



Press Release

Family is Re-United With their Mother's 1930 Po-Hi Class Ring

The Ponca City Public School district had the honor of returning a 1930 Po-Hi class ring to the owner's family. The district held a reception today with cookies and punch in the honor of the Jean Morgan Kygar family. The high school gave family members several Ponca City High School T-shirts and mementos. If you're wondering what events led to this happy reunion, continue reading.

The district was contacted by a couple in The Woodlands, Texas to inform them they had found a 1930 Ponca City Senior High School class ring. Mary Ladd, district Public Information Coordinator, explained. "I was contacted by Stephanie Ruiz from The Woodlands, Texas informing me that her husband found the ring while digging a ditch next to a road. He brought it home to Stephanie and told her to try to find the owner. At first, she said there were no initials in the ring, so it would have been much harder to find the owner. I asked her to find out who owned the land where the ring was found, and we were going to have to try to figure it out that way. She called me again a few days later and said the ring did have initials – 'J' 'M.' I immediately went to the high school and got the 1930 Po-Hi Yearbook, and there was only one person with those initials – Jean Morgan."

Today's social media played a big part in finding the owner. "I could not find any information on her anywhere, so I turned to our faithful Facebook fans," Ladd continued. "Our district Facebook page has almost 3,000 followers. Within ten minutes, someone sent me a picture of Jean's gravestone from www.FindAGrave.com. She had passed away in 1960, and was buried in Ponca City. The information also included her spouses, parents, and siblings. I was not able to find any of them, so I called on our Facebook friends again to help locate any other family members."

The story quickly went viral reaching over 150,000 people! Ladd explained, "It didn't take our Facebook friends long to track down family members – even cousins! I was able to get the phone number of one of the cousins, and I called her to try to locate any of Jean's children. After talking to Jean's great niece Tami Collins (Oklahoma City), she told me that Jean and Robert had two daughters – Susan Jean Kygar Fritts (Tulsa), and Linda Jo Kygar Tindell (Broken Arrow)."

“I immediately called Susan to explain the story. She got very emotional telling me that she and her sister were very young when their mother died, and they very few of her personal belongings. She was absolutely thrilled to find out we had her ring. The family was so excited they planned the ring reunion that took place today.”

During the investigation, the district also discovered that Jean and her husband Robert were both teachers for the Ponca City School district. Jean taught PE at East Junior High School and Robert taught at the high school.

Emily Fritts, granddaughter of Jean and a teacher at Jenks, said “This was the highlight of my day! Hearing that my grandmother’s high school class ring was found! Teaching my fourth graders and sharing this news with them, well ... it was truly a joyful morning! I have not felt this connected to my grandmother, whom I never met, in a long time! Thank you everyone for sharing and working to find our family! I am a teacher today because I wanted to carry on my grandmother’s legacy.”

Ladd stated, “I invited David and Stephanie Ruiz (people who found the ring) to attend the reunion, but they were unable to make the trip. They did want to see the pictures and hear the stories. I asked them why they decided to try to find the owner, and they said it was just the right thing to do. They feel honored to get to be a part of this story.”

None of Jean Morgan’s family ever lived in Texas, so the family can’t figure out how the ring got there. Jean’s oldest daughter Susan said, “The only connection we can come up with is that our grandfather (Jean’s dad) worked for Conoco and frequently went to the Houston plant. Even though we may never know how the ring made it to Texas, we do know it has found its way home ... with the help of lots of Facebook friends.



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Pictured above right, L-R: Tami Collins, Emily Fritts, Linda Kygar Tindell, Susan Kygar Fritts, Dr. David Pennington
(Superintendent of Ponca City Schools)

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