

Valedictory Address given by Ruby Alm
Binford High School Graduation
May 28, 1930

Parents, Patrons, and Friends:

It is with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow that we are here tonight – joy because the time has come when we have been adjudged competent to graduate, and sorrow because the associations of the schoolroom must cease to exist except in the memories of the past.

As we now recall the scenes and years gone by, visionary faces of old friends appear before us with their well-remembered features, companions of our earlier years endeared to us by many a tie.

It is true that there have been times when we have met with discouragements, but as a good cause makes a stout heart, we have gone forward and in the future we will hold in grateful remembrance the yesterdays of our school years.

Gentlemen of the Board of Education, we are especially indebted to you for your hearty encouragement and support. You have labored most earnestly for the benefit of our deeply loved school, and we wish to express our gratitude and thanks.

To our Instructors, who have so faithfully labored with us, we wish to say that although we may never again be placed in the relation of instructor and pupil, you will always live in our memories, for in you we have found both friends and counselors. In you we feel indebted for much that we are or may be in the future. We are unable to render compensation to you for your zeal and faithfulness. But as you have been faithful to us, so will we be faithful to others; as you have inspired in us an urge for knowledge, so shall it be our pleasure and duty to perpetuate this urge and radiate its influence in all places possible. We do not doubt but that you will deem these a more noble recompense than silver or gold. With a deep sense of our obligations to you and gratitude for the ability, zeal and care which you have exercised in our behalf, we bid you farewell, with best wishes and hopes for your future success.

And now fellow classmates, our high school days are over. These exercises, to which we have looked forward for so long, mark the close of our fellowship as students at Binford High School. The time has come for us to speak our valedictory to the dear old school. We must say goodbye to the school, to our teachers – and yes, my dear classmates, to each other. As we review our associations with one another and enjoy the pleasant recollections of the past, we hardly realize that our school days are ended. But, however reluctant we may be to sever our connections with the school we have learned to love, we must realize that our school life cannot go on forever – each one of us has his own little niche to fill in the world outside. We are now going out into the world. Let us, then, keep before us the words of our class motto, “Not the

sunset, but the dawn.” The sun may have set on our happy high school days, but the dawn of a new day brings to us the struggles and problems which our days spent in school have prepared us to meet. Circumstances, eventually if not at once, will lead us along different paths. Each of us will have his own interests, his own tasks, his own way to make. We shall meet and see each other and we shall be dear to each other always, but the old spirit of comradeship which has bound us so closely together during these years, is destined to fade out of our lives as time goes by.

The happy years we have spent together as schoolmates will, of course, live in our memories forever. We shall treasure these years as long as life shall last. But, hard as it seems, we must face the fact that the actual reality of our carefree lives together here in school comes to an end with these exercises.

With all the joy we must experience pain. Our ambition to reach the goal of graduation has been attained and we are happy at our achievement, but with it comes the loss of that other happiness which has been ours as jolly classmates.

What a depth of feeling there is in this farewell we must now speak! It means not only goodwill for the future, but also a testimony of love, a pledge of loyalty, and a sincere appreciation of all that the school has done for us and has meant to us. So, dear old school days, the Class of 1930, with sincere feeling, wishes you farewell.

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From the Binford Times:

21 STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE DIPLOMAS

Commencement Exercises to be Held for Largest Class in History of School

Prof. Phylip J. Green, of the University of North Dakota will deliver the graduation address at the annual high school exercises to be held in the Lyric Theater in Binford on Wednesday evening, May 28.

Other numbers on the program include the invocation by Rev. L. M. Halling, pastor of the Lutheran Free Church; the salutary by Cleo Knapp; valedictory by Ruby Alm; selections by the girls glee club; musical numbers by the juvenile band and presentation of diplomas to the senior class and also to the eighth grade graduation class, by Dr. J. R. Truscott, president of the school board.

Next Sunday morning at the Trinity Lutheran church, Rev. M. B. Ordahl will delivery the baccalaureate sermon to the class. Services will begin May 24th, at 11 o'clock. Saturday evening, May 24th, at 8 o'clock, will be class night, when a program will be given to which the public is invited, at the Lyric Theater.

The class motto is “Not the Sunset, But the Dawn,” the class colors, blue and silver and the flower is the lilac.

Ruby Alm, with an average of 92.6 is the valedictorian, and Cleo Knapp, with an average of 91.03, is salutatorian. With an enrollment of 21, this is the largest class to graduate from the Binford school. The members are as follows: Ruby M. Alm, Esther M. Bakken, Vida B. Brudvig, Raymond E. Bruns, Florence V. Dahlin, Agnes E. Evenson, Ruth C. Finstuen, Olive C. Gilbertson, Winnifred L. Green, Bernice M. Greenland, Rachel R. Heinsen, Arne Helland, Lawrence N. Jacobs, Ethel M. King, Cleo M. Knapp, Thelford Larson, Harold J. Maurer, Hildred K. Ordahl, Vernon P. Peterson and Lilius E. Retzlaff.

The members of the eighth grade graduation class are Dorothy Greenland, Harold Heinsen, Stella Johnson, Erling Knapp and Herbert Myer.