

My name is Emily Bruns. I live in Centerville, Ohio, but grew up in Saint Rose. My father and uncle owned and operated Bruns Brothers Grocery in "downtown" (ha ha) St. Rose for a number of years. After their deaths my cousin, Randy, assumed ownership until its closing.

I attended the St. Rose two room school house grades one through seven. Mrs. Droesch taught grades one through four and then students moved to the other half of the building into the room with the big stove, and Mr. Hemmelgarn, the teacher. However, in my eighth grade year, we moved to Marion Local Junior High and St. Rose school was closed.

Memories of my years at St. Rose school include the outhouse (especially during the winter), the softball games against Chickasaw, Osgood, St. Sebastian, and St. John, walking home for lunch while everyone else stayed and ate their packed lunches, and Mass every morning, which the entire school would attend.

Sadly, there were no interscholastic sports for girls at Marion during my high school days but I played enough hoops in our driveway with neighborhood boys until a hoop was put up in the old school.

I remember a young Treva Griesdorn (Fortkamp) shooting hoops quite frequently in the old school house. I may have even played horse with her a couple of times myself.

It was not until I attended UD, that I had the opportunity to compete in sports. I played several different sports on the collegiate level, but probably enjoyed my four years on the basketball team the most. Luckily, I was named captain my senior year, and got to participate in the National NAIA Women's Tournament in Westchester, Pennsylvania.

However, at that time, there was no such thing as scholarships for women and Title 9 was still unheard of. WE competed because WE loved the game and competition itself.

After graduation, I taught and coached at Valley View High School in Germantown, Ohio. During my 30 year tenure, I coached several different sports but was lucky enough to initiated the girls' interscholastic basketball program. I coached at the Varsity level for 20 years and was blessed with some players that were real athletes, and played hard. Having a lot of my former athletes that are presently in their 50's and 60's still call me "Coach", gives me a feeling that what I instilled in them was not just the ability to play basketball, but perhaps, I played a small part in helping them become good, wholesome people.

I am thankful for my upbringing in St. Rose, for my parents, for the teachers I had, for the genuine people in the Marion area, and for the opportunities that I was given years ago. I am so happy to hear that efforts are being made to help preserve the "school and court" and want to thank all of those involved.

Best of luck.

Sincerely,

Emily "Em" Bruns