

Donation of the Month

Majorette uniform and spirit ribbons
Donor: Kathy McClure





School spirit is an important part of any high schooler's life. While many try out for the cheerleading squad dance team or marching band, every student is proud of their team. Much of this pride is shown through wearing school colors or waving foam fingers during the game. So how did the show of school spirit get its start?

The first pep club was established at Princeton University in the 1870s. The University of Minnesota is credited with creating the first "fight song". While most of the first fans and cheer leaders were men, women became active in cheerleading by the 1920s. By the 1930s marching bands began to include baton throwers or majorettes to add a bit of flare. It was in 1930 that Rogers High School started their pep squad called the Rootin' Rooters. By 1933 the Blue Demons squad was started with 5 charter members. Run a bit like a sorority, one needed to "pledge" to get onto the Blue Demons squad. By 1936 they had 50 members. Today, Rogers High School has a cheerleading squad, dance team, majorettes, marching band, and other squads who entertain the fans as well as cheer on the team.

The ultimate show of school spirit is homecoming, when past students, teachers and others are invited for pep rallies, parades and other festivities usually centered on a big football game. The first recorded "coming home" game was held at a meeting between Yale and Harvard. Other schools claim to have the first homecoming game. The first recorded game was in 1910 at the University of Illinois. Indiana also held one that same year, and Wisconsin and Missouri followed in 1911. Rogers's first recorded

homecoming was in 1924.

Today, no sporting event would be complete without the cheerleaders, marching band, majorettes, color guard and dance team. They entertain the spectators before, during and after a game. While many go to a football game to watch the boys play in the mud or go to a basketball game to watch them run the court; many spectators go to watch the cute girls on the cheerleading squad. School spirit brings a school full of diverse students together under a common banner. Cheering on a team and watching them win brings a school and the student body pride. While the cheerleaders and marching band lead the cheers if there were no fans it would all be for nothing.