

# **ALVIRNE HIGH SCHOOL**

**1948 - 2020**

# Alvirne School's Beginning

**1918**

**A vision of Dr. Alfred K. Hills – set in motion by his will.  
(Dec. 1918 - 2 years before his death)**



**1948 - July**

**A six week legendary summer school was established on the former Hills Estate, this included sewing, fields and forests.**



**PURPOSE: To show that a Secondary School was feasible and to meet the date requirement of Dr. Hills will.**

## **22 girls for sewing**





**10 boys**  
**for forestry, soil testing, basic dairy,**  
**barn maintenance, poultry raising.**



***Kenneth Gibbs* was principle  
and teacher for boys classes.**

***Maude French* was teacher for the girls.**



# **Alvirne High School Class of 1948**

**(Six week Summer School)**

**Students receiving their certificates at the end of the first term:**

**Mary Jane Abbott**

**Nancy Abbott**

**Diane Baker**

**Janice Baker**

**Diana Bardsley**

**June Dupont**

**Joan Egeris**

**Patricia French**

**Alice Gallipeau**

**Irene Garside**

**Lillian Harwood**

**Frances Legallee**

**Leslie Loring**

**Mildred McCormick**

**Ruth Mellen**

**Lorraine Nadeau**

**Audrey Oliver**

**Marilyn Parker**

**Mary Quigley**

**Sarah Reynolds**

**Janet Rollins**

**Patricia Phelan**

**William Beals**

**Wilfred Boucher**

**David Brown**

**Duane Brown**

**Raymond Mondeux**

**David Quigley**

**Edgar Reynolds**

**Fred Rowell**

**Gordon Williams**

**Donald Wilmot**

## Alvirne School

This certificate is awarded to Audrey Oliver  
who has attended the six weeks Home Economics course  
and satisfactorily completed the required work.

July 15, 1948  
Eugene M. Wallace  
CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

Kenneth E. Gibbs  
PRINCIPAL

Points - 90



# Construction Phase

1949

The actual realization of **Alvirne High School**.

**Building Committee:**

**Eugene Leslie - *Chairman***

**Ned Spaulding**

**Lee Simonds**

**Edward Kinville**

**Architects Drawing of **Alvirne High School****



# 1949

**Ground breaking – Spring 1949**

**October 1949 construction of a 400 pupil high school on Hills estate began with up to \$350,000 from the Hills family estates and the direction of Jessie Norwell Hills.**



**1950 – September**

**Alvirne** opens as a combined Junior High  
and Senior High School.





**1950 – November 12**

**Alvirne High School Dedicated**

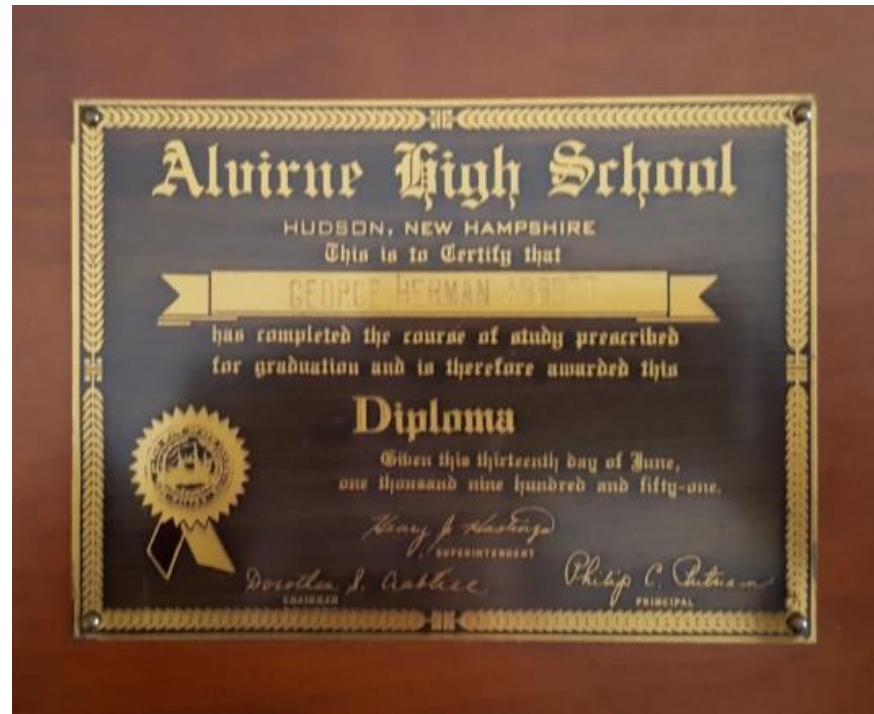


**1951 – June 14**

**First Graduating class of 25 students**



**Diplomas were presented by Henry Hastings, Superintendent of Schools in alphabetical order so the first diploma was presented to George W. Abbott. They were metal mounted on wood.**



***The annual school report that year noted that the cost / student was \$200 vs the tuition cost of \$253 to Nashua. 764 Students enrolled in Hudson that year.***



# 1957

**Alvirne** was accepted as an area Vocational Agricultural School due to recommendations of the advisory board of local farmers to change from a beef herd to a dairy herd.

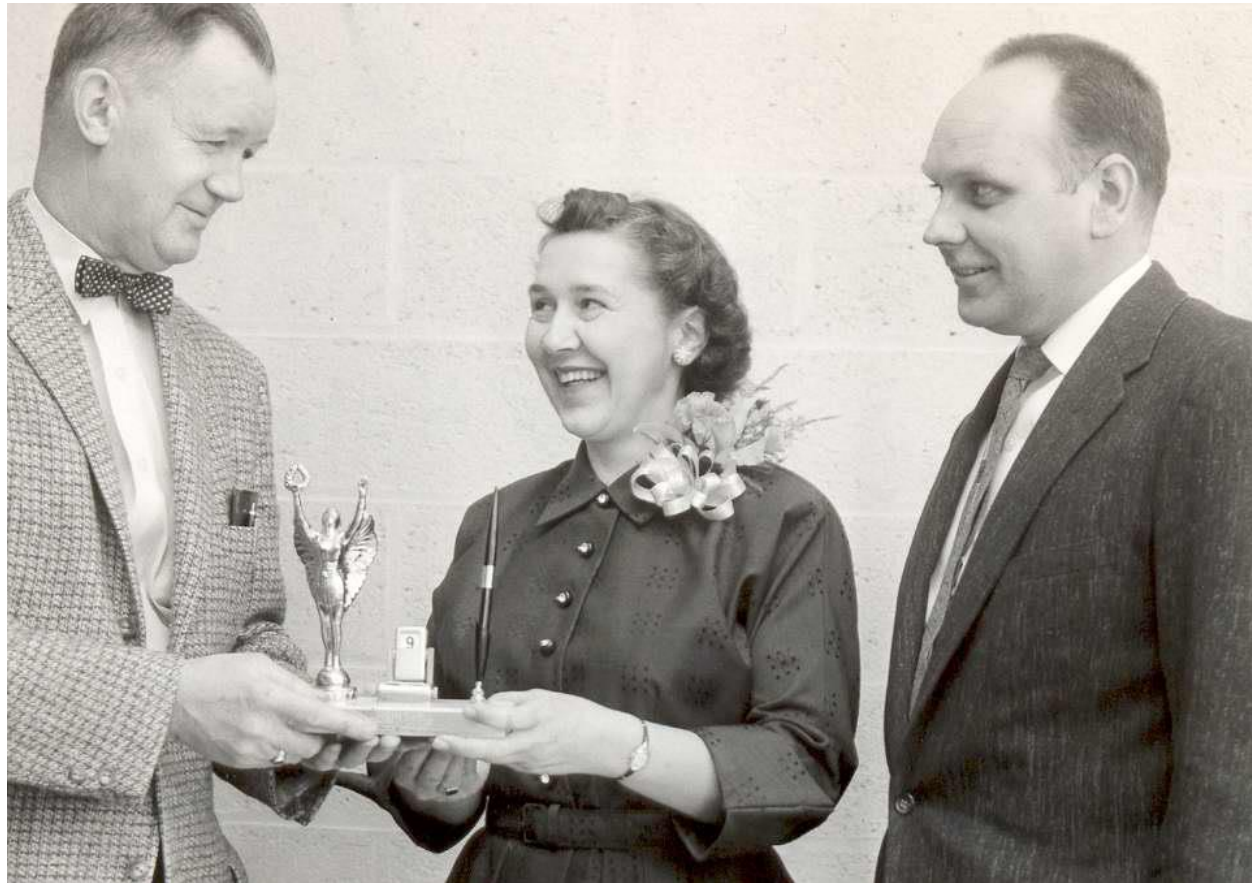
**Ernest Chalifoux, Robert Jasper,  
Albert Kashulines, + Henry Smith**

**A fine herd of milkers was put in place and a silo added to the barn.**



# 1958

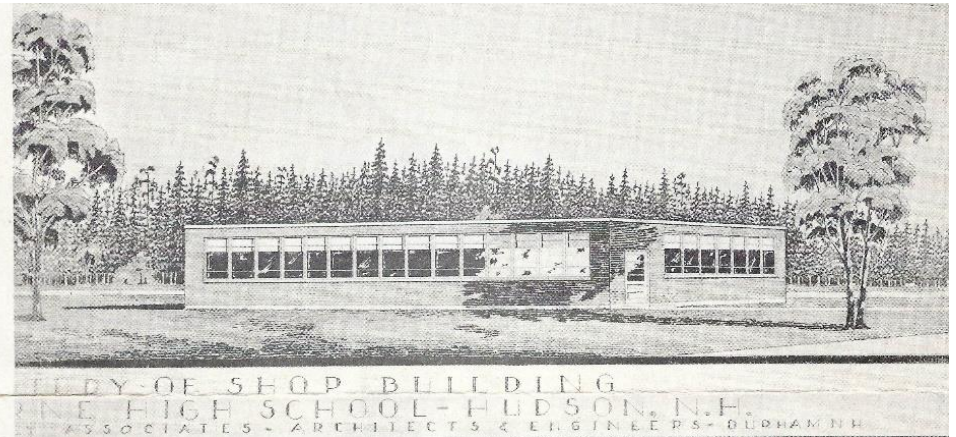
**Barbara Fuller honored as NH Teacher of the Year.  
Presentation made by Superintendent Ramsey and  
Principal Steckevicz.**



# 1958 – 1960

**An 8 room addition was added to the South end of the building with a combination cafeteria/auditorium.**

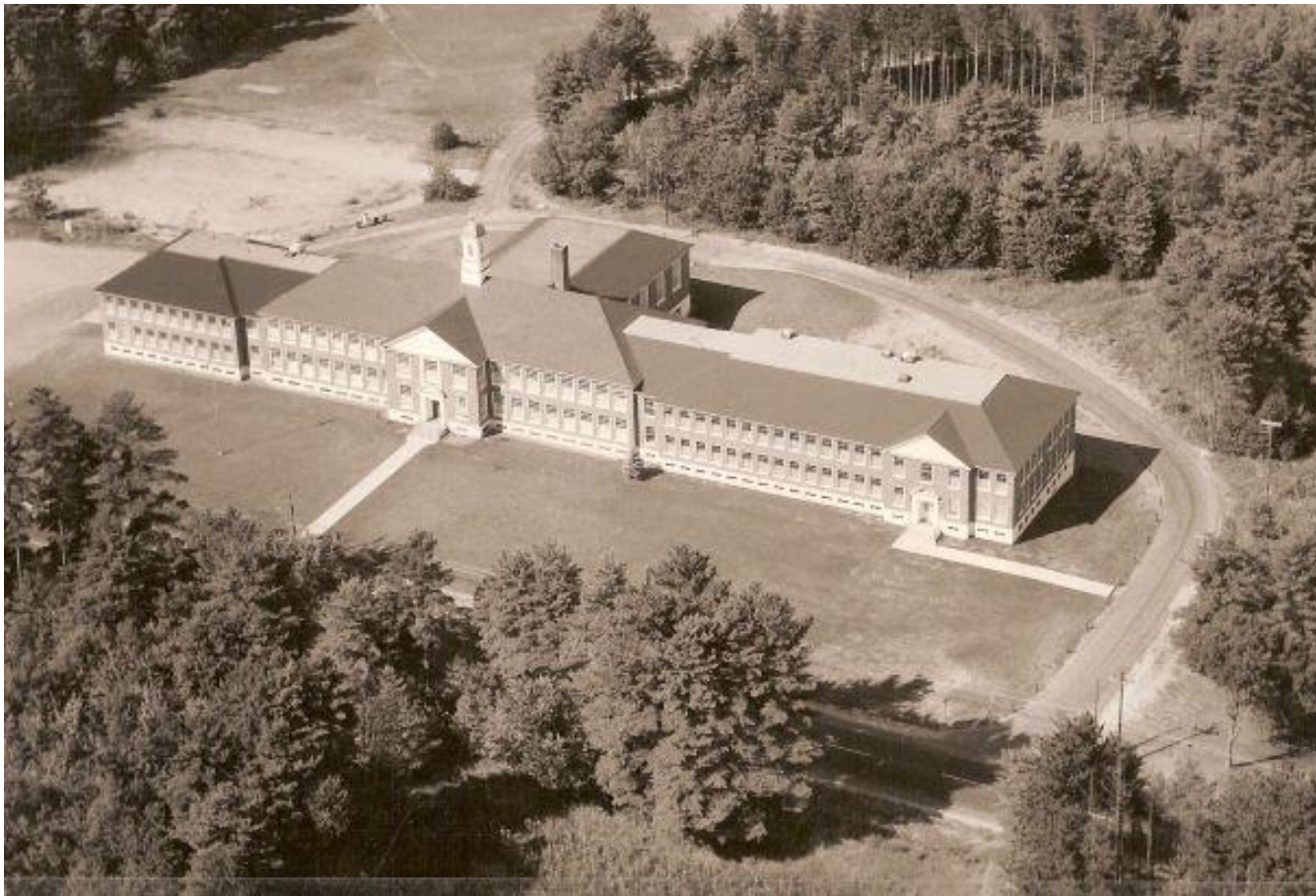
**A standalone Voc.-Ag building was also added between the north end of the existing building and the farm.**





**1963 -1965**

**A 16-room addition was added to the North end of the existing building due to town growth and tuition students from neighboring towns.**



# 1970 – 1971

**Steckevicz/Alvirne Quarterly Plan** put in place. In order to alleviate crowding Principal Chester Steckevicz suggested using the school year round, thus began the Quarterly Plan.

# 1972 -June

**Principal Steckevicz passed unexpectedly of a heart attack.**





# **1973 – Banner Year**

**New Greenhouse for Vo-Ag was completed.**

**Alvirne** evaluated under the Quarterly Plan and re-accredited.

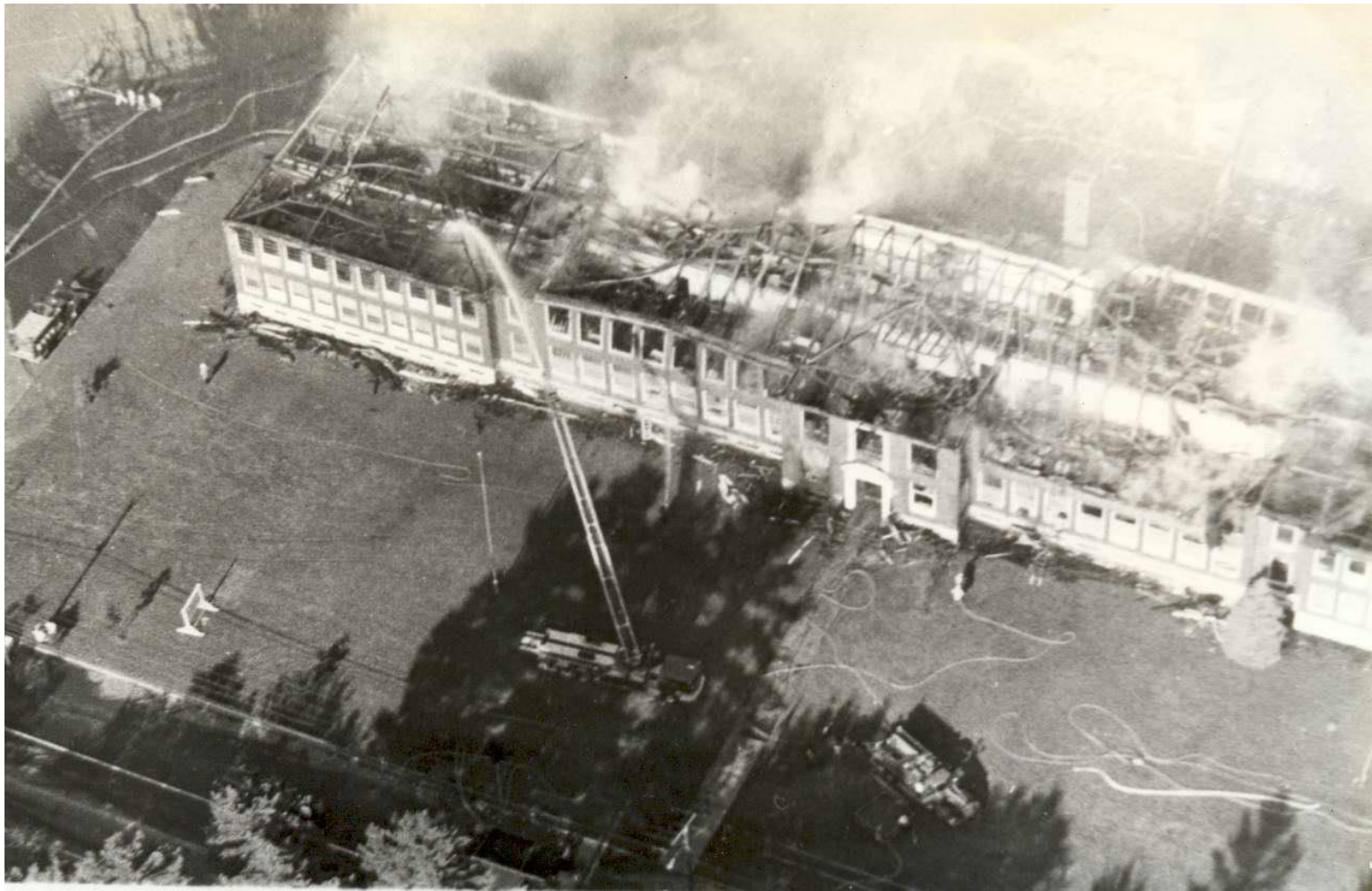
**223 Seniors graduated.**

**New England Championship soccer team!**

# 1974 – September-**Tragedy**

**80% of **Alvirne** destroyed by fire.**

**Investigation disclosed that the fire was set.**





**Accommodations were made for students within 2 weeks.**

**Alvirne** students were shifted to Memorial School with dual sessions.

**Memorial Students were bused to St. Francis School (that was vacant at the time) in Nashua.**

**1975 – September**

**Alvirne High School *reopens*, same design with fire walls.**



**Sept. – 1 year +1day after the fire.**



**1975 – December 20**

**The re-constructed Alvirne High School was dedicated, emphasizing what a proud, determined, and united community Hudson became after the fire.**

**This included the dedication of the C.J. Steckevicz Gymnasium and the presentation of a portrait in his honor.**





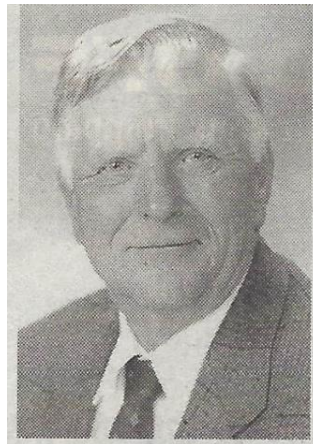
**1982**

**Farmhouse renovated.**

**Feasibility begins for adding vocational agriculture facilities at **Alvirne**.**

**1993**

**Vocational Center was up and running and  
unanimously named in honor of  
Wilbur “Web” H. Palmer.**



# **Today this center is a Comprehensive Career and Technical Center that features programs of study in:**

**Finance Accounting**

**Heavy Duty Mechanics**

**Pre-Engineering**

**( Project Lead the Way )**

**Computer Science**

**Drafting + Design**

**Digital Media**

**Building Trades**

**Culinary Arts**

**Career in Education**

**Health Science Marketing**

**Forest + Wildlife Management**

**Veterinary**

## **1994**

**Football program at **Alvirne** approved.**

**Following a major fire, the classic barn was replaced and new tie stall and hay barn built. “Web” vane added to the cupola in Web Palmer’s honor.**



**2000**

**Web Palmer retired as Director of Regional Vocational-Technical School .**

**2013**

**Alvirne** recognized as a secondary school of excellence.

**2016**

**Web Palmer passed, the School District report was dedicated to him.**

## **2018 – March**

**Wilbur H. Palmer Career + Technical Education Center (CTE) improvements approved by Hudson voters.**

**Improvements are to provide facility and equipment updates by providing tools and skills for future career demands. It also includes a new entrance to improve public access. The cost of 25M of which 17M is state funded.**



**2019 August 7 – Ground breaking ceremony with construction beginning soon after. Construction progress can be seen on-line at [CTE.SAU.ORG](http://CTE.SAU.ORG)**





**2020**

**Pandemic hit.**

**Schools closed across the Country.**

**Classes taught remotely.**



# 2021 May 24 Rededication Ceremony of The Palmer Center







**2021 – Welcome to The Barnyard Café!**