



Decatur Central High School Honorary Alumnus Award
Member DCHS Class 1933—First Graduating Class

Nominee Information:

Last Name Rink First Name Mary Ellen

Maiden Name Rand

Marital Status widow Spouse's Name Don

Names and Ages of Children Jeanne 1956 Larry 1958
Joe (Skip) 1965 Steve 1966 Rick 1970 all from DCHS

High School Attended/Graduation Year DCHS 1933

College Attended/Graduation Year Central Normal College & Butler University

Employment Information:

Occupation Teacher Job Title _____

Employer Speedway Schools & Decatur Township—West Newton Elementary & Valley Mills Elementary

Professional Societies, Club Activities Decatur Book Club, Camby Womens Club

Church Affiliation, address Camby Community Church, 8604 Camby Rd, Camby, IN

Biographical Summary of Nominee:

How has the Nominee shown exceptional interest, dedication, and/or service to Decatur Central High School?

Mary Ellen & Pete Baldwin are the last living members of the first DCHS graduating class—1933. Their memories/stories of that time will enhance the history of DCHS and serve to remind graduates of how times change, yet human nature remains the same.

Mary Ellen is a lifelong resident of Camby. As a child she spent many days in the Camby Railroad Station with her Grandfather—Don Carlos Morgan, the first Station Master. There she listened to the telegraph and learned the alphabet.

She started a Kindergarten in her home for there were no Kindergartens in Decatur Township. She taught first, second, & third grade for 27 1/2 years at Speedway, Valley Mills, & West Newton Grade School. At times, there were two grades in one room.

Mary Ellen has a love and caring for plants and animals. She has had dogs, cats, and an occasional caged wild animal that she would take to school for her classes. Feeding the birds and growing plants is a favorite pass time.