

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Pottstown yearbooks on website

The Pottstown School District has posted about 90 of its yearbooks on its website as pdf files.

They can be viewed and downloaded free by going to:

www.pottstownschoools.org

Click on:

OUR ALUMNI

Click on:

Alumni Pages: Yearbooks

And then click on:

Troiad

for the year you want to view.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

community.

They show us connections between people who grew up together and bonded before they went their separate ways.

The yearbooks are a window on their interests and aspirations as they embarked on life.

Yearbooks are also a unique history, showing us the fashions and interests of older generations.

I arrived in Pottstown in 1971 after college, so I don't know any of these names and faces as classmates.

But it's remarkable what they tell us about Pottstown and our heritage.

In the 1953 yearbook, for example, future professional baseball player David Ricketts is pictured next to Earl James Rodgers, who became Pottstown's first African-American police chief in 1974.

Prior to the 1960s, Pottstown High School also enrolled students from surrounding townships whose high schools didn't have the range of opportunities that Pottstown offered.

It's fun to see people I know today as students. For ex-

ample, my fellow school board member Susan Lawrence was president of the class of 1979 (as Sue Trace) and valedictorian. She married her classmate Samuel Lawrence. (Their son, Ian, was valedictorian of the class of

2006 and now teaches at our middle school.) Another of Sue's classmates, Sharon Valentine, is now our mayor, and yearbook editor Charles Garner is now borough solicitor. Lincoln School custodian Bob Fine had an outstanding slicked-down hairdo in 1979, and John Armato, our director of community relations, had already been teaching at the high school for 10 years!

Our oldest yearbook, "The Oracle," and one of the most fascinating, dates to 1908.

It presciently begins, "Customs, when good and wholesome, become rules and laws. As this is the first appearance of 'The Oracle', we hope successive issues will establish a custom which will finally become an unwritten law." They did.

Not every yearbook is posted. The missing years are noted on the district website, and if anyone is willing to lend us one for scanning, please contact John Armato at 610-323-6274 or 484-256-7491.

We are not posting our most recent yearbooks, because the high school still has hard copies for sale.

The district devotes a lot of resources to educate current students — it's nice to offer something to our graduates, as well.

