



#### THE NUMBERS ON THE HILL

Of all the places you have been, in how many of them did you see numbers on a hill close by? As far as we know, Valley High School was the first and only school to do this. After a while, it became a tradition at Valley for each class to paint its number on the hill, and it is still being done today.

Apparently, the first graduating class to paint its number on the hill was the class of 1928. A few of the people in this class were LuVera Spencer, Roland Lamb, Adell Brinkerhoff, Thelma Brinkerhoff, and Nettie Hardy. Like many classes that have followed them, the class of '28 seems to have wished to leave its mark and see that they were remembered after they were gone. Unfortunately, that number is no longer visible.

According to Ferl Blackburn, his class, the class of '29 didn't paint its number on the hill, and we have been unable to determine whether the classes of '30, '31, or '32 did.

In 1933, however, the numbers once again went back on the hill. LaDonna Harris said that she vividly remembers going up on the hill with her class members and painting their number.

A few of the people in this class were Webster Adair, Wilber Covington, Iola Heaton, Clara Sorensen, and LaDonna Harris.

We have been unable to find out whether the classes of '34, '35, or '36 did this, but we know that the class of '37 did, because their number is still visible. Unfortunately, it gets less visible with each rain and has almost been washed away. Some of the people that we know of in this class were Rena Tait and Eva Blackburn.

The class of '41 followed the now established tradition of painting its number on the hill, but, according to Reva Anderson, a member of that class, the class of "82" painted over their number. The best rocks on the hill are already occupied, so it creates the problem of some of the newer classes having to paint over the older numbers.

In 1976 the Seniors did their number a little differently. Instead of using the traditional colors of orange and black, they used the bicentennial colors of red, white, and blue. Their number is now almost gone because of the weather and erosion of the hill. Many of the other numbers are gone or almost gone because of the same reason.

Last summer the class of '62 made another trip up the hill and repainted their number. Perhaps some of the other classes will want to come back and do the same thing.

This unique tradition is one of the many special things about Valley, and hopefully it will carry on for many years to come.

by Kari McMullin and Kris Anderson