

To Sue, Treva, Brett, Dan, and Nick,

My sister forwarded the link to let me know what you are doing to save the old schoolhouse. I was very happy to not only see what you are doing for the school, but also to see some familiar names from my past. I had a few lonely years in high school, and that old schoolhouse offered a lot of solace to me as I would shoot baskets all alone for hours on end. And there were plenty of times we would get a pickup game going with the St. Rose group, normally Tom Prenger and myself taking on Randy Bruns and Jim Bomholt. Just in case you are interested, the results were about 50/50 if memory serves me right, and almost every one of the games were close

I do remember the rim on the south side always leaning a bit one way or the other, making shots from the corner either harder than usual or easier, depending on which way the rim was leaning. And we couldn't put too much arch on our shots to avoid hitting the ceiling. And as you state in your writeup, it was always a warm place to play in the winter. Dry too.

Anyway, I really hope you can raise the money necessary to keep it going so it can be a place to play for generations to come.

Every time I come home to visit I take a trip to the cemetery to visit my dad and other family members, as well as a number of old friends and acquaintances. I always feel a bit surprised to recognize so many names on the tombstones. After that, I always open the door to the old schoolhouse and take a few shots with a basketball that always seems to be there for me. I've also introduced it to my son and grandson, as well as my wife and anyone else who may be with me. It is a must visit for me on every trip to Ohio, so it is obviously an important part of my past. I've been in Texas for 40 years now, but I will always be a Buckeye. And St. Rose will always be home.

One last thing. If you can find a spot, it sure would be nice to get my grandfather, Ted Hemmelgarn, in there somewhere. He not only taught in that school for many years, but he also rang the church bells, played the organ, and stoked the furnace to warm the church before mass in the winter. I don't expect this from you, and certainly understand if you don't, but I had to mention it as I do feel it would be a nice addition.

Thanks again for doing this for St. Rose and the surrounding community. I think it's AWESOME.

Sincerely,

