

**TOPEKA WEST HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATE HALL OF FAME**



TOPEKA WEST HIGH SCHOOL
2001 Fairlawn Road
Topeka, Kansas 66604

INAUGURAL INDUCTION CEREMONIES
OCTOBER 16, 2011

TOPEKA WEST HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATE HALL OF FAME

INAUGURAL CLASS

Sunday, October 16th, 2011

3:00 PM

DOUGLAS P. GOHEEN THEATER

Topeka West High School

Reception Topeka West Café
2:00 PM

Induction Ceremonies

Musical Selections Topeka West Singers

Introductions Steve Roberts
Master of Ceremonies

Greetings Jeanne Carton
Principal

Remarks Bill Reed
President, Class of 1962

Remarks Alexa Bowen
President, Class of 2012

Owen M. Henson Distinguished Staff Award

Dr. Owen M. Henson Presented by Scott Henson

2011 Hall of Fame Inductees

Bob Davis Class of 1962

Duane Fager Class of 1964

Barry Feaker Class of 1974

Phil Ehart Class of 1968

Dave Hope Class of 1968

Kerry Livgren Class of 1967

Richard Williams Class of 1968

Closing Remarks

Dr. Owen Henson was the principal of Topeka West High School for 13 years, 1961-74. Foremost among the founders of Topeka West, Dr. Henson guided all decisions both large and small, involved in the creation of the school. His many contributions have been felt throughout the first 50 years of Topeka West history.

The *Owen M. Henson Distinguished Staff Award*, of which he is the first recipient, is named in his honor.



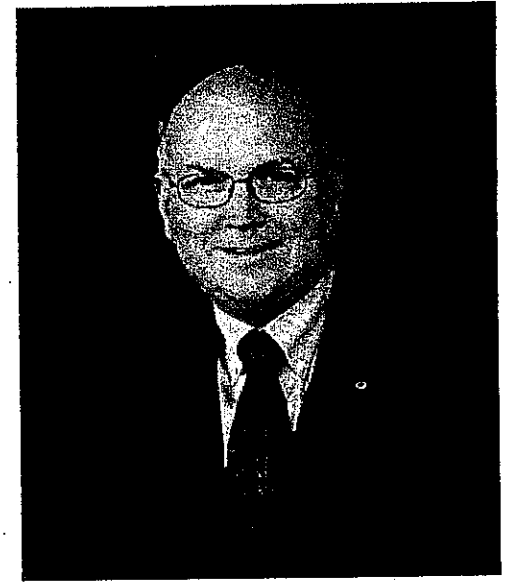
Dr. Owen Henson
Principal 1961-1974

Bob Davis
Class of 1962



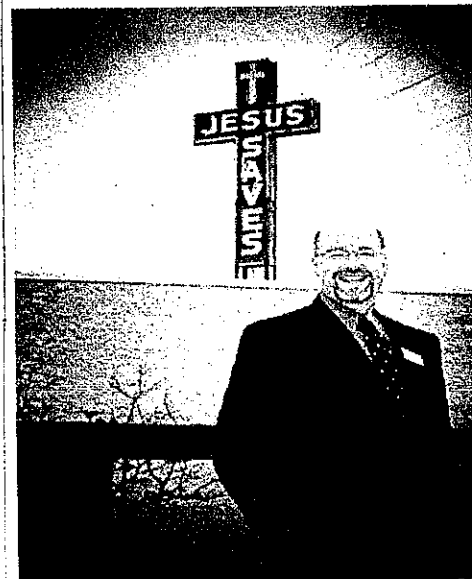
A member of the first graduating class at Topeka West, **Bob** has distinguished himself as a sports broadcaster and is well known as the long time voice of the Kansas Jayhawks as well as the play-by-play announcer for the Kansas City Royals. Among his many awards, Bob has been inducted into the Kansas Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He has also been named Kansas Sportscaster of the Year ten times.

Duane became President of what is now Core First Bank and Trust, in 1978. Under his leadership Core First has grown into one of America's most stable financial institutions with almost 40 branches in Topeka, Kansas City, Manhattan, and now Colorado. Core First has more than 400 employees and 1.2 billion dollars in assets. Duane is also well known for his willingness to share his success with the Topeka Community as he has supported numerous projects that have benefitted the city.



Duane Fager
Class of 1964

Barry Feaker
Class of 1974



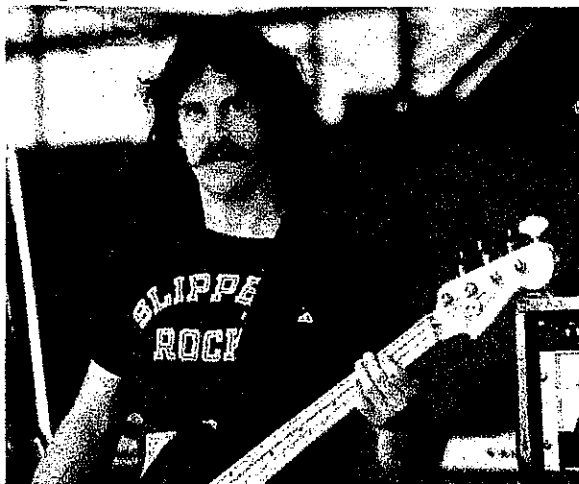
An ordained minister, **Barry** has been the Executive Director of the Topeka Rescue Mission since 1986. Under his direction the Mission has been expanded several times and has been providing the necessities of life to thousands of homeless individuals and families. His dedication to helping those less fortunate has made him the embodiment of the Mission's motto: "Faith with its sleeves rolled up."

Phil has appeared on every Kansas album. He took up the drums in grade school. He has lived all over the world as his Air Force father was stationed in such places as the Philippines and Japan. Phil is a father of one son (Noah), who has autism. In recent years Phil has become an autism advocate and traveled to Washington,



Phil Ehart
Class of 1968

Dave was the bass player for KANSAS. Today, Hope is an Anglican priest on staff at Immanuel Anglican Church, a member congregation of the Anglican Mission in America, in Destin, Florida. He is currently the head of Worship, Evangelism and Outreach. He is also bassist for the praise band The IRS.



Dave Hope
Class of 1968

D.C., to speak at the Unlocking Autism Power of One conference in 2001. Phil's wife, Laurie, has joined him in his journey to help their son Noah and other children with autism.



This "garage band" founded in Topeka, was discovered by promoter Don Kirshner. KANSAS produced their first album in 1974. Since that time eight gold albums, three sextuple platinum albums, and one live album that certified platinum have been recorded. KANSAS had a million selling gold single, *Dust in the Wind*, and the group was on the Billboard Charts for over 200 weeks in the 70's and 80's. KANSAS played to sold-out arenas and stadiums all over North America, Europe, and Japan. These four Topeka West graduates, along with other band members that were not Chargers, made and continue to make a lasting influence on the music world. Rich Williams and Phil Ehart are still with the band and are touring regularly to this day. Kerry Livgren lives in the Berryton community and was a founding member responsible for much of the groups most successful compositions.

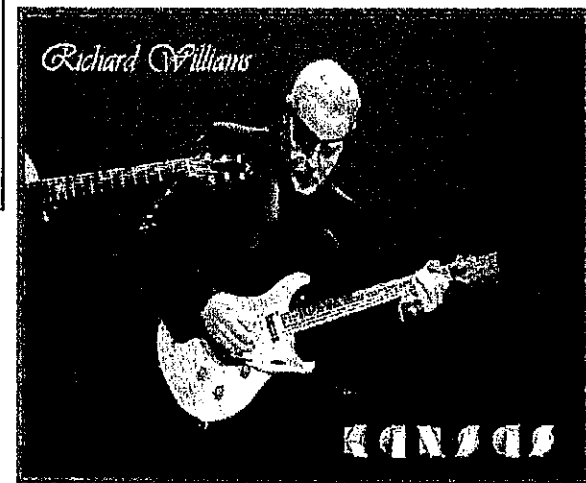
A founding member of the iconic rock band KANSAS, Kerry played guitar, provided vocals and was responsible for composing many of their most successful songs. Drawn to music at a young age, his first musical interests developed with classical and jazz influences. Starting with an electric guitar he built himself, Kerry focused on writing songs as he learned to play -- seeking to create songs that if nothing else, were original.

Kerry Livgren
Class of 1967



Rich has played guitar for KANSAS for over 35 years. Kansas has played to sold out arenas in North America, Europe, and Japan, and they continue to tour today with Rich on lead guitar. "I'm happy about it too because I don't have to get a real job, it keeps me from doing what everyone else has to do."

Richard Williams
Class of 1968



Topeka West High School

The First Years

In September of 1957, the superintendent appointed a committee of nine persons to begin the planning of the new **Topeka West High School**. The membership of that committee was:

- Dr. Giles Theilmann, Chairman
- Owen Henson, Vice Chairman
- Marjorie French
- Jack Dean
- T.A. Kerr
- Paul Boatwright
- Harold Blackburn
- Dr. Nathaniel Evers, Washburn University
- Dr. Karl Edwards, Kansas University

The architectural firm of Ekdahl, Davis and Depew was selected with Dr. Stanton Leggett as a consultant. This committee recommended that the school would be designed to accommodate the school-within-a-school concept which led the committee to the campus design of the facility. Dr. Henson was appointed principal in December of 1960, and the school was opened to students in September of 1961.

Several huge tasks faced the principal in the spring of 1961:

- Selection and recruitment of staff
- Developing a curriculum for the new school
- Enrollment of incoming students
- Equipping the new school
- Establish a procedure to pick the school colors and mascot

A temporary office was established in the Board of Education building at 415 W. 8th St. It was staffed with two secretaries, Martha Dickinson, and Lola Page to assist with the above items. Dr. Robert Ramsey and Harold Hula were appointed Counselor-Directors (assistant principals). Felicia McGinley and Roberta Cooke were counselors.

Topeka West opened with 700 students in 1961, 900 in 1962, 1100 in 1963 ... and over 1600 in 1968 - all in three grades 10-12. A total of 31 certified staff was selected - 11 were new hires with the remainder transferred from within the district.

Dr. Henson was the principal for 13 years, 1961-74. The new staff assisted with identifying the equipment needs. The librarian at Topeka High School began the media collection and the basic needs for the library. There was no athletic director so the coaches had to make all the arrangements for their respective sports, i.e. officials, schedules, down and chain volunteers for football, etc. During those 13 years, the staff developed many innovative programs at Topeka West. However, there was one weakness. The girls' sports programs in Topeka high schools had only one sport - gymnastics. This inequity was corrected with the implementation of Title IX. During that first year, the staff conducted a self study and a North Central Accreditation team visit.

Starting a new school requires a huge effort from the staff, administration, certified teachers and classified personnel, i.e. secretaries, custodians, food service, etc.

On a personal note, I want to express my deep appreciation to the total staff for their hard work and dedication to this exciting and challenging endeavor.

Owen M. Henson, Principal 1961-74

TOPEKA WEST HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATE HALL OF FAME
SELECTION COMMITTEE

Don Chubb Class of 1964
Jim Deines Class of 1964
Jay Gomez Class of 1985
Walt Hillmer Class of 1963
Steve Roberts Class of 1969
Margaret Fowler Staff Representative

CHARGER FACTS

Topeka West, which opened in 1961, is a public school with a unique campus style setting serving grades 9-12. The total enrollment is approximately 1100 students with a teaching staff of 69. In August, 1984, the school was recognized as one of 114 outstanding secondary schools in America. Topeka West was the first high school in Topeka to receive this Award of Excellence. The school colors are purple and white, and the mascot is the Charger. The student newspaper is the *Campus View*, the yearbook is the *Chevalier*, and the parent newsletter is the *West Word*.

ALMA MATER

North, South, East, or to where're we roam,
West will remain dear to our hearts,
Fro West will always be our cherished home,
Even though we soon must part,

Chorus

West We honor you,
West We will be true,
Always faithful we shall be to thee,
West Topeka West.
Royal Purple is for majesty,
We wear it proudly as we go,
And white shows truth and our sincerity,
In the friendship that we know.

Repeat Chorus

CHANT: Royal purple, live forever
Gleaming white, fail us never
Hit it! Fight! Fight!

FIGHT SONG

Hey there Topeka West, give us a cheer
Show all the Trojans the Chargers team is here.
We'll grab the basketball, go down to score
Watch the colors of purple and white,
We're going to win this game tonight
So up to the top boys, score after score
We'll make the basket and hear the mighty roar
And we'll stand up in the bleachers and
Cheer for the purple and white
Hey, There Charger team, fight, fight, fight!