

Jane Shewmaker Hale

Jane Shewmaker was born in Buffalo, Missouri (Dallas County). Her parents are James Blaine and Dorothy Inez Sadler Shewmaker. She has one brother, Rex.

Jane attended twelve years of school at Buffalo, later known as the consolidated district of Dallas County R-1. She attended Southwest Missouri State College.

Jane married Bob Hale and they raised four sons, Ricky Blaine, Reggie Dean, Robert Mitchell, and Lucas Lee Hale on their family farm north of Buffalo.

Jane was active in the girls' sports offered at Buffalo, volleyball and softball. She was a junior high and senior high cheerleader. She served as class officer, was in band and glee club, acted in class plays, and wrote, directed, and performed on KBFL, Buffalo High School's first radio station, under the direction of Dr. Richard King.

Jane and Bob's sons attended Buffalo High School as did two of their wives, and most of their grandchildren. Jane served two terms as Buffalo PTA president after having filled each office in the organization. She was an avid fan of all of her children's and grandchildren's school activities. Jane hosted many of her sons' teammates in her home and cooked for them before they boarded the bus for away games.

Jane was employed by the Dallas County R-1 School District as a teacher's aide for several years. Besides working with early education programs, she wrote the yearly evaluations for Elementary Physical Education and Art, required for these programs to be subsidized by government funds from TENCO. These reports were selected to be sent to Washington D.C. They were chosen as examples for future required reports.

In 1971, Jane worked with the student council and other graduates to activate an alumni association for Buffalo High School. It was hoped this would be a uniting tie between former students and their alma mater with annual homecoming events held each year. Over the years, Jane retained the office of president. The Active Committee of Alumnus held their meetings in the Hale home, later on the high school campus, and finally on their own property near the D. A. Mallory Elementary School, where they built the Dallas County R-1 Alumni Headquarters. The Association was funded through annual membership dues plus community fund raising activities such as home shows, pageants, the school carnival, and other activities. Through the efforts of Jane and many Active Alumnus Committee members a high school alumni association evolved that other high schools continuously seek to emulate. The Alumni newspaper, *Grapevine*, mailed to members for over forty-two years is a link between school and graduates. The association administers five annual Alumni Scholarships with other Alumni establishing funds for more. The association seeks out needs for the school and offers assistance with funds, aid, and encouragement. The Alumni Headquarters is a haven for Dallas County R-1 archives.

Many know Jane as “The Firecracker Lady” because of the Hale family fireworks business in which Jane is still active. She operates Hale Sportswear which has served the area with sports equipment, letter jackets, and clothing for many years. After the death of her husband, Jane renovated the Sportswear building located at the corner of Hickory and Dallas in Buffalo into Hale’s Crossing Mall. A section of the building houses Time Out Café which is decorated with Buffalo High Sports awards. The original State Championship banners are displayed in frames with pictures of the teams and cheerleaders who helped to win them. On the table tops, under glass, you may find yourself or someone you know who played sports for Buffalo as the pictures tell the story of former Buffalo School glory.

The End Zone dining room has fed basketball team players and coaches before games. The Dug-Out deck has hosted football teams and coaches before games. And the Center Court dining area allows coffee coaches a place to review games and recall their winning seasons.

Jane Shewmaker Hale’s name and that of her family, is synonymous with Dallas County R-1 Schools. Though she has traveled far and wide promoting businesses and her award winning writing achievements, she strives to bring the best of what she’s learned back to share with her hometown and school. Whether she’s speaking as an entrepreneur to a class at Drury College set up by her late cousin Jack Shewmaker, or, whether she’s furthering the art of writing through Ozark Writers’ Inc. of which she is president, or the Missouri Writers’ Guild, where she served as VP/Conference director and president, or giving the public a look at the Olympic Torch which she and Dr. T. M. Mac Donnell carried in St Louis, Mo, or acknowledging the weekly column, “Buffalo, As I Remember It,” she wrote for *County Courier* for twenty years, Jane strives to give credit to the place she’s lived her entire life, Buffalo, Missouri.

And, together with her committees, friends, and family, you may see Jane still cheering on the hometown teams or coaching young ladies competing for the title of Miss Dallas County, or writing introduction poems for Little Miss Dallas County, or urging parents to enter their children in the Mini Miss or Mini Master Contest. You might visit with Jane at a booth she’s manning at the school carnival or while she’s helping line up school royalty as they march in to claim the title of King and Queen of the Buffalo School Carnival as she once did as a freshman candidate.

Or, if you listen closely, you may hear an echo of Jane, the student cheerleader, urging the fans to

”Give me a B -U-F-F-A-L-O!
That’s the way you spell it,
Here’s the way you yell it!
Buffalo, Jane’s hometown.
Buffalo, Jane’s school.
Buffalo, Jane Shewmaker Hale’s Alma Mater.”