Purple and White Jubilee Sponsors
The following sponsors have made our initial Purple and White Jubilee possible. Thank You!

JUBILEE Sponsors - $2,000+
City of Elgin
Elgin Economic Development Corporation
Elgin ISD Education Foundation
SHW Architects

STAR Sponsors - $1,000 - $2,000
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Roy and Rosie Pfeiffer

PURPLE Sponsors - $500
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Katherine (Shoquist) and Jim Ray
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WILDCAT Sponsors - $100
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First State Bank

Purple and White Jubilee – A Total Success!
If you missed the initial Purple and White Jubilee on April 23 – 25, you missed a magnanimous achievement. Over 700 people attended this reunion! People, places and things all worked together to make this homecoming celebration something to be remembered.

PEOPLE – A committee composed of 8 various people worked and planned for over 4 years to make this occasion really happen. Checks for lifetime memberships from former graduates began coming in the last 3 months, various organizations of the city gave donations and sponsorships by businesses allowed the Jubilee to be celebrated without charge to the attendees. SHW Architects, Elgin, ISD. and the Elgin Fire Department offered to underwrite and prepare for a Fish Fry to begin the celebration.

PLACES – The Elgin ISD offered the building and the grounds of the Administration offices, the current high school building and the middle school cafetorium as sites for various recognitions and entertainment. The Parish Hall of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church was the perfect setting for an informal get-together prior to individual groups celebrating all over town.

THINGS – The weather was spectacular, purple flags decorated the town and events at the First Bloom Art Show, children’s book fair at the Elgin Public Library and an exhibit at the Elgin Depot Museum celebrated a Day in the Life of Elgin – Sept. 9, 2009. These plus the renewed school acquaintances all testified that Elgin not only is a great place to have attended school and call home, but is a vibrant community today in Central Texas.

Ron Leps, Elgin High graduate of 1968, was master of ceremonies for all the activities of the Jubilee. Leps and his wife Joan now reside in Georgetown.

The ‘50s Decade classes were hosts for this initial Jubilee. What could be more ‘50s that Elvis? Hinson, of Cedar Park, wowed the crowd.

Out of a field of 11 nominees, four people were selected by the Distinguished Alumni Committee. Receiving awards were the late John Hill Westbrook (represented by his widow Paulette Westbrook), Karin Lundgren Barker, Marilyn Guenther Bettis and Dorothy Moore Doolittle.
JUBILEE STRESSED ETHNIC FABRIC
OF ELGIN ISD

Pictures, facts and entertainment stressed the influence of different ethnic cultures blended in educating Elgin students through the years.

The school district was chartered in 1897 as a segregated district. Separate schools for educating the Hispanic children began around 1915 when many Mexican nationals came to the area to work in the coal mines between Elgin and Bastrop and their families came with them. A separate elementary school (aka “Lamar School”) existed until 1947 when the 5 grades taught at the Lamar School were integrated into the main Elgin ISD group.

Private church schools for educating the African-American students were in existence in Elgin early as 1882. The agricultural needs of cotton farms around Elgin created many jobs for the black community. The Elgin ISD became responsible for educating these students in 1918 and the Washington Schools provided education for grades 1 – 12 until 1965 when the district was totally integrated.

Thank You!

A very special thank you to the following who have given so much in making the Purple and White Jubilee a success!

The Classes of the 1950s
The Distinguished Alumni Awards Committee
Elgin Chamber of Commerce
Elgin Courier
Elgin Historical Association
Elgin Independent School District
Elgin Police Department
Elgin Volunteer Fire Department
Bill G. Graves, Elgin ISD Superintendent
Bob Haisler
Joey Miller
Ronald Leps
Sheri MacKillop
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Marchelle Sutton

Elgin ISD History

A special photo and digital story of Elgin ISD history is now on permanent display in the former trophy case at the Elgin ISD Administration Building, 1002 N. Avenue C. This pictorial history was a focal point at the Jubilee. Compiled by current teachers and citizens, this showcase is a visual reminder of changes in the 109 years of history for the school system. If you have individual pictures or pictures from annuals that you would like to add to the digital portion, please contact T. Berry at tberry@elginisd.net. Stop by and view this unique presentation.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY TO PRESENT
JOHN WESTBROOK AWARD

Walter Abercrombie announced at the Sunday morning Jubilee breakfast an award that Baylor University will be giving annually named the “John Westbrook Award.” Westbrook, a 1965 graduate of Washington High, was the first African-American to play football in the Southwest Conference. The award will be given to the senior male and female athlete who has overcome the most to play sports at Baylor.

Abercrombie, a former Baylor football star, gave tribute and said that Westbrook was his “hero.” When Westbrook broke the color line at Baylor, it was possible for a black man such as Abercrombie to accomplish dreams. Abercrombie is now an Assistant Athletic Director and Executive Director of the “B” Association at Baylor.

John Westbrook died at the early age of 35. His widow, three of his four children, a son-in-law, two of his grandchildren and his brother Robert Westbrook and his wife were present at this breakfast honoring the contributions of the Washington schools to the Elgin ISD.

Following the announcement by Baylor, the group was entertained by baritone Johnny Ray Watson, a contemporary of Westbrook. Watson also gave tribute in personal stories and songs. Watson, a former all-state basketball star, has traveled with the Billy Graham Crusade, been active with the Bill Glass Prison Ministry and now conducts Christian retreats all over the nation.

The Westbrook story, For Thou Art With Me, written by Elginite T. Berry, has been placed on the Elgin Alumni website as well as the Baylor Bears athletic website. This story gives insight to all former Elgin students of the struggles during the 1960s.

Fond Farewell

We hope you enjoyed the 2010 Purple and White Jubilee. We certainly did. It was so much fun visiting with alumni of all ages and catching up on everyone’s lives. Our oldest alumnus to attend the Jubilee was 94 year old Ila Griffin Lenoir of the class of 1932 who came from Houston with her daughter and son-in-law. She was spotted returning to her hotel room around 10:00 Saturday night after a full day of events. We had people fly in from New York, China, Tennessee, California and many other places. We heard lots of compliments on the food, the entertainment, and our beautiful school facilities. It was fun to sit and watch as some of our friends were serenaded by Elvis or sit and listen to the two Joey Millers play tunes from our past at the fish fry. The Elgin Depot Museum was full of visitors all day long. After most of the class reunions were over on Saturday night, people were still visiting and partying in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express. If you missed the Sunday Alumni Breakfast, you truly missed an inspirational morning. After almost five years of planning, it is time to say good-bye. We thank you for being a part of this first ever event.

Thanks for the Memories!
Carl Cole, Connie Nunez, Darryl Carlson, Debbie Cartwright, Donna Snowden, Glynda Schroeder, Judy Davis, Rhonda Moore, Marjorie Matetzsch, Ron Leps, Sydna Arbuckle, and Willie Haywood.