Graduation at Smith-Cotton: A History

Joseph Hillers

What exactly is Graduation At Smith-Cotton?

• Timeline:

- Candlelight
- Senior Year
- Commencement

• Important Definitions:

- Candlelight: Smith-Cotton only right of passage in which the graduating class symbolically hands off the responsibility of graduation to the class directly after them.
- Commencement: Ceremony in which degrees are ushered onto students

"Smith-Cotton is not so much a building, it's not so much a graduation ceremony, it's not so much a tradition, it's the people who graduate from it, who take a degree and achieve these accomplishments academically or athletically or activities and who go on and make something of themselves"

-Rush Walters

The Factual History:

- Smith-Cotton High School was founded in 1925, with the first four-class graduating in 1929.
 - Built to Replace Sedalia High School, the previous public High School in Sedalia.
- Built on the corner of Broadway and Massachusetts Street
- Remained the main high school until 2009, when the new high school was built.

- A Few Famous Alumni:
 - Leroy Van Dyke: American Country Music Star, famous for "The Auctioneer"
 - Alan Braverman: World-Renowned Aorta Specialist and director of Marfan Clinic.
 - o Andre Taylor: Highly-Respected Chemical Engineer





Left: Original Smith-Cotton Building.

Right: What an Aorta Is:

Candle Light

• Process in which the senior class passes the responsibility of holding the school to the class directly below them.

- Established in the early years of Smith-Cotton.
 - Scheduling has remained rather stagnant

CARDLE SERVICE New 18, 1967

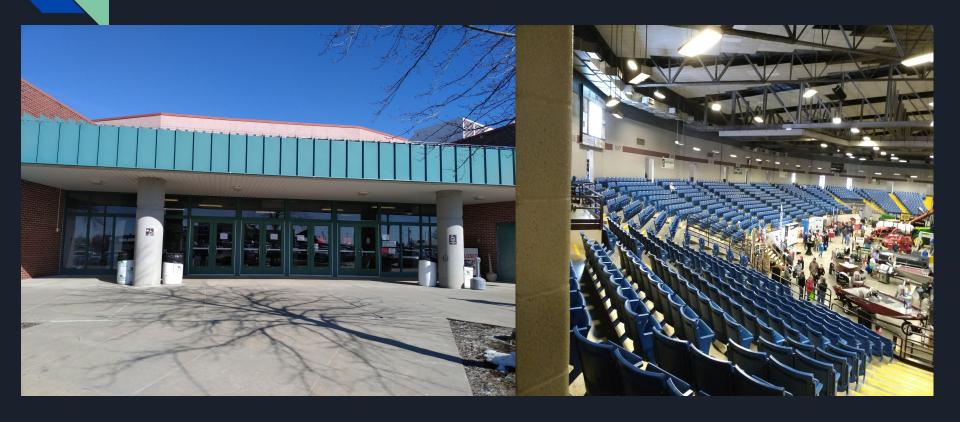
10	"Call to Colorp!
2,	Processional "Festival March"
3.	"Hail Alon Metor" Jumor and Somlor Glasson
l_{io}	Greatings
5.	Class Address
60	Hasponeo and Fiedge
7.	Presentation of Queen of Semior Class
8,	Semior Queen Surrendors Her Scopter Kathy Kinshella Queen of Semior Class
9.	Response
20.	Investment of Student Council Vice-President Sohn Lesy Vice-President of Student Council
33.	Pleage of Office
ız,	Investment of Student Council President Jim Woods President of Student Council
33.	Eledge of Office John Arnost Fresident-elect of Student Commit
340	Hymn "Riest Be the Tie That Binds" - Guests and Classes
15,	Parcaell Address Jim Woods President of Student Council
16.	Laghting of Candles
37.	Hymne - ω "God of Our Fathers" Gyests and Classes
38.	$w_{\text{LSP}}^{\alpha} = \omega + \alpha +$
19.	Hoho "Thom"
20.	Rescardenal "For the Day is Over" Orchestra
040000000	

Commencement will be Toursday, May 21 at 8:00 P.H.

Commencement:

- Ceremony in which graduating seniors are giving their diplomas and sent on their ways.
- Used to be held at Jennie Jaynes Stadium, but is now held at the Mathewson Exhibition Centre.
- Scheduling has remained fairly consistent, along with attire and the ceremony
- Class size increases and racial composition

Site Visit: Mathewson Exhibition Centre



Interviewee's Description of Graduation

Wade Norton, Class of '92: "I was very nervous, very nervous to have to walk across the stage just like most people are. But, once you realize that everyone else is doing it, that no one is paying attention just to you, but to the class, it was a great night."

Rush Walters, Class of '11: "It takes a while, but when you look back on it, you realize how long it was and really how short it was. All of your K-12 years just for one graduation day, but it's an important ceremony, and an accomplishment for everyone."

Interviewee's Words of Advice:

Wade Norton, Class of '92: "Enjoy it, take a part in all the ceremonies you can, and sit back and enjoy the celebration for your hard work."

Alan Braverman, Class of '79: "Work hard, give it your all, say "yes" to opportunities and do not be afraid to reach for your dreams. Study as hard as you can and apply yourself to your best in all that you do."

Rush Walters, Class of '11: "Enjoy it before it's over."

Reflections upon the topic: