Bulkeley High School in Hartford and held a Bachelor of Arts from Yale and Master's from both Columbia and Yale. He immediately set to work on the search for a faculty. In all, the Board employed 18 teachers for the first year including the 4 principals from the existing high schools. As Dr. Stoddard pointed out in later years, there was no lack of administrative advice in those early days. The original staff members were:

Wilhemine E. Allyn	Cora E. Kingsbury
Stewart A. Anderson	William R. Loring
Frederick Bauer	Charles E. Luminati
May A. Camp	Thelma E. Price
Grace E. Crofton	Frank B. Richardson
M. Edward Dakin	Harold M. Smith
Edward C. Dorsett	Ambler R. Travis
Mae E. Gesell	Gladys D. Travis
Adelaide S. Gordon	Clarke B. Wood

- Josephine Moore, Secretary
- John B. DuBois, Custodian
- Richard Vickers, Assistant Custodian
- Ethel J. Beers, Chief Cook
- Lena M. Lockwood, Assistant Cook
- Florence J. Tompkins, Assistant Cook

THE OPENING OF HOUSATONIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

The historic day arrived on Monday, September 25, 1939. It was the opening of the first regional high school east of the Hudson River. The 374 students arrived and were greeted by an unfinished school building. The floors were bare cement. There were no clocks, no lockers and no bells. But the students and teachers soon adjusted. For the students coming from the four small high schools, the new building seemed very large indeed.

One of the problems in the consolidation of schools in a rural area is that of transporting students over long distances. That difficulty was acknowledged early in the planning stages and undoubtedly was a factor in more than a few of the votes cast against the regional concept. Students in the far reaches of the Region would spend considerable time on buses each day. Those living in the hilly areas of Sharon and Cornwall, the Taconic section of Salisbury, Kent and South Kent would be especially affected. But the advantages of an expanded curriculum and total school program were to far outweigh the transportation problems.

As stated in 1939, the problem of transportation, "for the time being at least," was the responsibility of the individual towns. It is interesting to note in 2014 that the responsibility has not changed. "The time being" in the area can be eternity. This approach to transportation is most effective since it allows the retention of some autonomy by each of the six towns, granting them a significant bit of that Yankee independence.

Despite the problems connected with the opening of school and a few growing pains as the year progressed, the first year was successful from an educational point of view. Specialized curricula resulting in one of five diplomas provided a much greater variety of offerings than students had experienced in the four small high schools. Diplomas awarded were College, General, Vocational Agriculture, Industrial Arts and Homemaking. For the student who did not meet the requirements of a diploma a Certificate of Attendance was awarded.

In that first year, too, a number of cultural and athletic activities were available to students. In athletics the emphasis was on intramural sports for boys and girls. Two boys' interscholastic sports, basketball and baseball, were offered. In basketball boys, from the old high schools now played together instead of competing against one another. No longer was it Sharon against Salisbury or Canaan against Kent. But old habits were difficult to break and time was needed to overcome the practice of passing the ball to someone from the same town. Now they were "Regional" and the transition wasn't always easy. The basketball team won some and lost some, but the baseball team fared better, perhaps because baseball required a different type of teamwork. The 1940 baseball team, playing together for the first time, became Housatonic Valley League champions, thereby starting the trend that made baseball Housatonic's most successful sport over the first 50 years, as well as the girls track team which won two state titles. In other activities, 11 issues of the school paper *The Northwest Corner* were

published. A program of assemblies was established, and the senior play was performed in the Salisbury Town Hall and the Colonial Theatre in Canaan.

THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES

Because the completion of the building was not accomplished until late in the fall of 1939, dedication was postponed until the following spring. Then, on Saturday, June 1, 1940, the ceremonies were conducted in the gymnasium. Samuel A. Eddy, Chairman of the Regional School Board, presided over the ceremonies while the dedicatory address was given by Wilbur L. Cross, Former Governor of Connecticut. Music was provided by The Gordon String Quartet. Architect Sibley presented the keys of the school and remarks were made by officials of the P.W.A., the W.P.A. and Albert I. Prince, Chairman of the State Board of Education. The entire program exhibited a blend of church and state with a flavor no longer seen in the United States. Vocal solos included "God Bless America" and "Open the Gates of the Temple" while several of the hymns and readings were from Psalms, Proverbs and the New Testament.

In that first year, Housatonic Valley Regional High School was the recipient of a number of gifts. They included books, furnishings for rooms, landscaping, shop equipment, a flag pole and flag, flags for all classrooms, brass fireplace furnishings, watercolors and etchings, and a statue of Abraham Lincoln gifted by The Hotchkiss School. "Abe" stood for 49 years as the guardian of the front lobby, though his "pivoting head" was occasionally turned to the rear by an early arriving student. Then in 1988, to comply with the new fire codes, "Abe" was moved to the cubicle at the north end of the front hall. Poor "Abe", he still is the guardian of our halls, but reduced somewhat in stature by the laws of the State of Connecticut.

A seal was designed for the school by a local citizen whose name is not known. It incorporated the emblem of the White Oak which stood at the south end of the building and was still standing between the southern extensions of the 1951 and 1963 additions. Along with the emblem and design was the motto selected for the Housatonic Valley Regional High School, "Felix Prole Virum" - Blest in an offspring, wise and strong. Yes! HVRHS was blest, certainly as an offspring of those who were wise and strong - and as well by those people who had a vision and a dream of what could be accomplished by implementing a new concept of rural secondary education.

By the end of the school year, work on the building was complete although some grading and landscaping still needed to be done. The first Commencement took place in the gymnasium on June 21 as 70 seniors from the Class of 1940 received diplomas. Betsey R. Beardslee of Salisbury was valedictorian and John J. Sweeney, also of Salisbury, was salutatorian. The first commencement address was delivered by Dr. Robert Elliott Spear, D.D., former secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. The practice of awarding two good-citizenship prizes began at that first graduation with the awards going to Barbara Martin and Edward C. Wike, Jr.

On September 14, 1940, the State Board of Education gave formal recognition to the Regional School Board by presenting an Award of Merit. The citation stated that the Award was presented "in recognition of an outstanding contribution to public education in the establishment of Connecticut's first Regional High School."

When the second year of "Regional" began on September 4, 1940, there were a number of changes. This time the school was ready and the confusion of the year past was but a memory. With an increase of 53 students, enrollment reached 427. M. Edward Dakin, a teacher of languages, had assumed the duties of vice-principal. Adelaide G. Fitts, social studies teacher, was dean of girls. Amelia St. James was selected as a part-time nurse and Jeannette M. Anderson was named librarian. Evelyn L. Fowler was appointed as a teacher of home economics. Custodian Richard Vickers had resigned in June and was replaced by Walter C. Doty. Thus began the era of "John and Walt", a duo that would remain for the next 33 years at Housatonic until the retirement of John DuBois in 1974. Unless one works as an administrator of a school, no one has a full grasp of how critical the roles of custodians are in its operation. John DuBois and Walt Doty maintained the large building and grounds, and maintained them very well, by themselves for many years before additional staff members were employed.

In the second year of Housatonic Valley Regional High School the athletic program was expanded to include the addition of soccer as a fall sport. New school equipment was purchased and improvements were made to the grounds. In honor of Board Member Charles L. Gold of Cornwall, who died in August, a white oak tree was planted. It was in the fall of 1940, too, that Lucille Woodward, at the request of the Commissioner of Education, compiled the first history of the high school. In November, the second senior play was presented, again the first night at the Salisbury Town Hall and second at the Colonial Theater in North Canaan.

All the preceding items concerning the 1940-1941 school year are, of course, important parts of the school's history. But the most fascinating move of the year was an action taken by the Regional Board on February 14, 1941 (Valentine's Day no less). At that meeting the board passed a rule "requiring the resignation of women teachers who marry after July 1, 1941." In effect this meant that all women faculty members who were then married, or who married prior to July 1, would be retained. Those women who married after that date could teach for a full year if they wished but would be forced to resign at the conclusion of that year. The Board concluded that the break in the service of any teacher should come at the end of the school year. Any other break, the Board decided, would be "disadvantageous" to the school. And in late 1942 the board suspended that rule "indefinitely" because of the difficulty in securing new teachers now that the country was at war. Oh, how times have changed!

Even in those early days of HVRHS, the National Honor Society was an important part of the school's culture. The National Honor Society, founded by the American Expeditionary Forces following World War I, recognized outstanding students on the basis of leadership, scholarship, service and

character. The Housatonic Chapter was transferred from the old Salisbury High School to the new regional school.

THE FIRST SCHOOL EVALUATION

On April 7 and 8, 1941, a survey by the State Department of Education was conducted under the directorship of Dr. P. Roy Brammell. Discussions were held with every member of the faculty and all aspects of the program reviewed. Dr. Brammell in his summary statement wrote the following:

“As chairman of the general evaluation committee, I found it unusually stimulating and helpful to investigate the type of educational program being offered by this newly established institution. Interest in it is widespread, and I should like at the outset to compliment the communities involved in its support of the education they are making available to the youth of this region. The regional school holds great promise as a means of improving secondary education in rural areas, and the Housatonic Valley Regional High School holds an enviable position as a pioneer in this movement. The effectiveness of the general program, even at this early stage, is unusual... and gives promise of producing...an altogether exemplary education institution.”

This promise culminated nearly a half century later when HVRHS was recognized as one of the top high schools in Connecticut by the US Department of Education. The evaluation of nine aspects of the school's program indicated ratings of staff and buildings and grounds as very superior; instruction, administration and curriculum as superior, and outcomes of instruction as high average. Outcomes of instruction were particularly difficult to assess since the basis was determined primarily by the success of graduates who go on to institutions of high learning. A school with no past record in that department could not have a documented effort. The three remaining aspects, guidance, library and pupil activities, were not surprisingly rated low average to inferior. Guidance was to improve in the next year with the new staff structure. The appointment of a full-time librarian and the addition of books as well would begin the development of a most effective facility. But the pupil activity area presented serious problems. As Principal Stoddard pointed out in his annual report, the school day (9:07 a.m. to 3:07 p.m.) was not long enough to provide an adequate activity period on a daily basis to meet student needs. Mr. Stoddard explained the problem as one directly related to the local bus schedule being tied to the needs of the elementary schools and called again for the Regional High School to have control of its transportation system in order that adequate time might be allotted to meet the needs of high school pupils. The plight of athletes at Housatonic was one of particular difficulty since after the late ending of practice they were expected to find their own way home. A few had cars, but many walked or hitch hiked adding even more time to the long trek home.

In the 1940-1941 school year, the basketball team showed improvement, and the baseball team won its second league championship. Outstanding on

the early teams were J. Henry Belter and Willis Belter. Brothers Hank and Willy set standards seldom matched in athletics and later as members of the community. At the second commencement in June, 80 seniors graduated.

By the summer of 1941, the new regional school was well on the way to becoming a center for meetings, conferences and cultural activities. In August the high school hosted the Housatonic Valley Conference. The conference, chartered by the State of Connecticut, was for the purpose of arranging and conducting conferences and open discussions disseminating information about various themes affecting American national life. Governor Robert Hurley opened the two-week conference and called for a development and conservation program for the great Housatonic Valley. He said the conference was an outgrowth of the old New England town meeting, which symbolized the essence of the finest democracy. Topics discussed were as diverse as North-South American Relations, Spiritual Growth in America Today, and the Problem of Rural High School Education. And now in 2014 thoughtful people from HVRHS and its community are still meeting on similar topics and the effects of modern technology in the Mahoney – Hewat Center for Science and Technology.

THE WORLD WAR II YEARS

With the United States entry into World War II in December 1941, life in the northwest corner began to change considerably. The school became an important location for courses to train air raid wardens; courses in first aid, nutrition and emergency feeding plans were offered. While a number of former students were already in uniform, more elected to leave school during their junior or senior years to serve their country. In addition some students enlisted in the Connecticut Land Army, which was organized to help fill the deficiency in farm labor during the summer months.

For the most part one would associate student strikes, sit-ins and sit-outs with the late 1960's and early 1970's. However, members of the senior class of 1942 went on "strike" on April 29, protesting the disciplining of a classmate. When the bell rang to start classes, all but one of the seniors refused to move. The following day a committee of the class met with Principal Stoddard in a special meeting of the Regional School Board.

But the principal ruled with an iron hand. By vote of the faculty all but two of the class were suspended for one day, Class Night was cancelled and no good citizenship awards were made at commencement. In addition the seniors were forced to make up the lost time in detention on the day before graduation. The detention was supervised by Mr. Stoddard himself.

One feature the Home Economics Department started in 1942 was the "Practice House." The farmhouse, known now as the "White House", was the home for custodian John DuBois and his wife. They occupied only the first floor. Home economics teacher Cora Kingsbury had the inspiration to develop the four upstairs rooms into a realistic training area for girls in the advanced home economics curriculum. Miss Kingsbury's concept was approved by the Regional Board, which provided the limited sum of \$250

to the cause. Students in the industrial arts classes, under the direction of teacher Wesley Winter, wired the rooms and built the kitchen designed by the home economics students. The girls did all the painting and furnishings, even making mattresses for the beds and refinishing the furniture. When it was completed, four girls in rotation lived in with Miss Kingsbury for a week, shifting jobs daily, learning to do the tasks required in a well-kept house.

This unique approach in the Practice House continued for many years on a very successful basis.

As the years went on, the school grew in stature. New programs were developed and courses were added. Faculty turnover, while always gradual, brought new faces and new skills to the staff. But the ever-present war effort continued to affect life at Housatonic. Gas rationing severely limited students' ability to use cars for transportation home from sports practices and other activities. Faced with total fuel limitations, the Regional Board voted to close school for six weeks beginning January 16, 1943, due to the shortage of fuel oil. During the next summer the boilers using #4 fuel oil were removed and coal-fired units installed. At the same time the six elementary schools closed for three weeks to conserve gas used in buses. At Housatonic some of the time lost was made up on Saturdays in the spring. This turned out to be an unsatisfactory solution since absences ran high due to students having weekend jobs.

The War, too, continued to directly affect the size of graduating classes as more young men left school to enlist. The Class of 1943 had 70 graduates, 1944 had 50 and 1945 had 61. Each of those latter two classes included only 17 males.

At the commencement ceremonies in 1943 Jean Hahn Hemmerly presented the Valedictory Address. At the university level Miss Hemmerly would go on to be the graduate of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School to earn a doctoral degree.

On July 6, 1944, Lucille Mathews Woodward died in the Great Hartford Circus Fire. Mrs. Woodward's husband and a grandson also perished. Three of her other grandchildren, Gerald M. Hines - '59, Charles P. Hines - '62 and Margaret Lucille Hines - '66 would go on to become Housatonic graduates. A plaque recognizing Mrs. Woodward as one of the pioneers of the regional concept is mounted in the main lobby of the school next to the principal's office. In August of 1945 William M. Teague died and in September, Samuel A. Eddy passed away at the age of 85. In the short space of little over a year, three people who had been instrumental in building New England's first regional high school were gone.

THE POST-WAR YEARS

When school opened in September of 1945, World War II had just ended. Students who entered school that fall looked forward to a world with new hope. No more rationing, an abundance of heating oil and the chance to complete high school without interruption. But the scars of war were slow to heal. Many young men from Housatonic would never return to school

to complete their education, and several had paid the supreme sacrifice. In addition to the students who lost their lives, Staff Sergeant Stewart Anderson, of the original faculty, was shot down with his bomber in the Southwest Pacific on January 19, 1944.

The years from 1946 to the early 1950s were to see continued growth both in program and student numbers. Martha B. Briscoe of Salisbury was elected the first woman member of the Regional School Board in 1946. Principal Paul W. Stoddard received his doctorate from Yale in 1947. Dr. Stoddard presented the "Blueprint for Progress" in the spring of 1948 to the members of the Boards of Finance, Education and Selectmen of the district. This was a comprehensive report reviewing accomplishments of the school in its nine years of existence; plans for the future in terms of enhancing educational programs and improving essential parts of the architect's design that had been postponed because of budgetary limitations. For example, there was no art department nor were there completely finished athletic fields. Specific needs anticipated in the next 10 years were addressed in this report. Plans had been developed previously for the completion of the auditorium, including the balcony. Even the girders for the roof had been purchased years earlier and were stored on the site in anticipation of the completion of that facility. To accommodate increased enrollment and to be prepared for additions to the curriculum, additional classrooms and a science laboratory would be needed. Auxiliary heating equipment would be required, improvements and expansion of athletic fields, even tennis courts were proposed as they would be many times in years to come. In addition to the auditorium the need was expressed for a shop wing including ample space for the agriculture department, a number of interior alterations and movable bleachers for the gymnasium.

In March of 1949, a hearing was held before the Connecticut House and Senate Education Committees on Education. G. Edward Byers, chairman of the Regional School Board, Dr. Stoddard, Martha B. Briscoe and C. Whittlesey Hart of the Board and several others spoke in favor of House Bill 244. This bill would permit Regional District 1 to issue bonds to the extent of \$250,000 upon approval by the towns. House Bill 244 passed and the town meetings were scheduled for May. Approval by five of the six towns was necessary to authorize the Board to begin the building process. While four towns voted in favor, North Canaan and Falls Village defeated the proposal. At a second meeting Falls Village which voted against the issue 28-24 the first time passed the measure 113-58. The first addition to the high school was on the way to becoming a reality.

Interest in the regional concept in general and in the Housatonic Valley Regional High School in particular continued to grow during the post-war years. In 1946 Look magazine featured the high school in its October 1 issue. In addition many educational publications and other journals in other states carried articles concerning this unique approach to rural education. Numerous Connecticut towns studied the plan, visited Housatonic and began to work toward the concept of regionalization. In 1948 a special commission of the Massachusetts Legislature, concerned with the quality of education in rural areas, visited the high school. Since there were, at that time, 119

towns without high schools in Massachusetts, the need for some form of consolidation was critical. An editorial in the Boston Globe in May of 1949 commented favorably on HVRHS and its programs and endorsed a bill before the legislature that would authorize the formation of regional districts.

From the beginning the cultural aspects of the school were of paramount importance. Each graduating class produced a senior play, always well received by the community. Music became an important part of the activities program, growing as the years passed. The athletic program rose to greater heights, too, during the post-war years. Americo Bedini, who joined the staff in 1946, was named coach of basketball and baseball and in 1947 introduced six-man football to Housatonic replacing soccer as a fall sport. Housatonic lost the first game played, but Milton Clay of Cornwall scored the touchdown, with the second score on a pass from Ross Grannan to teammate John O'Hara. Ambler Travis remained as coach of track.

HOUSATONIC'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The tenth anniversary of the opening of the school was held on Sunday, October 23, 1949. Over 750 people jammed the gymnasium to observe the impressive ceremonies. The gym was decorated with flags and large bouquets of chrysanthemums. Dr. Paul W. Stoddard, of course, presided over the celebration. Speakers included G. Edward Byers, Chairman of the Board; Dr. Stoddard, who briefly reviewed the history of the school; C. Frank Hitchcock of the first graduating class and representative to the Connecticut General Assembly; William B. Barnett, first selectman of Salisbury and a member of the State Board of Education; Commissioner of Education Dr. Finis E. Engleman and John E. Marshall, Director of the Massachusetts School Building Commission. The anniversary address was given by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. At that time Mrs. Roosevelt was serving as Chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Mrs. Roosevelt came to the school as the result of a promise to Dr. Stoddard some four years before. Her interest in the uniqueness of the school, its close proximity to her home in Hyde Park and the general interest locally in the United Nations were compelling reasons for her coming to Housatonic.

In her address Mrs. Roosevelt told the students in attendance, "The more education you get the better able you will be to make the nation a factor in the fight for peace ... God gives you vision and courage. The hopes of several generations of battlers for peace may be carried out in your generation."

The Tenth Anniversary program included a piano prelude by Marianne Bartram and the "Coronation March," the singing of tenor George Matthews and Elsa Borg Gillette, and the rededication of the school led by William Worthington of Kent, vice-chairman of the Board. Sitting as part of the ceremonies were the faculty, members of the senior class, the Student Council, students of the National Honor Society, students achieving High Honor Roll status the previous year and presidents of the clubs. Following the exercises a reception was held in the library honoring Mrs. Roosevelt. That part of the

program, by the students of the Home Economics Department, included a large HVRHS birthday cake.

Perhaps the events of the day, the program and Mrs. Roosevelt's address, were summed up best in a letter to the Lakeville Journal in the November 3, 1949 issue:

To the Editor:

It was a wonderful afternoon we all spent in the Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Sunday, October 23. And it is a great satisfaction to think that the idea which brought forth the birth and fruition of the first regional high school in New England was, in its small way, a precursor of the thoughts that culminated in the United Nations and eventually will give us a united world.

Much gratitude is due to Dr. Stoddard, the Regional School Board, the faculty, the students and the native and visiting speakers, for the inspiring, constructive and well worked out program and entertainment.

I think we all went home with hope in our hearts for the future of our young people.

Sincerely,

Millicent Warner

Salisbury

In December of 1949, the high school was evaluated by 40 visiting educators under the auspices of the State Department of Education. A large number of areas including the school plant, homemaking and agriculture, the citizenship program through the social studies department, Principal Stoddard's senior psychology course and the proposed additions to the school were given very high ratings. The committee recommended that the school further consider making greater use of the facilities through a longer school day. Also recommended were an additional member for the administrative staff, expansion of the music program, the addition of art to the curriculum and facilities for students with learning disabilities. The following summer the Board voted to lengthen the school day by rearranging the bus schedule with the elementary schools. This move, to begin in September, would increase school time by nearly 17%. Other recommendations from the evaluation committee would be addressed by the addition to the building.

The plans for the first addition to the Housatonic Valley Regional High School were nearing completion by the spring of 1950. Architects Ernest O. Sibley and Ernest Sibley, Jr., had been at work during the winter incorporating recommendations made by Principal Stoddard and the staff.

In the fall of 1950, numerous schools around the nation took part in a test sponsored by Life magazine. Included in the 500 schools selected were Housatonic and the six region elementary schools. The Life test was designed to measure the tangible qualities that make for a good school. HVRHS scored very high nationally and was rated in the "Best Schools" category.

At a special meeting in September of 1950 Arthur E. Hotaling of Sharon

resigned his position on the Regional Board. Mr. Hotaling was the last member from the original board. He maintained his interest in the school and attended commencement exercises for many years that followed.

The Adult Education Program, still going strong today, began in September of 1950. While the Vocational Agriculture Department had provided adult education for some time, and several courses were available in other topics, this was the first attempt at offering a full two-semester program. Courses included topics both in practical and academic/cultural disciplines. Warren C. Clarke, of the social studies department, was appointed Director of Adult Education and given the title of Vice-Principal in Charge of Adult Education.

Work progressed on the addition to the school through the next year. These things seem always to take longer and cost more than anticipated. The so-called "1951 addition" was not fully completed until the opening of the auditorium on December 12, 1952. The classroom and shop wing had opened some nine months earlier and along with other building renovations greatly increased the student capacity of the school. The auditorium, built on the foundation poured with the original building, had seats for 626. Of that number the balcony, off the second floor entrance, had seats for 180. Now Housatonic had a well-equipped facility that could hold many more than the total student body of 473. The total cost of the additions, including the revamped athletic fields, was \$450,000 and the high school operating budget for 1951-1952 topped \$176,000.

Inspired by the success of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School and the endorsement of the regional concept by the state, other regional districts were formed in Connecticut. Because of prohibitive costs regions #2 and #3 never built high schools though they did pool resources and share buildings. Then in October of 1952, Valley Regional High School for students from the towns of Chester, Essex, and Deep River in the lower Connecticut Valley was dedicated as the second regional high school in the state. Interestingly, Ernest O. Sibley was the architect for that school. Attending that dedication from Housatonic as honored guests were Dr. Stoddard and Oliver F. Eldridge. Housatonic now was no longer the only regional high school but it was still "Number 1."

THREE-FOLD DEDICATION HELD AT HOUSATONIC

In January of 1953 a celebration dedicating the new auditorium and the organ was held and coincided with the fifteenth anniversary of the school's existence. A tablet was affixed to the organ, which was dedicated in honor of the young men of the Regional High School who served the armed forces of the United States during World War II and the Korean War, and particularly in memory of four graduates who gave their lives in active service: Edward Henry Clark of Salisbury, Orrin Edward Hallock of Kent, Roscoe William Harvey of Salisbury and Sidney Shoifet of Sharon. There were two "firsts" at the commencement of the class of 1953. The commencement address was given for the first time by a woman, Helen Kenyon, who was former Moderator of the Congregational-Christian Churches and resident of Cornwall. This was also the year that

the Community Award of Merit was instituted. The citation was to be presented each year to a resident of the regional community whose contributions to society had been made in the larger community of the nation or the world. The first award of merit went to Emma Bailey Speer, whose life had been dedicated to world service in foreign missions and in the Young Women's Christian Association. Miss Speer was a resident of Salisbury.

At the end of the 1953 school year, Frank B. Richardson retired. "Ricky," who had come to the original staff from North Canaan High School, was a particular favorite of students and staff. He taught chemistry and physics and served as senior homeroom teacher in his fourteen years at Regional.

The athletic program in 1954 reached its highest peak to date as the first eleven-man football team, the baseball team and the track team were undefeated. An outstanding season was also enjoyed by the basketball team that qualified for the Connecticut Interstate Athletic Conference Class B Tournament. Donald G. Piretti, possibly Housatonic's most outstanding all time athlete, co-captained Bedini's football, basketball and baseball 1954 teams. Don never missed a day of high school, a practice or a game.

The expanded music program under the direction of William J. Meder enjoyed a banner year as well. Performance groups now included the junior and senior bands, the dance band, orchestra, the Barber Shoppers (later Sharpers), mixed chorus and the girls' glee club. Each year Mr. Meder's students participated in the annual All-State Music Festival held in Hartford.

Through these early years of the high school there was an interesting sprinkling of cultural events for the student body in the form of assemblies. Other aspects of the extracurricular program were the various clubs that offered unique opportunities for students and teachers to get together on a basis different from the classroom. The Drama Club, French Club, Art Club, Science Club and Latin Club were among those that afforded students a feeling of belonging and an opportunity to develop leadership, cooperation and a practical sense of purpose. Intramural sports for both girls and boys stressed the importance of participating in a variety of sports. The interscholastic sports program was geared for those who were able to compete on a higher level of athletic endeavor. Allied Youth was concerned with the problem of alcohol in connection with young people. Its annual conference at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania was attended each year by a large delegation of students.

The Citizens' Council on Education promoted constructive thought and information about the high school and served as a public relations arena between the schools of the district and the families which they served. Topics discussed in the fall of 1953 focused on the curriculum.

During the 1950s, the Alumni Association functioned with at least an annual meeting, election of officers and the awarding of a \$100 scholarship each year to a graduating senior who would be entering the field of education. In the summer of 1954 there was an Alumni Dance held at the high school with two alumni dinners preceding the dance, one held in Salisbury and the other in Canaan.

At the end of the 1954 school year Americo "Ben" Bedini left to take a position as coach of football and baseball in Rye, New York. Roland Chinatti

came on board as Director of Athletics and coach of varsity football and basketball. Edward Kirby became varsity baseball coach while continuing as assistant in football and basketball. Star pitcher Peter Lamb became Kirby's first captain and Ambler Travis continued in his role as mentor of the track team.

In April of 1955 May A. Camp, a teacher of English and Latin at the high school announced her retirement effective at the end of the year. Mrs. Camp taught two generations of students at Canaan High School before coming to Housatonic. Her retirement ended nearly 40 years of teaching and outstanding service to the students of the northwest corner. For years Mrs. Camp had been advisor to the Latin Club and supervised the annual joint presentation, the Roman Festival, with the Drama Club.

In order to avoid the situation of having the school over capacity, as it had been in the early nineteen fifties, the seven boards of education began long range planning discussions in 1955. Educational specifications usually determine capacity as 80% of all student stations filled at any given period. The rise in school age population, and the projections that followed, indicated that the old and new facilities would be inadequate by 1962. For the first time boards discussed the formation of a regional junior high school. Approximately a quarter century later with three of the regions six towns facing needed expansion or renovations, the concept was considered again. But the recurring consideration of a regional junior high school has never been moved from discussion to vote.

THE FLOOD OF 1955

In August of 1955 Hurricane Diane, its high winds abated, stalled over New England for three days. During her pause, Diane dumped fifteen inches of rain on northwestern Connecticut. While the results were much more devastating to the towns of the Naugatuck Valley; the Housatonic River overflowed its banks. Although the football field was just above the high water mark the lower athletic fields were completely flooded. At the peak of the flood the baseball dugouts were submerged and the water was two thirds of the way up the backstop. Thanks to the contouring of the fields none of the surface was eroded by the rushing waters of the Housatonic but when the flood subsided huge piles of sand remained. Because of the enormity of the job removal of sand was not completed until the following summer. The 1956 baseball team was forced to practice and play home games at Veterans' Field in Sharon. The inconvenience seemed to have little effect on the team as it eventually reached the finals of the state tournament.

In the spring of 1956 Roger Clapp of Falls Village, a senior at Housatonic, became the first student from the school to be awarded a full National Merit Scholarship. Only 525 students were so recognized nationally out of 1,300,000 in competition for the scholarships. In the same year the high school was again evaluated by the state department of education. Housatonic again received high ratings.

Long range planning regarding school expansion continued. In May of 1957 Dr. Nicholas Engelhardt, educational consultant, spoke to a large assembly of educators, board members and lay people reminding them if they decided on building tomorrow it would be five years before the facility would be ready for use. The pressure was on to move more quickly.

On the athletic fields pitcher Tom Parsons, Class of '57, of Lakeville put Housatonic baseball on the map. Pitching four no-hit games he struck out twenty-one batters in the annual Torrington game witnessed by over one thousand spectators at Housatonic including scouts from 15 of the then 16 major league baseball teams. In 1963 Tom became the school's first major league baseball player when he signed a contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

THE GREAT BIOLOGY DEBATE

The great biology course debate erupted in 1958 although it seems that some seeds of discontent were sown a year or two before. During the spring a committee had been appointed to review the course. Independently an informal complaint was lodged regarding the subject matter in the course, particularly the unit on human reproduction. At that point the committee also reviewed that portion of the curriculum in detail, including a study of what other schools in the state were teaching and what materials were used. Interest in the controversial subject matter spread to the towns, where meetings were held to discuss the topic. The controversy was well covered in the press and a number of editorials written. The report of the committee, with recommendations, was approved by five regional board members and rejected by the Kent representative.

At the following board meeting in December over 200 people were in attendance. Several letters were read expressing different points of view and comments made from the floor. The board member from North Canaan presented a petition against the course with 476 names and indicated that he had received 134 letters opposing the course as it was designed and 17 in support. Finally, after considerable heated debate, the Board voted on a resolution to accept the committee report with two added recommendations. The first would require the committee and the Board to continue to assess the course by obtaining input from professionals in child guidance, health education, psychology, medicine and allied fields in the teaching of human reproduction. Secondly, public meetings would be scheduled to inform parents and other interested individuals of the opinion received from specialists based on the first recommendation. After further discussion the report passed by a 3-2 vote with the representatives from Kent and North Canaan opposing the report.

Letters pro and con to the editors of the local paper increased, and clergy in many of the churches presented sermons on the topic. The majority of letters to the newspapers supported the action of the Board, one going so far as to make reference to the "strange medieval-like events" transpiring in the community.

The biology controversy went on for some time in the regional district. Eventually it was resolved but, of course, not to the satisfaction of all. Much of the debate tended to be more political and personal than academic. Hysteria of sorts seemed to prevail over the attempts at solutions. The wounds took a long time to heal. Some never did heal.

THE ENGELHARDT REPORT

Throughout the great controversy concerning the biology course, the firm of Engelhardt, Engelhardt, Legget and Cornell was busy preparing a report for the Regional Board. This report, based on a series of surveys by the consultants, was to make recommendations to solve the building needs of the regional district created by the increase in pupil numbers. The first part of that report was presented at a joint meeting of all the boards and school principals.

The report was long and detailed, necessitated by the need to address not only the high school but the six elementary schools as well.

The major focus of the Engelhardt Report, though, dealt with the high school. The board was urged immediately to prepare to have bills presented to the general assembly to make enlargement of the secondary school possible. The Engelhardt firm reported that the best solution to the growing student population problem would be to develop two six-year high schools in the regional district. One school would be developed by the enlargement of the current building while the other would be built in the Cornwall Bridge area. The location of the second facility would reduce the long distance that Kent students traveled by bus each day. Only two years earlier there had been a small movement in Kent for the town to build its own high school for the same purpose.

Two months later the joint boards went on record as favoring expansion of the high school with consideration of a 6-3-3 or 6-6 plan in "some future time." A long period of debate ensued with various town groups supporting one plan or another.

When the 6-3-3 plan finally went to referendum in the towns in May of 1960 the results were as follows:

Canaan	42 against	113 in favor
Cornwall	341 against	103 in favor
Kent	369 against	65 in favor
North Canaan*		
Salisbury	702 against	248 in favor
Sharon	469 against	138 in favor

*Voted not to go to referendum based on standing vote at town meeting.

It was very obvious the citizens of the area wished to continue with the 8-4 system and keep seventh and eighth grade students in the local schools. A twelve-member planning and building committee, headed by Francis Howe of Falls Village was formed resulting in a preliminary design consisting of 36,000

additional square feet for the main building and an agricultural center of 5,276 square feet. By November a contract was signed with the architectural firm of Russell, Gibson and Von Dohlen. When the final vote was held to determine if an addition should be built, only North Canaan dissented. The total vote on the bond issue of \$1,290,000 in the six towns was 1,544 for and 944 against.

Despite the many academic successes and activities of that period some of the successes were often lost in the lingering district politics. The direction had been determined but there was still a long way to go – more editorials, letters, packed board meetings and time. Controversy developed concerning the proposed lecture hall, the Vo-Ag building and the Regional Schools Services Center in particular. Clearly, many of the dissenting voices that erupted during the biology debate were still very much alive.

There were a number of outstanding athletes in addition to Peter Lamb, Tom Parsons and Don Piretti in that period. Pitchers Jack Bristol, Art Lamb and Steve Blass went on to sign professional baseball contracts while Steve Schneider set the current state record for catching a total of 10 no-hit games. Stephen Bornemann received state recognition as a runner in track and cross-country. His Housatonic record for the mile run still stands today.

Following the resignation of Roland Chinatti to take a position in Hawaii, Edward S. Tyburski joined the faculty in the fall of 1961. Mr. Tyburski was appointed teacher of physical education and coach of football and basketball and Edward Kirby was appointed Director of Athletics.

In February of 1962 Dr. and Mrs. Stoddard were involved in a serious automobile accident. Dr. Stoddard was critically injured, suffering multiple fractures of the left arm, hip, leg and ribs as well as internal injuries. Mrs. Stoddard also was seriously injured.

During the winter and spring progress continued on the south classroom wing addition of the building. In the summer work began on the north end of the building as the renovations were completed on the existing facility. The new gymnasium was officially opened on January 18, 1963, in a ceremony conducted by Joseph Fraser, president of the student council, physical education instructors Edward Tyburski and Phyllis Dodd and Edward Kirby, Director of Athletics. After the considerable efforts of many people and a number of setbacks, including a 12% cut in size of the original plan for the gymnasium, the addition was complete. Now Regional District I could again boast of an updated facility that would adequately house students for years to come. But, alas, the tennis courts were cut once more.

In September of 1962 the high school adopted a little girl, Loida Felix, from the Phillipine Islands. For years after, the student body contributed to Loida's well being, helping to support her until she reached the age of sixteen. Loida rewarded the students by writing regularly, telling of the food and clothing purchased with the money sent her.

And Harold M. Smith of the original staff retired from the business department.

PRINCIPAL FLIES AROUND THE WORLD IN 83 HOURS

On Thursday, March 26, 1964, Dr. Stoddard boarded an airplane at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport at 7:30 in the evening. Friday was a school holiday. At 9:55 on Monday morning he was back in school, conducting an assembly where he told staff members and students of the first 'round the world trip on scheduled airlines. His stops included Paris, Rome, Beirut, Karachi, Calcutta, Rangoon, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Honolulu and Los Angeles. Along the way Dr. Stoddard found time for a brief visit with two former American Field Service exchange students and the Chinattis in Hawaii.

The Regional School Board voted at the April 1964 meeting to name room 119 in the new wing in honor of the late Eleanor Roosevelt. The student council presented a plaque for the ceremony. Mrs. Roosevelt had visited Housatonic several times, including those as the guest speaker at the tenth anniversary and the National Honor Society induction in 1958. Flags were later placed in the room representing countries that joined the school in the American Field Service (AFS) program. At the same board meeting Keith S. Bond and John L. Mahoney were appointed to the staff. Both would go on to have profound effects on the school. Two additions were made to the athletic program with wrestling and ice hockey becoming minor sports.

In the 1964-65 and 1965-66 school years, the student population continued to grow. The senior classes were the last two of the post World War II "baby boom" with most of the students born in 1947 and 1948. The class of 1966 could boast of being the largest to date, totaling 171 graduates. Athletics continued to be successful in those two years as the cross country and baseball teams won the Northwest Conference Championships in 1964-65. The next year fine seasons were posted by cross-country, basketball, track and baseball. Near the end of the season, Donald Atkins of Salisbury became the only person in Housatonic history to pitch a perfect game. In a game against a strong hitting Simsbury team, Don retired all twenty-seven batters faced.

DR. PAUL W. STODDARD RETIRES

Despite the new additions, academic achievements, music and dramatic productions, and athletic successes, the number one news item of 1966 occurred in the spring when Dr. Stoddard announced his retirement effective at the end of the school year. After 27 years at the helm of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School it seemed inconceivable that he would no longer be principal. Granted, the last years since his accident had been difficult for him and he found the day-to-day duties to be increasingly arduous. Dr. Stoddard announced his plan to stay active in education, both statewide and locally. As a lifelong Democrat he ran that year as a candidate for representative to the Connecticut General Assembly (from the then 173rd District) and won the nomination.

The Regional School Board quickly went to work, under the guidance of Superintendent of Schools William J. Nolan, in the search for a new principal. By May the list was narrowed to seven candidates. After final interviews with all seven, at a special meeting in June, Edward M. Kirby was selected for the position. Mr. Kirby was a 1945 graduate of Housatonic. After graduating from the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, he served in the U.S. Army Engineers, including duties in Japan, Okinawa and other Ryukyus Islands. He graduated from the Teacher's College of Connecticut. His master's degree in administration was earned at the University of Hartford. Since 1951 Mr. Kirby had served in Regional School District #1 as a teacher of mathematics, physical sciences, social studies, coach and athletic director. Very active in all aspects of school life, Mr. Kirby had received the positive recommendation of Dr. Stoddard to succeed him.

DR. PAUL WAKELEE STODDARD
1903-1966

On July 2, 1966, Dr. Paul Wakelee Stoddard died in the Sharon Hospital, the culmination of numerous physical problems. A holder of three degrees from Yale he was a teacher of English at Seymour High School for three years, eleven years a teacher of English at Hartford's Bulkeley High School and at times an instructor at the University of Newark and Columbia University. He had been an administrator first, but also a teacher, in the early days in senior English and later in his well-known psychology course.

On Dr. Stoddard's death a memorial service was held at the high school. Chairman of the Board Robert L. Fisher keyed the ceremony. Dr. Mark Van Doren gave the memorial service address. Perhaps the most significant statement regarding Dr. Stoddard was that written for the memorial program by the Chairman of the English and Language Department, Donald G. Kobler:

PAUL WAKELEE STODDARD:

His dedication to life released him from the fear of death.

Giving to every day the full resources of his mind, his body, and his spirit, he left no time for dying.

To the community he gave, above all, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School which he served as principal from the time of its inception. He created an institution that has educated over 2,500 men and women during the twenty-seven years of its existence. He brought to the school, in a very real and personal sense, an awareness of the larger community of men. No local problem was too small to claim his attention. No affair of the world was too big to be beyond his reach. His roots were deep in the northwestern corner of Connecticut, but he was ever a citizen of the world. It was this special quality of the man - his capacity both for fine detail and for large concepts - that endowed the school he loved with his own distinctive character.

He made abundantly clear that his greatest satisfaction came from the knowledge that he had been of personal help to hundreds of young people. No statistical summary of the financial aid he personally advanced to those in need and no testimonial to the counsel he gave to those in trouble could measure the extent of his service. Even with the approach of so-called retirement, he not only continued to serve the youth of the area, but he was also involving himself in new projects to extend his usefulness.

Paul Wakelee Stoddard will be remembered by many people for many things: his exceptional memory, his fondness for ceremony, his inexhaustible energy, his love of travel, his sense of humor, his loyalty to his friends, his deep concern with community affairs, his firm religious convictions. He gave more of himself because he was capable of more than most of us are. He gave us all he was capable of, and greater love has. no man than this.

- Donald G. Kobler, English Department Chairman

One of the fine qualities of Dr. Stoddard had been his ability to bring outstanding and interesting people to the school. The list of commencement speakers and Community Award of Merit recipients alone reads like a Who's Who. In the years before television became readily available in these hills, Dr. Stoddard always scheduled student assemblies of high quality. In the early years the young people of Housatonic were treated to Neff the Magician who suspended people in mid-air, Westinghouse and General Electric futuristic shows, authors, musicians, drama, gymnasts, jugglers and many others. But one assembly just before Christmas in 1959 stands out in particular. At that time Dr. Stoddard introduced seventy-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas of, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" fame. Mrs. Douglas, at that point a retired educator with a Ph. D. recounted the story of her famous letter to the New York Sun and the editorial response in 1897. The editorial by Francis Pharcellus Church has become a classic in American journalism. As was the case with most of Dr. Stoddard's assemblies, this one, in particular, was enjoyed by students and teachers alike.

A NEW ERA AT HOUSATONIC

The date was July 1, 1966. An era of education at Housatonic had ended and a new one began. The newly named principal, Edward M. Kirby, was faced with putting all the records in order as a result of the untimely death of Dr. Stoddard. The efforts of the new principal and the secretarial staff continued through the summer of 1966, seven days a week. When school opened in September all was ready.

The late 1960s was a period of change. The country and the world were changing. Schools were challenged to meet those changes and prepare students for a different world after graduation. Problems facing graduates had

mushroomed and students began to concern themselves with the pollution of the environment, exhaustion of natural resources, control of technological advances, the crisis of war and peace, outer space, changing moral codes and nuclear control. Not only was there more to learn, there were more Housatonic students involved in the learning process. By 1966-1967 the enrollment had grown to 646.

Students had been encouraged to take a more positive part in school, community and world affairs. One of the school's successes came through student involvement in the Peace Corps School-to-School program. With administrative and faculty help, and under the student leadership of Senior Class President JoAnne Luminati, the high school accepted the task of financing the building of a school in India. In less than three weeks, over eleven hundred dollars was raised to enable the Peace Corps to build a school in the little village of Kuntloor.

Financed by federal and state funds the first Title I program at Housatonic started in the fall of 1966. This model, designed for disadvantaged students, was to provide academic assistance primarily in the language arts. Through the use of individualized instruction and team teaching, the offerings also included social studies, mathematics, and science.

While students were being prepared for a variety of future endeavors the number choosing college remained high as 67% of the class of 1967 went on to some form of higher education.

Change continued to be the focus in the next year. Computer scheduling was introduced to provide more flexibility. The activity period, long located in the middle of the day, was moved to the end with a split dismissal. Girls' interscholastic athletics finally became a reality, and improvements were made in the Parents' Night, College Night and Parent Conference programs. The school in Kuntloor was completed, and with extra funds raised by Housatonic students, another school in Agadalanka, India, was finished. During Mr. Kirby's first month as Principal Superintendent William Nolan suggested the high school grounds should have some outdoor sculpture. He then assigned Cornwall board member Robert Terrall the task of locating an appropriate sculpture to be placed in the courtyard near the White Oak. Seeking recommendations from several noted sculptors Mr. Terrall engineered the purchase of a bronze figure by David Hayes, 1930-2013. Born in Hartford, Connecticut and a graduate of Notre Dame University and Indiana University, Mr. Hayes experienced an artistic career spanning six decades where he created graceful sculptures abstracted from organic forms encountered in daily life. Robert Gambino and Vocational Agriculture students designed the layout plan and installed the sculpture. On October 6, 1966 the bronze figure titled Woman Undressing was dedicated with David Hayes as one of the speakers.

Superintendent of Schools William J. Nolan left Regional District I in 1968. Dr. Nolan, a dedicated and innovative educational leader, had served the region for 10 years in his assignment from the Connecticut Rural Services Bureau. His new position was with the State Department of Education in Hartford.

At the end of the school year in 1968 Edward C. Dorsett, vice-principal and dean of boys for twenty-three years, was granted a leave of absence to retire in June of 1969. Retiring at the same time were two of the original staff, Ambler R. Travis and Mae E. Gesell. These three people contributed to the quality of education at the high school for 30 years.

This was the period when drug use by students surfaced. Unlike most secondary schools of the period, the staff at Housatonic acknowledged that drugs were around and students were experimenting with them. Under the leadership of the new assistant principal, Richard A. Alto, a series of drug abuse seminars was conducted through the Adult Education Program. The seminars were well attended by parents and students as well as interested citizens from the communities. Student programs on drug abuse were developed to help better inform and protect the young people.

There were many changes in the 1968-1969 school year. The biggest was the much publicized move to a modular type of schedule. A module is a short period of time that may be used to build class periods of varying time lengths. Under the modular system it is possible to use a combination of large and small group instruction for the same course on different days. But change is not always easy or comfortable witness the opening day of school in September. Students arrived to find incomplete schedules or schedules with classes in conflict. Alas, the age the computer had not yet caught up to new educational concepts so the administrators and staff began the laborious task of hand scheduling. Finally every student was scheduled and classes proceeded.

Part of the concept of the modular design required students to use unassigned time as learning time. This approach took the students out of the large study halls, providing instead supervised, small group learning centers. The new media center, next to the library, contained film strips, tapes, and microfilm readers. There was a math-science resource center and an English-language-social studies center as well as the library. During the activity period all teachers not involved in an activity conducted special help sessions for their students. The concept was wonderful - the implementation often difficult. In the two years to follow, the administration and staff developed modifications that made the system much more effective.

At the Thirtieth Annual Commencement one hundred sixty-six seniors received diplomas in a ceremony highlighted by Housatonic's 3,000th graduate, Barry J. Hunter of North Canaan. The year had been an exciting one educationally.

In the fall of 1969 vandals attempted to blow up the front of the school with dynamite. While they did inflict damage to the four pillar casings at the entrance and to the offices, the grand building that was the pride of so many stood firm. Ernest O. Sibley would have been proud. The incident did attract network television notice, but it also helped to develop a cohesive effort on the part of faculty and students to combat the divisive forces of that period.

The Class of 1970 became the first to have its commencement exercises on the front lawn of the school. The outdoor ceremony had been approved, at the request of the seniors, by the principal in the previous year but rain had

driven the program indoors. Since the auditorium sat only 626, the outdoor setting proved to be advantageous when over 700 guests attended in addition to the graduating class. Dorothy Van Doren received the annual Community Award of Merit for her contribution to the world community as an author and editor, and to the local community in the field of education.

That year three teachers, representing a total of 76 years of service to the school, retired at the end of the school year. John Just, a teacher of mathematics, served as the department head in that area for many years. From 1948 to 1954 he was also the junior varsity coach of baseball. William J. Meder for years was the music department. Mr. Meder conducted as many as seven performing groups in addition to providing music lessons for individual students and small groups. His accomplishments are even more impressive when one remembers the days before the auditorium and music room. In those days he held lessons in various rooms and closets and large group practices in the old acoustically disastrous cafeteria. Clarke B. Wood, a member of the original faculty, developed the vocational agriculture program to one of national prominence. On June 7, 1970, in a community ceremony, the new vo-ag building was dedicated and named the 'Clarke B. Wood Vocational Agriculture Center,' in honor of Mr. Wood's 31 years of service to the local, state and national agricultural communities.

DR. ROBERT L. FISHER RETIRES FROM THE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

At the end of his term in 1971, Dr. Fisher announced that he would not pursue the post of Regional Board representative from Sharon again. He had come to the board in 1957 and was elected chairman in 1959. In all Dr. Fisher served for part of three decades. Since the original board in 1939 no individual had given more of time and expertise to the education of the region's high school students. His thoughts, creative ideas and articulate statements at meetings, hearings and to the press make fascinating reading. One must remember that all members of our seven boards of education serve totally as volunteers. Dr. Fisher performed his duties as if they were part of his livelihood. His comments, statements and presentations were always on target, always informative, sometimes controversial and, on occasion, caustic.

M. Adela Eads of Kent was elected Regional School Board Chairman upon Dr. Fisher's retirement.

In 1971 under the direction of music teacher Gary Palmieri, two quality musical productions were presented. These would be the first of a series of vocal productions by the music department over the next few years. Music productions and the senior play drew full houses for every performance. Also in 1971 the baseball team, coached by John Mahoney, won the Northwest Conference Championship. The same year several students received statewide recognition for both academic and athletic achievements. Lucinda Monell of Sharon was cited as one of the outstanding students in English by the National Council of Teachers of English. The school and community were saddened during the year by the death of Ruth J. Eaton, a teacher of art since 1951.

In October of 1971 the school joined the regional community in celebrating 'Steve Blass Day'. Blass, Class of 1960, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, had been the hero of the World Series winning over the Baltimore Orioles a few weeks earlier. All schools were dismissed at noon and five thousand people jammed North Canaan's Railroad Plaza for the ceremonies. Principal Edward M. Kirby acted as master of ceremonies. Included among the speakers were Bob Steele of Hartford radio station WTIC, U.S. Senator Lowell M. Weicker and Congresswoman Ella T. Grasso.

Curriculum development had become a very important focal point in the early '70's. Teachers re-evaluated what they were teaching and the methods they used in an effort to make course offerings more meaningful. During this period Housatonic, like most other public schools, had been witness to the decrease in the total number of students pursuing further education beyond the secondary level. New goals needed to include development of economic understanding, cultural understanding, environmental studies, the humanities and the clarification of basic values such as honesty, integrity and the dignity of man. In keeping with the move toward career education, Career Awareness Day was a special event enthusiastically received. Resource people from within the Regional community came to the school to review with students the expertise required for a career in medicine, carpentry, education, real estate, electricity and electronics and a myriad of other professions or vocations.

In June of 1972, Cora Kingsbury Scranton, teacher of home economics and the last original member of the Housatonic faculty, retired from teaching. Mrs. Scranton took some years off to raise a family but even then continued to take an active part in school functions. Her time in teaching and service to the school covered 33 years.

The energy crisis demanded a concerted effort from the whole school population to reduce drastically the use of fuel oil and electricity.

The tragic death of Andrew A. Casale, Chairman of the Social Studies department, occurred at the close of the 1974 school year. "Mr. C" as he was fondly known, had enriched the lives of many during his fourteen years at the school. Frank N. Ruotolo was named to succeed Mr. Casale as department head and director of the Adult Education Program.

CUSTODIANS RETIRE

Chief Custodian John B. DuBois retired from his post in September of 1974 after thirty-five years of service to the school. As Mr. DuBois stepped out the front door on his last day he was greeted by 770 cheering students, faculty and other staff members. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his long and excellent service. Mr. DuBois was again honored in June at the final assembly where he received the Principal's Award. And the following year Walter A. Doty retired as custodian and driver after thirty-four years of service. He received the Award of Dedicated Service. The "John and Walt" era was over.

Life in the school community is but a microcosm of society. During the difficult years in the 1970s, the school was beset by personnel problems, budget problems, extensive budget negotiations, arbitration, and staff cutbacks, even in face of projected increasing enrollment. Unfortunately the board and faculty were sometimes pitted against each other on key issues with the administration, more often than not, in the middle. Student unrest was rampant around the country and Housatonic was not without problems in that area. A number of 'sit-ins' and 'sit-outs' occurred, most in relation to the controversial Vietnam War. It often became difficult to focus on the primary reason for being - the education of the high school students. The challenges were great and the challenges were met as the school emerged from this period in history, perhaps even stronger than before.

While the conflicts took various forms in the mid-1970s, many positive educational experiences took place. Unlike the many private preparatory schools in the area, with which it was often compared, Housatonic Regional operated as a comprehensive high school. As a public institution the school was open to all students and was obliged to provide programs to meet the educational needs of every young person. That is still the charge of public education today. In this era a new emphasis was placed on the core curriculum and greater effort directed toward an exposure to the practical and fine arts.

In the fall of 1975 Michael Guy was appointed head coach of football.

Under his tutelage a very strong team was developed that year and again in 1976 and 1979.

'The Spirit of 76' was the chosen theme of the senior class in that national bicentennial year and efforts to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative began to be a distinct trend. Sophomore Nancy Van Doren represented Connecticut in Washington, D.C., as the recipient of the Hugh O'Brian Award. Special studies were conducted in the curriculum in both work-study and sex-family life education. Eighteen-year-old students became part of Project Vote '76 and interscholastic sports, especially girls' athletics, showed improvement. During senior week students and faculty celebrated the nation's bicentennial by dressing in clothing representing various stages in history.

Through the efforts of Donald G. Kobler, Chairman of the English and Language Department, the Visiting Artists Program prospered. This program had served as the impetus for cultural development at the high school for some time. The program, developed originally to support and enrich the English curriculum, was partially funded by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Through a humanities approach a wide variety of artists made presentations and worked directly with students in a classroom setting. This unique program continued under the direction of English teacher William DeVoti and subsequently the English Department.

In June, Donald G. Kobler retired. In recognition of his extensive and distinguished service to the school Mr. Kobler was the recipient of the Principal's Award. Also retiring in 1976 were Arthur W. Miller after 28 years at Housatonic and Robert A. England after 26. At commencement 160 seniors were honored as the 'Spirit of 76' and Ralph I. Scoville became the 4,000 graduate of the school.

In 1976-1977 the high school underwent the 10-year evaluation study by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The major focus in the following year was the implementation of the recommendations made by the visiting committee. The item most essential was the need for a complete systematic written approach to curriculum objectives, guidelines and evaluation. The recommendation included greater coordination of programs within the school and with the six elementary schools in Region 1 and a review of programs for the non-college bound student.

Throughout the 1977-1978 school year the faculty and administration worked to accomplish the goals set by the visiting committee. The enrollment had increased considerably and additional help was needed to meet the changing times. The Regional School Board accepted the administration's recommendation to change a portion of a teacher's schedule for the purpose of assisting with supervision and curriculum. John L. Mahoney was selected to serve as director of English, Languages and Social Studies. The principal and vice principal divided the responsibilities for the other disciplines.

HOUSATONIC REACHES HIGHEST ENROLLMENT

In 1977-1978 the Housatonic Valley Regional High School reached its highest enrollment. The official average for state reports was 761 students, but during the year with students moving in and out, the number was often over the 770 mark. Though the 1964 addition was designed to accommodate 850 students, changes in educational concepts and room utility had severely limited available space. With the period of declining birth rate then being felt in the six elementary schools, it was evident that the high school enrollment would be steadily declining for the next several years.

Curriculum work continued that year with a new direction. Community meetings were held with the purpose of encouraging citizens of the region to review the educational program. Commentary from students was also reviewed. Most of the discussions centered about the role of the school in terms of the college bound student, the student who terminates education at the end of high school and the student who does not finish high school. Lively large and small group discussions took place with a myriad of topics reviewed. For the faculty and Regional School Board it was a time for listening and assessing. The project proved to be most valuable and did much to develop understanding between the community and the school staff.

Two major building improvements were completed in 1979. Greenhouse facilities were added to the Clarke B. Wood Agricultural Center at a cost of \$34,000, completely reimbursed by the state. The home economics area was completed renovated. The total cost of \$91,974 was offset by a state grant of \$49,000.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

When the high school opened it was referred to as "The Regional" or "Regional" or simply "HVRHS." When additional regional schools appeared

on the Connecticut scene, it became known as "Housatonic Regional" or "Housatonic." In later years that was shortened to "Housy", a name the newspaper sports pages found more convenient for their headlines. Of course, name confusion is not new to the northwest corner. Falls Village is really Canaan and Canaan is actually North Canaan. The Canaan confusion is one that has thoroughly confused the State Department of Education in its mailings to HVRHS. for years. For the visitor it is difficult. And Lakeville is in the town of Salisbury but there is a Lakeville post office and a Salisbury post office as well as in Taconic, a village in the town of Salisbury. There's Cornwall Bridge, West Cornwall, North Cornwall, Cornwall Center, Cornwall Hollow, and Cornwall Plains, all Cornwall but with three separate post offices. Kent has two post offices but one town. Sharon boasts Sharon Valley, Sharon Mountain, Ellsworth, East Street, and, like the other towns, many other areas. Though Sharon has one post office, residents on the east side of town receive their mail through post offices in Cornwall Bridge or West Cornwall. Small wonder so many people are confused.

The Mountaineers became the mascot for the athletic teams in the 1940s. There were other names in the early days but Mountaineers, named for the massive Barrack Mountain across from the school, has lasted, except for one brief period in the 1960s. At that time, due to the hawks constantly soaring over the school, the teams were the Housatonic Hawks. But that mascot moniker was short lived; changed back, perhaps, when it was learned that the soaring creatures were actually turkey vultures.

In May of 1979, Principal Edward M. Kirby was selected for the post of assistant superintendent of schools for Regional District One. The Stoddard - Kirby era had covered a span of 40 years of Housatonic history. After four years as a student at Housatonic, three years as assistant coach, sixteen years as a teacher of physical science, mathematics, coach in three sports, counselor, and athletic director, Kirby moved to a position where his work would be with students, teachers and boards of education in the total six-town district. At the same time Vice-Principal Richard A. Alto left to take a position as principal at a high school in New Hampshire.

In 1978, under Coach Howard O'Dell, the track team won the conference championship, a feat that was repeated in 1979 again with Mr. O'Dell coaching. This was the period when track became the most successful sport at Housatonic as Coach David Lindsay went on to lead the team to league championships in 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1988.

THIRD PRINCIPAL SELECTED

The Regional Board chose Dr. Robert E. Blesh as the third principal of Housatonic. Thomas P. Higgins, Jr., of Brookfield was appointed assistant principal. Dr. Blesh, who earned his Ph. D. at the University of Connecticut, came to Housatonic from Wheeler Junior-Senior High School in North Stonington. Previously he had taught at Hamden High School.

The concentration in the next two years was on energy conservation, new courses in several areas, additional community and student study

committees and the HVRHS Alternative School. The alternative school concept, proposed to the Regional School Board by William DeVoti of the English Department, was designed for those students who had considerable difficulty in coping with the regular program of studies and school life in general. The off-campus facility, based at the Trinity Parish Camp in West Cornwall, began operation in the fall of 1982. The concept, providing unique experiences for the students, would work effectively for an extended time.

Upon the resignation of Thomas P. Higgins in October of 1981, David T. Bayersdorfer, a teacher of social studies, served as interim assistant principal. In February Carl Scheinman was appointed assistant principal. That same year the school nurse, Maura Hogan, a lady with an unforgettable Irish brogue, retired after 20 years of dedicated service. By the spring of 1983 the high school enrollment had declined by over 200 students in the four years since the highest peak. Projections from the elementary schools indicated that the decline would continue before leveling off.

In 1983 Dr. Robert E. Blesh resigned as principal. The Regional Schools Services Center administration and the Regional School Board began the search for Housatonic's fourth principal.

JOHN L. MAHONEY NAMED HOUSATONIC PRINCIPAL

John L. Mahoney, a member of the English and Social Studies departments since 1964, was the selection of the Regional Board as the fourth principal of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. In his tenure at Housatonic, Mr. Mahoney had served in a number of positions including assistant and head coach of baseball and assistant football coach. For the first half of the school year, Mr. Bayersdorfer again served as interim assistant principal. In January new assistant principal Barry J. Gajdosik joined the staff.

Mr. Mahoney's first year, 1983-1984, proved to be one of significant growth and change. Entering students found a new system of accountability, one, where students had greater freedom as long as they used it in a responsible way. Some students lost that freedom but many maintained it throughout the year.

Two new positions were created in that year. Because of the increasing complexities of maintaining the large building and the need to further improve the existing facilities, the position of plant manager was approved. Named to that role was Dale Brown. The second position, Special Assignment Teacher, was the outgrowth of a district-wide program dealing with Refinement of Instructional Skills for Teachers (RIST). The program implementation had been started by Assistant Superintendent Edward Kirby and Director of Instruction Carole Helstrom in the fall of 1979. The program based upon the work of UCLA Professor Madeline Hunter in was the first in New England. To support the program in the high school Robert A. Gutzman, teacher of social studies, was appointed Special Assignment Teacher following his full-year sabbatical working directly with Dr. Hunter at UCLA. In this role Mr.

Gutzman had a reduced teaching load in order to help colleagues sharpen their instructional skills.

In June 1984 Everett O. Britton, an administrator and teacher for twenty years at the school, retired. At the same time Mr. Gutzman was named acting director of instruction to replace Mrs. Helstrom, who was granted a leave of absence.

The following year was one with many honors. Housatonic was named one of the four outstanding high schools in the state as part of the national Secondary School Recognition Program. On the national level the school fared well but did not make the final stage. The Girls' Track team, coached by Marge Stevenson, won both the league and state Class S Championship, the first state title for a Housatonic athletic team. Richard L. Greco, teacher of science, was named Coach of the Year in girls' soccer.

From the Regional Services Center Mr. Kirby and Mr. Gutzman developed the Teacher Coach Program that would become the first of its kind in Connecticut and one of few nationally. After a rigorous training program and a competitive exam, high school teachers David Bayersdorfer, Dr. Russell Coward, Denise Dower and David Shaffer were selected and appointed as instructional leaders to work with teachers and aides to refine instructional skills. The program would be implemented in the fall of 1985 under the direction of Mr. Gutzman.

The decline in student enrollment appeared to level off during this period at about 500 students from 1984-86. Some staff cuts were made as the population decreased and teacher loads were readjusted. Enrollment projections indicated that it would be several years before the number of high school students would slowly rise again. In the summer of 1985 Eugene L. Brooks, a retired administrator from the Webutuck School District, joined the staff as acting assistant principal. During the year he was, appointed to the position on a permanent basis. Mr. Brooks brought many years of administrative experience and of working with young people to his position.

In October, 1985, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Edward M. Kirby retired from public education after 35 years.

In 1986-1987, after a year of preparation under the leadership of Edward S. Tyburski, Director of Athletics, the ten-year evaluation of Housatonic took place. The visiting team of educators, under the auspices of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, reviewed all facets of the school and voted again to give accreditation.

The Teacher Coach Program has been very successful since its inception. The program became a model for other school systems and many visitors came to Region One to observe the program in action, both in the high school and the elementary schools.

The American Field Service program continued to flourish. Beginning in 1950 the local chapter has been in continuous operation at Housatonic. Since that time this cultural exchange had sponsored 66 students from 33 countries as yearlong visitors to the high school. In return, 73 students from Housatonic traveled to foreign countries to learn about other cultures in summer or full-year programs. For many years Mrs. Katherine E. Gannett, formerly of the

high school guidance staff, had been coordinator of the program. Several faculty members and a number of parents also had been valued members of the AFS local chapter.

Since the beginning of the school the Vocational Agriculture program and the Future Farmers of America have been very well acknowledged. First under the leadership of Clarke B. Woode and later under George H. Wheeler and Robert A. Gambino, vocational agriculture students and faculty received local, state and national recognition for their achievements. In 1984 Wilson Korth was named first in the country in dairy production. Two years later George Wheeler was chosen to receive the honorary American Farmer degree at the FFA convention in Kansas City. In 1987 Vo-Ag teacher Walter C. Burcroff retired after 32 years in the department.

Under Principal John L. Mahoney, the 'Friends of Housatonic' was formed. This group, continuing the school's quest for community involvement, is composed of parents and other interested citizens. Their efforts proved most helpful in a number of areas from curricula to school dances. Mr. Mahoney's administration worked closely with the faculty in greatly reducing the student dropout rate to one of the lowest in the state. In addition several projects were developed to keep the school in compliance with the ever-increasing demands of state building, asbestos and fire codes.

HENRY W. BURGESS REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMAN 1978-1988

In September of 1988 Henry W. Burgess passed away. Mr. Burgess had succeeded M. Adela Eads of Kent as chairman of the Regional School Board in 1978. On June 15, 1989, the high school auditorium was named the Henry W. Burgess Auditorium in his honor. In his years of service to the school Mr. Burgess worked toward a stronger relationship with the community, a more satisfactory vote for budget decisions, building improvements and a number of program changes.

There were many areas in the first 50 years of Housatonic's history that merit much more than casual mention... the many awards of the school's publications, The Northwest Corner and The Acorn... the Apparatus Club... gymnastics presentations ... Career Day... Future Homemakers... the senior exam (a sample is included at the end of this history)... the many senior plays and dramatic club performances... the Chorus Invitational tour to Vienna, Prague and Budapest... the work of the student council... the French Club... involvement with the bloodmobile... VO-AG and practical arts and fine arts open houses... AFS spaghetti dinners... Clark Wood as activities director of the 1950's "Housatonic - No Excuses" program... Future Business Leaders... 49 White Oak yearbooks in the first 50 years led by advisors Donald G. Kobler and David B. Lindsay... and last, but far from least, the splendid accomplishments of hundreds of students.

Did you know that the father of President George H. W. Bush, Senator Prescott Bush, was the 1955 commencement speaker?

And of course there were the trains! In the early days it was the New York, New Haven and Hartford's Berkshire Line, steaming north and south in front of the school. The students of those days in the 1940s remember the schedule. At the opening of school, 9:07 a.m., the south-bound passenger slipped down the grade toward New York and about lunchtime a northbound train was working its way up the valley to Pittsfield. As the students left the building at 3:07 p.m., the second southbound passenger train of the day was headed toward the city. The athletes of the day would be witness to the 6:32 struggling up-grade to the north once again. It was not unusual during the World War II years for four or more gargantuan freight trains to roar by with two steam engines, and more than a hundred cars. But as time went on the railroad activity in front of the school declined, just freight and then no trains at all.

At commencement in June of 1988, E. Louise Frink was honored on her retirement from the school as cafeteria manager and member of the maintenance staff. Her contributions and service spanned a total of 43 years, longest ever for an employee at Housatonic. Miss Frink is a graduate of the Class of 1945 and a member of the National Honor Society.

THE FIFTIETH SCHOOL YEAR AT HOUSATONIC

In September of 1988, the fiftieth year of Housatonic Valley Regional High School began. The anniversary committee, headed by Judith Thormann Moore, began meeting the previous September and soon plans began taking shape for the golden anniversary celebration. Spirited friends of Housatonic, representatives of each decade of the school's existence, present and former staff, students and board members took an active part in the arrangements.

This fiftieth year was a banner year for the school. As Principal John Mahoney emphasized in his annual report, it was the year of the student. Involvement in all aspects of school life reached a new high, with both state and national recognition. The percentage of graduates going on to higher education, which had reached 70 percent in 1988, increased to 75 percent in 1989 while the dropout rate declined to a new low of 7 percent. The class of 1989 established an enviable record on the national Advanced Placement Tests when 20 of 24 students qualified for advanced placement and college credit. Club ice hockey and tennis appeared on the interscholastic scene and varsity athletics compiled a record of 138 wins, 86 losses and six ties for the best percentage ever.

To a great degree the decade of successes at Housatonic from the mid-1980s through the mid-1990s must be credited to the efforts of Principal John L. Mahoney. He worked both effectively and diligently to enrich the academic program while still giving focus to vocational areas, student activities and the overall operation of the school. And it is with an enthusiastic flair that Mr. Mahoney aggressively promoted Housatonic, on the local, state and national level.

When 110 seniors graduated on June 16, 1989, they were joined by 18 members of the Class of 1940, the first graduating class, who received special diplomas. The 1989 commencement brought the total to 5,870 graduates in the first 50 years.

On the weekend of September 15, 1989, the 50th Anniversary celebration of Housatonic Valley Regional High School was held with hundreds attending Mountaineer athletic contests, a Vocational Agriculture open house, class reunions and a dinner/dance on Saturday night. Over 600 attended the dance held under large tents on the school oval on Saturday. The band, "Unexpected Pleasure" played music ranging from "Moon River," the 1963 class song, to "Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones.

At the Sunday program, chords from the National Anthem rang out over the school grounds as alumni and their guests gathered for the rededication. Principal John L. Mahoney welcomed the gathering with "back to more than trees, bricks and memories, but to the 50-year old ideal that six Yankee towns could come together in the quest for quality education."

Greetings were presented by Christopher Hayhurst, president of the Student Council, Edward Tyburski of the faculty, Linda Marks, Board of Education chair, and State Board of Education members Warren Foley and Dr. William Gauthier. Five former students spoke briefly about each of their decades at Housatonic.

Guest speaker Representative Nancy Johnson of Connecticut's 6th Congressional District brought enthusiastic congratulations to HVRHS for its "commitment to excellence."

EPILOGUE - THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS

What of the fifty years to come? What will they be like?

As in the past, with the enthusiastic support of parents and the community, the good times, with their educational successes, will far exceed the difficult moments. This unique institution, formed by the pioneers of the northwest corner so long ago, will continue to be number one. . . Regional High School Number 1.

Climb some clear morning to the top of Barrack Mountain in front of the school and gaze at the panorama that is the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. If you listen carefully in the morning breeze the strains of the familiar song drift softly down the valley.

"High above the Housatonic
mid the Berkshires proud and true,
Our high school floats its colors
the gold and royal blue . . .



A TRIO OF TEACHERS

While Housatonic's formative years were dominated by a single educator – Dr. Stoddard, the school's middle years were dominated by a trio of educators – Mr. Edward Kirby, Mr. John Mahoney and Mr. Robert Gutzman. Each resided in the district with his family, began as a classroom teacher and rose to a significant administrative position.

It is also noteworthy that each was a significant figure in athletics as well as academics. Kirby achieved renown on the Mountaineer diamond and via the accomplishments of his players in college and Major League Baseball. Mahoney followed Kirby into the dugout and onto the mound directing the Mountaineers' baseball fortunes. Gutzman directed the boys' basketball program from its years in the Northwest Conference into the Berkshire League where it has competed since the late 1970s.

Regarding their work in academics, Kirby first taught in Cornwall before moving to the high school in 1954. There he taught Earth Science, Physical Science and Mathematics and coached varsity baseball and served as assistant coach in football and basketball. His Mountaineer batmen won six league championships and hit and fielded their way to three state championship games, losing all three by a total of four runs. Four of Kirby's star pitchers went on to play professionally – Tom Parsons, Arthur Lamb, Steve Blass and John Lamb. Blass achieved fame as the 1971 World Series winning pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He and Kirby were inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches' Hall of Fame in 1983, the first player – coach duo to ever be so honored.

In 1966, Kirby became Housatonic's second Principal, and subsequently was appointed Assistant Superintendent in 1979 where he served until his retirement in 1985.

Mahoney arrived as an English teacher in 1964 and was appointed Director of Humanities in 1978. After many years coordinating the school's 9-12 Humanities curriculum that linked English and Social Studies with supplementary content from Art and Music. He was appointed Principal in 1983 where he served until his retirement in 1995. The Regional School District #1 Board of Education approved a sabbatical for Principal Mahoney for the 1990-91 school year. To support that decision both educationally and fiscally, an administrative team of administrators and teachers was created to collaboratively cover all of the Principal's responsibilities. During his sabbatical year, Mahoney studied and visited exemplary American schools and programs, and brought many ideas back to Housatonic.

Gutzman arrived all the way from Salmon, Idaho, although he had spent his undergraduate years in Connecticut at Trinity College in Hartford. He commenced his teaching career in the Social Studies department. As the district's long-term professional development program evolved, he became the high school's Special Assignment Teacher following a sabbatical year studying with Dr. Madeleine Hunter in her lab school at UCLA. His next move was into the Central Office as Director of Instruction with Superintendent Val Bernardoni.

As teachers, coaches and residents of the district, all three were deeply connected to the schools and their communities. During the later years of the 20th century when more and more Americans were working just to pay the bills and more and more teachers were commuters working in districts where they did not live, the professional and personal lives of these three teachers, coaches, parents, and neighbors had been unusually integrated.

EXCELLENCE AND RECOGNITION

During the decade from the late 1970s to the late 1980s, under superintendents James Erviti, Joseph Robitaille, and Val Bernardoni and led by Kirby, Mahoney, and Gutzman both the district and the high school in particular gained national acclaim as a result of a long-term professional development program focusing on effective teaching. Erviti is credited with discovering the program and bringing it from Southern California all the way across the country to northwestern Connecticut.

UCLA Professor Madeline Hunter had gained national attention for her Instructional Theory Into Practice (ITIP) approach which shifted the primary focus in education from being on what teachers were doing into what students were learning. This program was modified by Kirby and Carole Hellstrom and renamed for the district and the high school as Refinement of Instructional Skills for Teachers – RIST

Initially, all administrators were “RIST-ed” as the program and terminology was introduced. Then in the spring of 1980, workshops were offered to teachers on a voluntary basis. Early volunteers recruited undecided and occasionally reluctant colleagues to volunteer for subsequent workshops. By the end of 1983, all teachers in Region One had been “RIST-ed.” And each newly hired teacher thereafter attended a three-day RIST introduction workshop prior to the beginning the school year.

To ensure that teachers felt actively involved in the development of the program rather than merely passive recipients of it, optional orientation sessions were scheduled and conducted by Hellstrom and Kirby during the spring of 1980 with limits on the number of teacher participants. When there were more volunteers than could be accommodated by the workshops, additional workshops were scheduled.

Gutzman was one of the initial volunteers and a year later he applied for a Graduate Assistantship to work with Dr. Hunter at UCLA, was accepted and awarded a sabbatical to spend the year there. Upon his return he was appointed as the high school’s Special Assignment Teacher to work with teachers deemed in need of support by the Principal and others who volunteered to have him visit their classrooms, observe their lessons and discuss his observations later.

Additionally a new level of the RIST program was implemented. In addition to improving each teacher’s effectiveness, RIST valued collegial support among teachers outside of the boundaries of teacher evaluation. What eventually became the district Teacher Coaching Program emerged. For the 1985-86 and 1986-87 school years, four Teacher Coaches were

appointed to work with colleagues at the high school and one each at the six K-8 schools. Each Teacher Coach was given a 20 percent reduction in his or her contracted teaching obligations in exchange for weekly work supporting the RIST program by conferring with colleagues before and after visiting their classes.

News of the success of RIST spread throughout Connecticut. Frequently the high school hosted teams of visiting teachers from districts across the state. Additionally, Region 1 teachers were invited to conduct workshops and professional development activities at other school districts - Bethel, Watertown and Shepaug Valley Regional High School. Eventually visitors included representatives of the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), and Housatonic became a key contributor to its statewide initiatives to strengthen teacher competency and improve the induction and assessment of beginning teachers.

Dr. Russell Coward teamed with CSDE leader Marjorie Bradley to present the Region One peer coaching program at a national in-service conference in Denver in 1986. Dr. Coward was the only classroom teacher presenting at the conference among school administrators, state department of education officials and university professors. Dr. Bradley deemed Region One, "the lighthouse of Connecticut."

As Connecticut embarked upon its Educational Enhancement Act, classroom teachers joined university professors and CSDE officials teaching summer workshops for Connecticut teachers who sought certifications as either Cooperating Teachers to work with student teachers or as Mentors to support beginning teachers in their initial three years of teaching.

The success of Housatonic led to it being considered by the United States Education Department for national recognition. Following a site visit from representatives of the US Department of Education, its Secondary School Recognition Program identified Housatonic as one of the four highest ranked high schools in Connecticut. Housatonic was the only regional high school so honored. The other three were all long-established affluent suburban schools.

ATHLETICS

Back in 1941, Housatonic fielded only three teams – soccer, basketball and baseball; all boys, of course.

When Ed Tyburski arrived at Housatonic in 1960, in addition to his \$2000 salary as a Physical Education teacher, he was thrilled to be able to earn another \$100 for coaching football, and another for basketball. As Athletic Director, he spearheaded the addition of girls' sports in the 1967 - 1968, years before the Title IX legislation that required them nationwide. The first girl's sports included field hockey, basketball and softball, each coached by physical education teacher Bonnie Maskery.

Tyburski's dedication to the athletic program at his school and throughout the state resulted in his being elected as President of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors in 1986. In the mid-1980s, as a result of

Increasing athletic options for Housatonic students, nearly 50 percent were participating in interscholastic sports.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School was recognized as the overall winner of the prestigious Michael's Achievement Cup for the best high school sports program of all the other 169 high schools in the State of Connecticut for the 1988 – 89 seasons. Housatonic was the very first small school in the five-year history of the Michael's Achievement Cup to capture this honor.

Housatonic then placed first in 1991 and second in 1992 in the Class 'S' Division of Michael's Cup competition. There were 206 varsity athletes from 1989 – 92 who played a part in winning the overall Michael's Cup in 1989. They went on to spawn eight Housatonic Hall of Famers, win 23 All State awards and earn 106 All-League recognitions with a win-loss record of 591 – 432 – 27.

Another key figure as both an educator and coach was Roland Chinatti, who arrived at Housatonic fresh out of Springfield College where he had played football and basketball and earned his teaching credentials.

In 1960, Chinatti left Housatonic to teach and coach at Iolani HS in Hawaii, but returned in 1970 as a Guidance Counselor and resumed his coaching. In 1995, his girls' varsity tennis team served and volleyed its way to a perfect 18 – 0 record and the first Berkshire League title for the netwomen. He and his wife, Dottie Lou, probably set a state if not a national record for more games seen as coaches, parents, and just plain fans.

As Housatonic begins its 76th year, Roland and Dottie Lou will be on the hillside this fall, in the bleachers this winter and wondering around the playing fields or tennis courts in the spring supporting Housatonic's current 22 teams.

FALL SPORTS

Although her Housatonic field hockey team never had a winning season, Jennifer Gutzman took her Berkshire League All Star honors on to the University of Massachusetts where she played four seasons at the highest level of Division I field hockey. Despite tearing her ACL in her sophomore year, as a senior she earned NCAA Academic All American honors.

In the fall of 1990, Coach Mike Guy's gridders finished the season unbeaten and a Pequot League Champions, topped Gilbert in the annual Thanksgiving Day Berkshire Bowl, and earned a ticket to the CIAC Class S championship game. Although denied the state title by Derby, 1990 still stands as Housatonic's most outstanding gridiron season since 11-man football began in 1953.

Jason Paruta was Housatonic's first boys' Berkshire League cross country champion in 1988. Then in 1996, Jeremy Gardner was the school's second Berkshire League's boys' cross country titlist.

In 1986, Tina Paruta was the Berkshire league's girls' cross country MVP. Soon thereafter, Kim Borst posted back-to-back undefeated fall seasons, highlighted by two consecutive Berkshire League Championships in 1987 and 1988. She also placed second in the Class S championship meet and eighth in the New England Championships.

In 1980, the boys' soccer team lead by Ron Laigle and Rick Sieller tied Northwestern atop the Berkshire League at the end of the season, but lost to the Hilltoppers in a playoff at Litchfield for the championship. In 1988, led by goalkeeper Russ Coward and striker Chad Segalla, Housatonic finished second in the Berkshire League, and made its strongest run ever in the Class S tournament, losing to eventual champion Cromwell in a semifinal match. Finally, in 2005, coaches Hoot Belter and Jim Terrell directed Housatonic to its first and only Berkshire League boys' soccer championship.

The girls' soccer program has a strong winning history, winning five championships in two different leagues and under three different coaches. Under Coach Dick Greco and led by two-time Class S All State defender, Nancy Upshaw, Housatonic claimed three consecutive Western Connecticut Girls' Soccer League titles in 1982, 1983, and 1984. In 1990, under Coach Bruce Adams, the team won its first Berkshire League championship. In 2007, under Coach John Hay, and powered by All Staters Hannah Savage, Maggie Yahn, Kayla Robinson, and Meredith Carling, the team added a second Berkshire League Championship. Savage earned All New England accolades in addition to her league and state honors.

Paxton Thornton was a Berkshire League Volleyball All Star in her junior and senior seasons, and was named to the Class S All State team as a senior.

WINTER SPORTS

Under Coach Jim Terrell's guidance, Housatonic's alpine skiing team won back-to-back Berkshire League titles in the winters of 2010 and 2011.

During the 1988-89 basketball season, Coach Dave Bayersdorfer's Mountaineers posted a 16 – 2 record to tie Northwestern atop the Berkshire League. The senior-dominated team was led by Housatonic's only Berkshire League MVP, Russ Coward, and classmates John Ruotolo, Jeff Nordland, Jamie Cecchinato and Peter Bishop. The 1988-89 team's Berkshire League co-championship remains the pinnacle of Housatonic's boys' basketball history.

Coached by Kevin Riley (HVRHS, 1978) the Housatonic Girls' Basketball team experienced unparalleled success in the decades 1990 – 2010. A stretch that saw them make the state tournament nineteen of twenty seasons, four seasons of twenty plus wins, four league championships, three league tournament titles, eighteen CIAC State Tournament victories with five 1000 point scorers passing through the program. These were Bridget Neville (1991), Angel Martin (1996), Shannon Martin (1999), Cathy Mechare (2001), and Paxton Thornton (2009). In addition, there were a number of Berkshire League First Team members as well as Connecticut Class S All-Staters. Coach Riley credited team success to a combination of hard work, good game preparation, and few good bounces, and everyone doing their part.

In the 2013 – 2014 season under Coach Frank Hadsell (HVRHS, 1971), the Housatonic girls' team again qualified and won the first round of the CIAC State Tournament.

An Indoor Track team was started in 1970. The 4 X 220 yard relay team of Scott Monroe, Kip Paulsen, Roger Dennehy and Ross Gard won the Northwest Conference championship. In the 1980s, distance runners Greg Ferris and Kim Borst, and shot putter Heather Kochman earned All State laurels.

Math teacher and wrestling coach, Dick Greco, led Housatonic to its lone Berkshire League championship in 1988. Mike Spadaccini went on to earn All State honors.

Although the next year's wrestling team coached by Dave Lindsay finished second in the Berkshire League, its season was highlighted by stellar league and state performances from Mike Spadaccini, Jason Spadaccini, Jason Harmon and Jason Fechteler, who each won Berkshire League and Class S championships. Mike Spadaccini won the Connecticut State Open championship and finished second in the New England championships.

Also noteworthy was the wrestling of Juliet Lyon, not only the first female wrestler in the Berkshire League, but also the first Berkshire League champion.

SPRING SPORTS

In the spring of 1991, Coach Mike DeMazza's baseball team finished the season as Berkshire League co-champions.

Golf Coach Dave Bayersdorfer guided Housatonic to five Berkshire League titles in six years from 1979 to 1984. His 1983 team of Leonard Allyn, Shawn Daley, Steve Godburn and Pat Mallory was runner-up in the Connecticut Division II Championship meet.

Championship meet. Bayersdorfer's successor John McGuire led Housatonic to a runner-up finish in the Connecticut Division IV State Championship meet in 2005, and to the top two years later winning the Division IV Championship.

Although Housatonic has yet to capture a BL softball championship, many players have earned individual BL All Star honors. Shortstop Jaime Conklin was selected as a league star for three consecutive years and then added Class S All State laurels in 2012.

A late arrival on the Berkshire League tennis scene, Housatonic began competing in the spring of 1989. Led by Kent brothers Ryan and Neil Gibson, Brendan Tapley and senior football and basketball standout John Ruotolo, the Housatonic netmen finished 9-9 in their rookie season. Led by Tapley in his senior season, they won their first of six BL championships defeating perennial champion Northwestern on the Lakeville town courts in the season's final match.

They compiled 12 straight winning seasons before failing to win half their matches in 2001. Nonetheless, that season ended with a historic triumph. First and second singles players Adam Morse and CJ Wood teamed up to play as a doubles team and win the CIAC Class S doubles championship.

Twelve years later in 2013, exchange student Ferdinand Gelbrich from Germany won the CIAC Class S singles championship. Hosted by Edgar and Lyndell Giffenig of Lakeville, Ferdi made his presence known the first time he stepped onto the court for Physical Education teacher and coach Jeff Tripp. "It became obvious during our first week of practice that he was our best player," recalled Tripp. Ferdi served, hit and volleyed his way to an unbeaten and virtually unchallenged BL season. Confirming the accuracy of his 14-0 regular season, Ferdi won the BL Tournament singles championship losing only a single game in four matches. But his BL records only earned him a sixth seed for the state tourney. "I still didn't really know how good he was because he hadn't been challenged," recalled Tripp.

The coach soon learned. After cruising through three matches without losing a game, Ferdi encountered all that he could handle in his quarterfinal match in oppressive heat. He lost his first set of the year, and fought his way into a third set tiebreaker where he survived two match points before prevailing and earning a ticket to a semifinal that he won easily to stride into the finals against the defending Class S champion from Granby. Despite falling behind early, Ferdi won in straight sets for his and the school's historic victory.

In the spring of 1995, Guidance Counselor and Housatonic coach Roland Chinatti led the girls' tennis team to its first and to this date only Berkshire League championship. Chinatti's charges posted a perfect 18-0 record in claiming their landmark title.

Science teacher and coach Dave Lindsay's boys' track and field teams won consecutive BL titles in 1983, 1984, and 1985, and added a fourth championship in 1988. Also noteworthy during the 1980s was Housatonic's dominance in the pole vault. Mountaineer vaulters won 9 of the 10 individual

championships during that decade, and the 1991 team added another BL championship banner to those on display in the gym.

Coach Marge Stevenson's girls' team won BL titles in both 1985 and 1988, and added the laurels of Class S champions in each of those years. The 1985 team was undefeated and the first Housatonic team to win a state championship in any sport. In 1988, Kim Borst and Heather Kochman were BL tri-champions on the track and in the field respectively. Borst went on to win Class championships in the 400 and 800-meter runs, and Kochman claimed the first place awards in the discus and the javelin to lead Housatonic to a tie for the Class S team championship with Northwest Catholic.

Niki Geyselaers was the BL and Class S champion in both the 100 and 200 meter dashes and the 300 meter hurdles in 1998.

In 2013, Katie Heacox was the BL, Class S and CIAC State Open Track and Field champion in the hammer throw. Her father Chris Heacox had been a Mountaineer BL champion thrower and has coached Housatonic's throwers for many years.

EXPANSION CONTINUES

Major expansion of the school and renovation of the existing building was completed in 2001. Featured changes included a new Agricultural Education Center, dedicated to Clarke B. Wood, a new Library and Media Center dedicated to Paul W. Stoddard and all new Science laboratories.

Part of that turn-of-the-century project included the closing of the former Clarke B. Wood Agriculture Center. That closing proved temporary, however, after sitting dormant for ten years the structure has been transformed into the Mahoney – Hewett Science and Technology Center (STC). Named in honor of former Principal Jack Mahoney and Diane Hewat, founder and key member of the 21st Century Foundation respectively, the STC now is a community resource and the home of the Housatonic robotics team. On homecoming Weekend in October 2003, the south courtyard was dedicated to former Assistant Principal Eugene Brooks. In 2007, following improvements, the school's track was named the David B. Lindsay track in honor of the former Science teacher and Track and Field coach whose student-athletes captured numerous Berkshire League and Connecticut individual and team laurels. In 2005, the school's four tennis courts were named the John L. Mahoney – Roland Chinatti courts in honor of the former principal and guidance counselor respectively.

ROBOTICS

One of Housatonic's most conspicuous achievements in the 21st century has been the creation and development of its Robotics team – the Who'sCTEKS. While formal curricular incorporation of robotics began quite inconspicuously in 1993, the Who'sCTEKS did not begin competing until 2001.

In 1993, robotics was a three-week unit of study in David Lindsay's "Introduction to Science" course for ninth graders. Eight years later Lindsay, Science Department colleague Dr. Tom Schindler and Agriculture Education Department Chair Mark Burdick co-founded the official team. That year the team joined "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology" (FIRST) – an international organization sponsoring pre-engineering competitions for high school students.

FIRST was the brainchild of Manchester NH inventor and entrepreneur Dean Kamen of Segway fame and Massachusetts Institute of Technology Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering Woodie Flowers. Their collaboration created FIRST in 1990 and the first FIRST competitions were held in 1992 in New Hampshire.

Immediate support for the Who'sCTEKS was provided by Senior Engineer at Becton – Dickinson Andy Brockway and many of his BD colleagues. This was the first of numerous school and community collaborations supporting the evolution of robotics at Housatonic. The team's first "bot" was constructed and tested in Lindsay's garage on Beebe Hill Road less than a mile from the school. At the team's first FIRST competition in the United Technologies Corporation New England Regional championships in Hartford, it earned a sixth place finish.

In 2002, led by team captain and primary driver Tom Beucler, the team returned to Hartford and earned the "fastest bot" award and a ticket to the national FIRST championships in Orlando. Also of great significance that year, Housatonic was awarded an engineering award for having a team featuring 58 percent female students.

In the following decade, the team's success continued competitively and cooperatively. Each year it did well in its regional competitions and won the New England Regional and the Mid-Atlantic Regional in 2004. Four times it qualified for the FIRST national championships. And in four of those ten years, Housatonic mentored beginning robotics teams at Litchfield High School, the Kent School, Northwestern Regional and Simon's Rock in Massachusetts.

A Winter Wednesday Lecture series showcasing local speakers on a wide variety of Science and Technology topics is one of the many community activities at the STC.

In 2005, new 21st Century Chair John Perotti led the process of saving and transforming the building. Cornwall architect Einar Lindholm produced the formal plans for saving and transforming the building that were submitted to and approved by the State of Connecticut and subsequently approved by the local building inspector and fire marshal so that construction could commence.

In 2011 Dave Lindsay was appointed STC Coordinator, and when renovation was completed in 2013, he announced that, "This is just the beginning for the STC." In 2014, Robotics team #716 established permanent residency in the building.

THE ENVIROTHON TEAM

Housatonic students have continued to expand their horizons beyond northwestern Connecticut in areas other than Robotics. Vocational Agriculture teacher Dave Moran along with student, Amanda Freund established the school's first Envirothon team in 2007. In intellectual formats, team members tackle contemporary environmental topics throughout the United States and Canada.

A mere year after the team's formation, Housatonic's Envirothon-ers won the first place award in Connecticut in 2006, and added the year's international title in competition in Manitoba. Then in 2010, the team captured multiple Connecticut championship followed by two more in 2011-2014. Attending North American competitions in New York, Arizona, Tennessee, New Brunswick, Pennsylvania and Montana respectively.

FALL OF THE WHITE OAK

In 2004 a storm toppled the White Oak that had stood behind the school for years at the center of the area that became the senior courtyard. Former Guidance Counselor and Coach Roland Chinatti applied his artistic skills to numerous grounded branches, whittling and painting them and distributing them as mementoes to former administrators, teachers, staff members and students for whom the White Oak had a special natural and symbolic meaning. Replacement of the fallen White Oak took place in 2007. Despite the fall, the Housatonic yearbook is still entitled The White Oak.

Technical Education teacher Paul Padua has made frames for the 75th anniversary celebration from the wood from the White Oak.

“ABE”

The statue of President Abraham Lincoln that had stood vigilant just inside the high school's front doors and just in front of the entrance to the Henry Burgess Auditorium now observes the school from the hallway just past the Main Office. It had been a gift to the high school from the Hotchkiss School shortly after its formation in 1939.

SCHOOL INITIATIVES

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS – PBIS

This national model for improving student behavior emphasized rewarding positive behaviors rather than punishing negative behaviors. As explained by the US Department of Education, PBIS gives schools “capacity-building information and technical assistance for identifying, adapting, and sustaining effective school-wide disciplinary practices.”

Housatonic began implementation of PBIS in 2007 in response to a Connecticut State Department of Education directive identifying citing of the school for excessive suspension of students receiving Special Education

services. Leading the implementation were faculty members Darlene Membrino, Jeff Tripp and Vance Cannon.

Early successes included significantly improved student behavior and cleanliness in the cafeteria and significant reduction in class cuts. Ms. Membrino made presentations describing and explaining these changes at national PBIS conferences. In 2010 the high school was named as model PBIS school and this recognition resulted in visits to Housatonic from representatives of other high schools in the state.

CIVIC LIFE PROJECT

Housatonic's partnership with the Civic Life Project began in 2009. Filmmakers Dominique Lasseur and Catherine Tatge, whose sons Julien and Sebastien were at that time students at the high school, envisioned a course that engaged students in the democratic process through documentary film. The goal was for students to become familiar with civic issues and their ties to the Constitution by creating films that focused on subjects that were meaningful to the students.

In its pilot year the Civic Life Project was offered to students in teacher John Duval's Media Studies class. They produced two films about free speech. The first examined a Lewis Mills student's suit against administrators who had barred her from holding student government office because of remarks she had made on a personal blog. The second focused on the decision not to broadcast President Barack Obama's (year?) address to the nation's students in Region One classrooms. In 2010 and 2011, students from the high school's Film Studies and Civics classes produced films on public safety and the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Beginning in 2012, the Civic Life Project was offered as a separate interdisciplinary course, earning students credit in both Social Studies and English. Students in this full-year course, taught by English teacher Damon Osora and Social Studies teacher John Lizzi have produced films focusing on sexual assault on college campuses, the use of breathalyzers and surveillance cameras at Housatonic, and the impact that legalized marijuana would have on students.

THEATER

Also making a significant mark at the high school and in the community early in the 21st century was the resurrection of musical theater. Approached by Board of Education members in 2004, local theater figure Lori Belter was eager to support the idea of restoring musical theater to the high school where she had become a thespian as a freshman 30 years earlier.

She enlisted colleague Michael Berkeley for production assistance and Judy Gafney for her fundraising expertise. Belter, Berkeley and many high school teachers and staff members have collaborated for what has become a decade of successful productions. Gafney created the annual "Kitchen Tour" that raises around \$10,000 annually. Grease was the school's debut show, and this year Hello Dolly filled the seats.

AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE

Just this year, Housatonic was recognized for its lengthy participation in the American Field Service student exchange program. Since 1950, the high school has been both hosting students from all over the world and sending its students to live and study with families and schools in Europe, Asia, South America and Australia.

HVRHS was a recipient of a 2014 Top AFS School award announced early this year. AFS-USA noted, "Schools honored with this annual award have partnered with AFS in a variety of ways to foster global citizenship through intercultural learning - both inside and outside of the classroom - from hosting international students, sending students abroad, and working with AFS-USA to incorporate intercultural and experiential learning opportunities into their curriculum.

The high schools selected from around the country for this public recognition are making a profound difference in the lives of students and in society at large. The ability to speak another language, to navigate in a different cultural context, and to marshal a global perspective are skills that today's students need to succeed in our increasingly interdependent world.

"We're so thankful and proud to work in educational partnership with these schools," says Tonya Muro, the Director of School Outreach at AFS-USA.

Early Housatonic faculty members Guidance Counselor Katherine Gannett and English Department Chair Ellery "Woods" Sinclair built the program. Current Spanish teacher Mary O'Reilly is the school's AFS Coordinator. She has enhanced the school's international exchanges with a recent trip to Panama and other connections to Central America, efforts specifically recognized by the recent AFS award.

In addition to its involvement with AFS throughout its history, Housatonic has provided many opportunities for its students to travel outside northwestern Connecticut. Teacher-led journeys have taken large groups of students to Canada, Europe and most recently China.

IN RETROSPECT – A TEST FOR SENIORS

Although neither the origin nor the duration of Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Graduation Examination for High School Seniors can be precisely determined, beginning in the 1940's the 300-item exam featured 20 items on grammar, 20 items on spelling, 20 multiple choice math problems, 100 "Famous Personalities" to identify, and 140 "Multiple Choice Questions on Varied Interests."

In June of 1949, prospective graduates were expected to know Nicholas Murray Butler, Anton HG Fokker (no not that one!), Wilfred T Grenfell, Thomas Arnold, Michael Idvorsky Pupin, Sir Edward Elgar and Alexander P. deSeveresky.

They were also expected to know whether "A picture showing a drunken man pushing a baby carriage containing a baby would be an illustration

of paradox, hyperbole, simile or onomatopoeia,” the maximum speed of automobiles, the approximate number of generals in the US Army, the US Post Office fee for a letter attached to a parcel post package and how long it took to cook a soft-boiled egg.

Regarding religion, all students were expected to know which apostle never saw Jesus and whether the mass in the Catholic Church was written in the form of an epic, a short story, a drama or a ballad.

Regarding race, students were expected to know which northeastern US college had a Negro as its football captain and whether “It had been discovered that in contrast to whites, Negroes are better aviators, can see better at night, resist poison gases better or have a better education.”

Regarding the communication technology of the mid-20th century, students were expected to know whether the appearance of two stars after the address on a telegram meant that the message was from an army general, contained news of a death, required an immediate answer or was a night letter and may have been delayed. (Uh the appearance of a hashtag before a tweet means... ?)

There were some amusing trick questions, too. “Since the seasons north and south of the Equator are precisely opposite, it follows that when it is July in the US, in Australia it is December, January, February or July.” “A coin was discovered in a Roman excavation marked with the date 51 BC. This would indicate that the coin was Greek, Roman, Ancient Hebrew or a modern imitation.” Your children and grandchildren certainly won’t see questions like these on their Common Core Assessments.

In addition to broad international and national knowledge, students were all expected to know facts about where they lived – northwestern Connecticut – whether frost usually leaves the ground during the latter part of February, March, April, or May, and whether “The recent moving-picture Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House is the humorous recital of adventures in real estate which are supposed to have taken place in Salisbury, Sharon, Kent or Cornwall or non of the above! (Netflix anyone?)... and “The statue of Lincoln in the school lobby is copied from a work by French, St. Gaudens, Donatello or MacDowell.

One perhaps timeless question asked, “Education is compulsory because it a.) increases the number of schools and hence the employment of teachers, b.) guarantees young children a minimum of education, c.) punishes those who dislike school or d.) prepares youth for a higher education. Maybe this should be asked of all those attending our 75th anniversary celebration.

COMMENCEMENT IN 2014

At the annual Commencement Exercises conducted by Interim Principal Ian Strever on June 19, 2014, 97 seniors received their diplomas. The most heartwarming aspect of the ceremony was the attendance of two members of the first graduating class. Dressed in white caps and gowns, Helen Wike Humeston of Sharon and Frances Buckbee Wohlfert of North Canaan were acknowledged in the valedictory address of Emily DeMazza then presented with honorary diplomas by Mr. Strever.

APPENDIX I

REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRMEN

Samuel A. Eddy, North Canaan.....	1939-1945
Howell N. White, Salisbury.....	1945-1946
Thomas W. Luce, Sharon.....	1946-1947
G. Edward Byers, North Canaan.....	1947-1955
C. Whittlesey Hart, Cornwall.....	1955-1958
Robert L. Fisher, Sharon.....	1958-1971
M. Adela Eads, Kent.....	1971-1978
Henry W. Burgess, Salisbury.....	1978-1988
Linda M. Marks, North Canaan.....	1988-1991
Rebecca Williams.....	1991-1993
David Y. Hall.....	1993-1994
Geoffrey Drury.....	1994-1995
Robert Loucks.....	1995-1998
Allen Cockerline.....	1998-2000
John Mauer.....	2000-2001
Katherine Gannett.....	2002-2004
William Godburn.....	2004-2005
Judge Manning.....	2005-2011
Philip Hart.....	2011-2013
Andrea Downs.....	2013-Present

HOUSATONIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Paul W. Stoddard.....	1939-1966
Edward M. Kirby.....	1966-1979
Robert E. Blesh.....	1979-1983
John L. Mahoney.....	1983-1995
Kathleen Burkhart.....	1995-2004
Dr. Gretchen Foster.....	2004-2010
Matthew Harnett.....	2011-2013
Dr. Jose Martinez.....	2014-Present

DEAN OF BOYS/VICE PRINCIPALS/ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

M. Edward Dakin.....	1940-1945
(On leave to armed forces – 1943-1945)	
Edward C. Dorsett.....	1946-1968
Warren C. Clark.....	1951-1966
(V.P. in charge of Adult Education Program)	
Richard A. Alto.....	1968-1979
Thomas P. Higgins	1979-1981
Carl H. Scheinman.....	1981-1983
Barry L. Gajdosik	1983-1985
Eugene L. Brooks.....	1985-1995
Robert Eberle.....	1995-1998
Robert Buckley	1998-2001
Mary Ann Buchanan	2001-2010
Ian Strever.....	2011-Present

CENTRAL OFFICE

CONNECTICUT BUREAU OF RURAL SERVICES	1937-1970
REGIONAL SCHOOLS SERVICES CENTER.....	1970-Present

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

William M. Teague.....	1939-1942
Ernest O. Nybakken	1942-1948
Wilmer L. Shultz	1949-1955
Ina C. Sartorius	1955-1958
William J. Nolan.....	1959-1968
Anthony Tedeschi	1969-1970
Frank Samuelson.....	1970-1975
James Erviti	1975-1980
Joseph P. Robitaille	1980-1985
Val Bernardoni	1985- 1991
Marvin Maskovsky	1992-1998
John O'Brien	1998-2005
Patricia Chamberlain.....	2006-Present

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Frank Samuelson	1969-1970
Joseph Sullivan	1972-1979
Edward M. Kirby	1979-1985
June Hartford-Alley	1986-1989
Marvin Maskovsky	1990-1991
Robert Gutzman	1991-1995
Al Suttles	1995-2001
Patricia Chamberlain	2001-2005
Tom Gaisford	2005-2008
Diane Goncalves	2008-Present

SUPERVISOR/DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION

Ina C. Sartorius	1951-1955
Mary Jane Reid	1956-1961
Amanda H. Berry	1961-1971
Mary V. Brewer	1971-1979
Carole H. Helstrom	1979-1984
Robert Gutzman	1985-1991

SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES

Katherine G. McCann	1970-1979
Faye Y. Parmalee	1979-1984
Angela Wormser-Reid	1984-1986
Julia C. Segalla	1986-1992
Dominick Vita	1992-1997
Theresa Terry	1997-2009
Carl Gross	2009-Present

APPENDIX II

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

June 21, 1940
Rev. Robert Elliott Speer, DD, LL.D
Formerly Secretary of the Presbyterian
Board of Foreign Missions

June 13, 1941
William Allan Neilson, Ph.D., LL.D
President-Emeritus of Smith College

June 12, 1942
James Lukens McConaghy, Ph.D., LL.D.,
L.H.D.
President of Wesleyan University

June 18, 1943
The Honorable Raymond E. Baldwin, LL.D
Governor of Connecticut

June 16, 1944
Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin, D.D., LL.D
President of Union Theological Seminary

June 15, 1945
Col. Arnold Whitridge, USA, Retired
Formerly Master of Calhoun College,
Yale University

June 15, 1946
Admiral, Thomas C. Hart, U.S.N., Retired.
United States Senator from Connecticut

June 13, 1947
The Honorable Chester A. Bowles
Formerly Director of the
Office of Price Management

June 18, 1948
Mark Van Doren, Ph.D., Litt.D.
Professor of English, Columbia University

June 17, 1949
Lewis Gannett, M.A.
Author and Columnist,
New York Herald-Tribune

June 16, 1950
The Honorable Brien McMahon
Senior United States Senator from
Connecticut

June 15, 1951
Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin, D.D., Th.D.,
ST.D., Litt.D.
President Emeritus, Union Theological
Seminary

June 10, 1952
The Honorable John Davis Lodge
Governor of Connecticut

June 19, 1953
Miss Helen Kenyon
Formerly Moderator, The Congregational
Christian Churches

June 18, 1954
Rev. Karl Reilan, D.D., LL.D.
Rector-Emeritus, St. George's Church,
New York

June 17, 1955
The Honorable Prescott Bush
United States Senator from Connecticut

June 22, 1956
Walter Prichard Eaton
Essayist and Drama Critic

June 21, 1957
Arnold Whitridge, Ph.D.
Formerly Master of Calhoun College,
Yale University

June 10, 1958
Sidney Lovett, D.D.
Chaplain of Yale University

June 19, 1959
William John Sanders, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education of Connecticut

June 24, 1960
Sarah Gibson Blanding, LL.D.,
President of Vassar College

June 23, 1961
Daniel Alfred Poling, D.D., Litt.D., L.H.D.,
LL.D.

June 15, 1962
Walter Howe, Ph.D.
Retiring United States Ambassador to Chile

June 21, 1963
Homer D. Babbidge, Jr., Ph.D.
President of University of Connecticut

June 19, 1964
The Honorable Abraham A. Ribicoff, LL.D.
United States Senator from Connecticut
(Sen. Ribicoff's speech was delivered by
Governor Ella T. Grasso)

June 18, 1965
Tehyi Hsieh, L.H.D., LL.D.
Chinese Philosopher and Author

June 17, 1966
William Sloane Coffin, D.D.
Chaplain of Yale University

June 23, 1967
Wilbert Snow
Professor Emeritus of English at Wesleyan
University

June 14, 1968
Archibald M. Woodruff, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hartford

June 29, 1969
Theodore D. Lockwood, Ph.D.
President, Trinity College

June 15, 1970
Dumont F. Kenny, Ph.D.
President, York College

June 18, 1971
Donald A. Eldridge, M.A.
President, Bennett College

June 16, 1972
John K.M. McCaffery, M.A.
Radio and Television Commentator

June 15, 1973
Abraham A. Ribicoff, LL.B.
United States Senator from Connecticut

June 20, 1974
Elbert Gross, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science

June 20, 1975
Gloria Schaffer
Secretary of the State of Connecticut

June 17, 1976
Harold W. Felton, LL.B.
Author

June 24, 1977
Walter A. Fairservis, Ph.D.
Professor of Archeology and Anthropology,
Vassar College

June 23, 1978
Dr. Robert L. Fisher, M.D.
Former Chairman of the Regional School
Board

June 15, 1979
Robert Vincent Iosue
President, York College of Pennsylvania

June 20, 1980
Senator James L. Buckley
Former United States Senator

June 19, 1981
Robin L. Moore
Author

June 11, 1982
Richard L. Curtis
Author and Teacher
Housatonic Valley Regional High School,
Class of 1965

June 10, 1983
Robert A. Ward
Formerly Professor of English,
Amherst College
First Selectman, Town of Kent

June 23, 1984
Dr. Mary Alice White
Professor of Psychology and Education
Teacher's College, Columbia University

June 14, 1985
Edward M. Kirby
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Regional District One

June 20, 1986
Robert Yoakum
Author and Humorist

June 19, 1987
Donald Gates
Principal, Portland High School

June 20, 1988
Edward R. Dorsett , Class of 1960
President, Connecticut Education Association
Housatonic Valley Regional High School

June 16, 1989
Clarke B. Wood, Fiftieth Graduating Class
Former Department Head,
Vocational Agriculture
Housatonic Valley Regional High School

June 22, 1990
Bernhard Kresse
Former Exchange Student
Muenslit, Germany

June 25, 1991
Tom Brokaw
Television Journalist and Author
Anchor and Managing Editor of
NBC Nightly News, 1982-2004

June 24, 1992
John L. Mahoney
English Teacher at HVRHS
Principal of HVRHS (1983-1995)

June 22, 1993
Jerome Doolittle
Author, US Embassy Spokesman and Writer
for Esquire and The Saturday Evening Post

June 24, 1994
Douglas McArthur, 1969 Graduate
Master Divinity-Union Theological Seminary
Dr. of Ministry-Newton Theological School

June 13, 1995
William Olds
Actor, Known for the movie "Green Berets"

June 21, 1996
Jodi Rell
Politician
87th Governor of Connecticut, 2004-2011

June 24, 1997
Craig Toensing
CT State Board of Education
Chairman-No Child Left Behind Forum
Senior Vice President & Trust Officer of
Salisbury Bank and Trust

June, 23, 1998
John Mahoney
English Teacher and Former Principal,
1983-1995

June 17, 1999
Laurence Peck
Science Teacher H.V.R.H.S, 1997-Present

June 14, 2000
Andrew Roraback-
State Senator,
State Legislator,
Candidate for Congress,
Superior Court Judge 2013

June 21, 2001
Laurence Peck
Science Teacher H.V.R.H.S, 1997-Present

June 17, 2002
Ameen-Storm Abo-Hamzy
Founder/Director at Evolution Ink

June 18, 2003
Rip Torn
Actor of Stage, Screen & Television
Academy Award Nominee for
Best Supporting Actor for the Film
Cross Creek, 1983

June 18, 2004
Roberta Willis
State Representative 64th District
Co-Chair of Higher Education &
Employment Advancement
Member of Appropriations Committee
& the Environment Committee

June 20, 2005
Harry Sheehy
Administrator and Former Coach,
Williams College
Chair and Director of Athletics,
Physical Education and Recreation

June 16, 2006
Senator Andrew Roraback
State Legislator, Candidate for Congress,
and Superior Court Judge 2013

June 15, 2007
David Lindsay
Retiring Science Teacher
Geology, B.A., UConn 1960
Master of Science Teaching, M.S.T.,
University of Vermont 1968

June 18, 2008
Ryan Bingham
Mayor of the City of Torrington
Four Terms Served as Mayor,
Elected at the age of 22

June 19, 2009
Dr. Theodore S. Sergi
President and CEO of the CT Center for
Science & Exploration
Commissioner of Education

June 18, 2010
Honorable Faith S. Hochberg
United States District Judge
Tufts University, B.A., 1972
Harvard Law School, J.D., 1975

June 17, 2011
Audrey Fisher
Vice Chairman of Fisher House Foundation
First two Fisher Houses open for Military
Families, 1991

June 15, 2012
Ms. Helen Hare, Class of 2005
Research Associate for the Obama
Campaign

June 19, 2013
Mr. Todd Bryda
Associate Professor of History
University of Massachusetts,
Dartmouth, B.A.
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, M.A.

June 19, 2014
Andrew Bergman
Actor and Screenwriter
Graduate of Binghamton University
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ph.D in
American History
Recipient of the Ian McLellan Hunter
Award for Lifetime Achievement in
Writing from the Writers Guild of
America

APPENDIX III

COMMUNITY AWARD OF MERIT PRESENTATIONS

1953	Emma Bailey Speer	Salisbury
1954	Walter David Lambert	North Canaan
1955	Dines Carlson	Canaan
1956	Dr. Lawrence Kingsley Hall	Kent
1957	Dr. Francis Peyton Rous	Cornwall
1958	Robert M. Chapin, Jr.	Sharon
1959	Hal Borland	Salisbury
1960	Lewis Stiles Gannett	Cornwall
1961	George Laurence Nelson	Kent
1962	Dr. Salo W. Baron	North Canaan
1963	Maude M. Hadden	Salisbury
1964	Dr. Mark Van Doren	Cornwall
1965	George Henry Soule, Jr.	Cornwall
1966	Elizabeth Ann Hoskins	Salisbury
1967	Admiral Thomas C. Hart	Sharon
1968	Dorothy P. Lathrop	Canaan
	Gertrude K. Lathrop	Canaan
1969	Edward Ernst Kleinschmidt	Salisbury
1970	Dorothy Van Doren	Cornwall
1971	Christopher Tunnard	Canaan
1972	Charles Kryle Wilkinson	Sharon
1973	Sarah Gibson Blanding	Salisbury
1974	Peppino Mangravite	Cornwall
1975	Leonard R. Howard	Kent
1976	Fritz Magg	Canaan
1977	Arnold Whitridge	Salisbury
1978	Gerard Piel	Salisbury
1979	Ralph Ingersol	Sharon
1980	Larry Gates	Cornwall
1981	No award given	
1982	Dr. Josephine Evarts	Salisbury
1983	Martha B. Briscoe	Salisbury
1984	Dr. Robert L. Fisher	Sharon
1985	Benjamin Belcher	Salisbury
	Nancy Belcher	Salisbury
1986	Dr. Carl Bornemann	Canaan
	Barbara F. Bornemann	Canaan
1987	Harrison Salisbury	Salisbury
	Charlotte Salisbury	Salisbury
1988	H. Lincoln Foster	Canaan
	Laura Louise Foster	Canaan
1989	Henry W. Burgess	Salisbury
1990	Robert Osborn	Salisbury
1991	Robert Estabrook	Salisbury

1992	Catherine Roraback	North Canaan
1993	Dr. J. Lawrence Pool	Cornwall
1994	Leslie D. Allyn	Canaan
1995	Claudia Warner	Lakeville
1996	David Neilson	Salisbury
1997	Sidney Shore	Sharon
1998	Therese Duncan	Kent
1999	Kevin Bousquet	North Canaan
2000	Frank Ruotolo	Canaan
2001	Lynn Scoville	Cornwall
2002	Diane Hewat	Salisbury
2003	Andy Brockway	Sharon
2004	Judy Gafney	Lakeville
2005	Bunny McGuire	North Canaan
2006	Lynn Nania	Canaan
2007	Edward Kirby	Sharon
2008	John Perotti	Sharon
2009	George Wheeler	North Canaan
2010	John (Jack) Mahoney	Canaan
2011	Ellery (Woods) Sinclair	Canaan
2012	David Lindsay	Canaan
2013	David Bayersdorfer	Lakeville
2014	Agostino Galluzzo	Lakeville
	Lynn Kearcher	Sharon

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