

# So long Rockets, Pirates, Hornets...

The Pandora Times – June 14, 1973

During the past 25 years Putnam County and surrounding villages have been faced with the extinction of their most prized animal wildlife: school mascots. The reality of multi-school consolidation has been the culprit.

With every school merger the smaller school's most prized possessions, the school colors and mascot, vanishes.

Twenty-five years ago there existed no less than 13 high schools in Putnam County; in 1973 there remain nine. No longer flies the Blanchard High School Eagle or the Pandora High School Fleetwing. In 1952 these birds became extinct at the cost of the Pandora-Gilboa High School Rocket.

The next vanishing specie was exterminated in the 1962-1963 school year when the blue and white Vaughnsville Viking became a scarlet and grey Columbus Grove Bulldog. That same year the red, white and blue Ottawa Public Indian ended battle with the Ottawa Saint's Peter and Paul Trojan, forming the Ottawa High School red, white and blue Lancer. The 1964-1965 school year saw the Lancer slay its cross-town rival the Glandorf purple and gold Dragon to become the Ottawa-Glandorf Titan.

Meanwhile in a nearby village, the Beaverdam Beaver of red, white and blue vintage lost its fight for survival and joined the ranks of the Bluffton red and white Pirate. The Gomer maroon and white Bobcat was slain in 1966 by the large neighbor, the Elida Bulldog. One of the earliest consolidations was in the 1949-1950 when rivals Mt. Cory and Rawson formed to become the green and yellow Fighting Hornets.

Today Putnam County is blessed with two Wildcats of different names, Kalida and Miller City. In the northern edge of the county roams the Leipsic Viking while in the southeast lives

the Ft. Jennings's Musketeer, and the Ottoville Big Green. In the northeast dwell the Continental Pirates.

But by the witness of the past three decades, the possibility of some or all of these schools disappearing may not be improbable. Imagine what could become of these school names in the case of merger. If, for example all county school would merge in two schools, college prep and a vocation. Perhaps the following might take place in the following history; one school might be called General Rufus Putnam High School. Since the historic Mr. Putnam was a General, the school's mascot might be the Generals.

The vocational school, no doubt would be General Putnam High's biggest sports rival. It might be named General Putnam Tech or Northwest Technical High School. Perhaps Putnam Tech might capture a statewide mascot like the Buckeye, therefore becoming Putnam Tech Buckeyes.

The alternative to an all county school would be a group of smaller consolidations. Perhaps Leipsic, Pandora-Gilboa Columbus Grove and Ottawa-Glandorf would merge to become Putnam East High School. Continental, Fort Jennings, Kalida, Ottoville and Miller City would be named Putnam West High School.

**Crawfis College, Belmore and Palmer were three other high schools in Putnam County. Crawfis College and the Gilboa district joined to form Blanchard High School in 1940. Belmore was absorbed into the Leipsic school system in the early 1930's. Palmer High School was dissolved in the summer of 1941. The Putnam County School Board then reorganized and renamed it the Miller City-New Cleveland School District for the 1941-1942 school year.**