

STANDARD-EXAMINER

OGDEN, UTAH

SERVING NORTHERN UTAH SINCE 1888



ANNE RAUP/Standard-Examiner

John Lindquist graduated from Ogden High School in 1937, the last year before the school

became Central Middle School. The building is going to be demolished this summer. Lind-

quist will repeat a speech he delivered in his graduation year that caused a student strike.

School building houses many memories

By LISA CARRICABURU
Standard-Examiner staff

OGDEN — The Ogden High School Class of 1937 wants to make sure its proud but somewhat dubious reputation doesn't crumble with the soon-to-be-demolished building that served as a backdrop to its most famous antic.

John A. Lindquist, now the seemingly austere president of the Ogden-based Lindquist & Sons Mortuaries, said his classmates and other Ogden High alumni will gather at noon May 1 to pay a final tribute to their school, which currently is home to Central Middle School at 781 25th St.

The building, which served as Ogden High School from 1909 to 1937, will be torn down to make way for new construction at Central.

Included in an informal program of school chants

and heartfelt remembrances will be Ogden's own Gettysburg Address, with apologies to Abraham Lincoln, Lindquist said.

He said the speech, first delivered on March 22, 1937, in his most statesman-like voice, resulted in a schoolwide student strike that landed Ogden High's student body on the front pages of newspapers nationwide only shortly before it also landed 11 seniors, including Lindquist, on the street, temporarily expelled.

"It just goes to show how powerful spring fever can be," Lindquist said. "It was spring and we were 17 years old."

He recalled that the hoopla started several days before the schoolwide strike when Principal A.M. Merrill refused to let the school band miss classes to travel to the state basketball tournament.

Lindquist said he and other seniors also were miffed because they were the last class to graduate from the old Ogden High and weren't being allowed to have their commencement ceremonies at the new \$1 million building at 2828 Harrison Blvd. that currently houses the school.

A student sit-down strike on March 19 resulted in the suspension of Student Body President Homer Olsen and Vice President Mary Fisher, who according to an account in the Standard-Examiner, "were merely asked to remain at home until they can act sensibly about the matter."

Lindquist's address on the school steps March 22 began stoically: "Two score and nine years ago, our city fathers built on 25th Street a stable dedicated to the proposition that all students are to be persecut-

See CENTRAL on 3A