

THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK

NEWSLETTER

Issue #3-15

April 3, 2015

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD
Serving The Classes of the Great '50's Decade. Photos & Stories Welcome!
Published by Jack M. Phillips, Class of '54: jack@jackmphilips.com

Letters to the & B



Bill Rathburn '58
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 11, 2015, **Bill Rathburn '58** BRCOLORADO@aol.com wrote:

Jack -- The note on Jeanne Hurwitz's retirement in the last O&B reminded me of a photo of a Longfellow class visit to John Morrell's from Bob Baker that Shirley Brock was kind enough to forward to me some time ago. I'm a relatively new subscriber so it's possible it has already appeared in a previous O&B edition but, if not, there may be a few former Longfellow attendees who would enjoy finding themselves and others of our class in it. I believe Jeanne is in the third row to the right of Bunny Akin and behind Betsy Adams and Ann Lippert (my apologies if I have the spelling wrong). I'm embedding the photo below for previewing and attaching it as a file in case it's useful. Thank you for all your good work in keeping us connected. **Bill Rathburn, WHS '58**





Vicki Brubaker '59
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 12, 2015, **Vicki Brubaker '59** BRUBAKERCHEER@COMCAST.NET wrote:

How DO YOU keep on making (or remaking) such great memories for all WHS graduates of the 50's????! Once again, my applause to you and yours for taking your time to do what you do. You have no idea how "treating" it is to read about all of our friends "going-ons". Ron Beck and Mark Line and so many, many others are just as handsome today by the by as they were in high school. I wish I could go to the dance with you and your wife on Valentines night for sure! Dancing was one of my favorite things!

I am sure we'll all receive up-dates when we get closer to the date (September of this year) re. all-school reunion, but I have to write everything down 837,000 times and file it before I'll ever remember even "where did I put that date so I wouldn't forget it". I'm sure "notices" will be received well in advance, but I always get sooooooooooooo excited about these events way, way ahead of time, just ask Connie (Henline-59') Nelson or Linda (McCahren-59') Graham. THEY know me well. HA

Isn't that darling Julie Johnson (59') now Julie Bee - (she married good-lookin' Haskell Bee-59') just precious in her Sweetheart picture in the O&B. She's STILL just as pretty and just as nice as ever - I'd have to hate her with jealousy if I didn't LOVE her so much! I'm sure looking forward to seeing them both in September - along with everyone else!!!!

Once again Jack, much appreciation my way to you for your hard work and I'LL SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER. (Isn't that the name of a song? YES, it is...love it!) HA.

Vicki Brubaker (59')'59

All Photos Are WHS Senior Photos



Ron Beck '57



Mark Line '57



Connie Henline '59



Linda McCahren '59



Julie Johnson '59



Haskell Bee '59



Jim Wylie '51
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 13, 2015, **James Wylie '51** <jimwylie@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

At the risk of repeating myself, "THANKS AGAIN JACK" When the bell finally tolls for you St. Peter will have First Class seating for you & yours. I remember that Wackendorf name (as I am a Lincoln kid, my Dad was later the Principal there). I agree with Myron's comments re S D and SF; having been here and there myself, I have the same emotional reaction when I return. Thanks to your work and our connection with Augie we can keep our sentiment informed and up to date.

Appreciate the notation on the 2015 Reunion; sounds like Marlys has it on track. I believe it is not only "fun" work, it is important work--good health work. **Jim Wylie '51**

On Feb 18, 2015, at 1:00 PM, **James Wylie '51** <jimwylie@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Thanks for the Widdis notice and the notice add on. I wonder how often this happens---turns out Murry lived the next town over from us here in the Northwest Chi area--further, he was in pharmacy and I in hospitals yet we never meet after WHS tho we were neighbors as it turns out. **Jim Wylie '51**



On Feb 12, 2015, **Sheldon R. Songstad '56** <SRSongstad@msn.com> wrote:

Hi Jack, Fabulous email. You put many hours in this one. I REALLY enjoyed reading all of the different sections.

I loved the Assam family update as I personally knew most of them.

Sheldon Songstad '56

On Feb 18, 2015, **Sheldon R. Songstad '56** <SRSongstad@msn.com> wrote:

Rare photograph of Corn Palace in Mitchell, South Dakota - 1906

From: Sheldon R Songstad '56



On Mar 8, 2015, at 10:47 PM, **Sheldon R. Songstad '56** <SRSongstad@msn.com> wrote:

You and your friends will LOVE this one GUARANTEED

Sheldon "r"

Tid Bit: I saw Elvis at the Hilton in Las Vegas, but did not get to meet him. Later before he ever went on tour I tried to book him into Sioux Falls but Col. Parker said NO. Later I met with Col. Parker in L. V. for nearly an hour just to talk about the good ol days. And then later the same day I ran into Fess Parker who I brought to Sioux Falls to help in the Nixon re-election Campaign.

Now please watch this fabulous Elvis video. This song was written by Carroll Roberson, and is sung by Elvis Presley. This song was found in the Elvis Presley archives. You must listen, it's beautiful and I am sure you will pass it on. Even if you are not a fan of his, the song definitely is worth listening to.....

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?>

On Mar 7, 2015, at 8:24 PM, Sheldon R. Songstad '56 <SRSongstad@msn.com> wrote:

Rod and Jack, This video is great. Thanks for sending to me. Johnny Cash was a good friend of mine. I owned a BHG Co., so I designed the Black Hills Gold belt buckle he always wanted.

When our State Fair went bankrupt, Gov. Janklow sent me there to try and help save the fair. Johnny Cash & June came pro bono to help us out. That is when I gave him the Black Hills Gold buckle I knew he always wanted and gave June a beautiful BHG necklace. The next time he was on TV, he had on the buckle I made for him. We got worldwide press for what he did for us in South Dakota. I received copies of the news story from all over the world from friends who new me.

Rick Springfield, Charlie Pride & Wayne Newton also helped us and we got the fair solvent in one season. My best friend, Don Romeo, Concert Producer & Pres. of International Music Buyers helped coordinate all this with his connections. Hon. Carv Thompson & Mr. Benj Stoick were also instrumental in this mammoth project.

I booked all the big stars over the years but I used Charlie Pride and Johnny Cash on numerous occasions because of our friendship. I tell you all this as even I was not aware of the enclosed Cash video. Thank you again so much for sharing with me.

Senator Sheldon "r" Songstad "Retired" WHS '56
P. S.

Don Romeo's son, Bob Romeo, is head of the Academy of Country Music. This years award show is on April 19th in the 100,000 seat football stadium in Dallas, TX. and sold out in 17 minutes last fall. Most tickets ranged from \$500 to \$1500 each. I am so blessed as I have been able to attend these shows for over 40 years, most of which I was a voting member of the Academy.

Sheldon "r"

Click here and then click on "Go to Page" for great Johnny Cash video: <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=1156247044095>



Jim Redfield '50
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 18, 2015, at 3:37 PM, **Jim Redfield** jimwred@cox.net wrote:

Jack: Very interesting but sad note about **Murray Widdis '50, deceased**. He was a good friend, in my class of '50 and saw him at the last reunion I attended when you briefly joined our '50's group luncheon. When we were in high school, I talked him into buying an old 1928 Pontiac driven by a tire salesman Paul Moberly, for Sears for about \$50. That car walt by our house on 18th street every day smoking' up a storm! Told Murray all we needed to do with it is pull the engine down, re-ring it & it would be as good as new (like I knew what I was talking about!). He said he had a spare garage that we could overhaul it in. We got it all torn down & then couldn't find the right repair parts & there it sat! I think his parents could have killed me! Kay Salem was related to Nusier Salem who my dad used to bowl with regularly back in the day. Wonderful folks. Such memories!

Cheers & the best to all your followers,

Jim Redfield '50



On Feb 13, 2015, at 6:32 AM, **Deane Grav '58** <grav1065@gmail.com> wrote:
Jack thanks for the great job you do. Leaving Sioux Falls bought a home in Sun Lakes, AZ moving next week. Big change we have lived here our whole life. Our youngest son lives in Chandler. So on 2-18 Arizona here we come. Keep up the awesome job you do.

Deane (1958) and Elizabeth Hubbard Grav (1964)

Deane Grav '58, WHS Senior Photo



Royce Adams '58
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 22, 2015, **Royce Adams '58** Litljump@aol.com wrote:

Jack, here's a little story you might use in the O&B - an unusual story you might say. Many years ago, prior to 1990 Dee and I were driving back to Sioux Falls on I-29. To our right was a farm and they had placed their old outhouse near the fence line just beyond the interstate boundary. They had planted a lot of beautiful flowers around the base. Dee noticed the little "house" and commented "I think something like that would be nice in our backyard."

A couple years after, I was talking about that incident with a good friend of mine, Dale Weir. Dale and his wife owned the property that now is called Arrow Head Park, a city park, that is just east of the edge of Sioux Falls near Powder House Road. At the time we were talking, Dale mentioned they were going to raze the old farmhouse and there, on the site, was the old outhouse. We could have it if we wanted it.

We took it apart, hauled the parts to our place, and re-assembled it. After putting it back together we had a an "open house" with Dale and the coffee group that we met with everyday. We served lemonade and had "hermit" cookies. The selection of refreshment and cookies had a purpose. We wanted to stay with the theme of the occasion. The sign on the "house" said "Out of Odor". We now use it as a tool storage and planting shed. It has the original old light on it and we use it as a backyard night light. Oh, also, it was a "one holer" and it's still "Out of Odor". As ever Dee Frerk Adams '61 and Royce Adams '58



Jane Ackerman '55
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 25, 2015, **Jane Ackerman '55**

<letmebefree.ackerman6@gmail.com> wrote:

I just wanted to update you on **Denny York '55**. Denny returned to Rapid City about 3 weeks ago and is staying with his daughter. Last week he had his pace maker replaced and that is working well. He is feeling much better and as always, is in good spirits. I'm sure all the prayers have helped. He still has to address the kidney issue but that is even a lot better. Take care. **Jane Ackerman '55**



Dennis York '55
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 27, 2015, at 6:56 AM, **Jim Adams '54** <adamswest@earthlink.net> wrote:

Hi Jack:

It shocked me to read this. Bob (**Bob Gourley '59 deceased**), was a young friend who grew up next to us on 30th St. I babysat him and his sister. We kept track of him through his mother, Mavis, and were in touch with her until a year before she died. They were a wonderful family. I suppose he died of cancer; I know he had some health problems at a relatively early age.

Thank you, Jack, for publishing these obits and for all the time and effort you spend to keep us in touch with our youth.

Jim Adams '54



Jim Adams '54
WHS Senior Photo

DO YOU REMEMBER ANITA PRILLWITZ '59?

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Anita Prillwitz's '59 daughter, Gentry, is seeking to learn more about her Mom. If you have stories and or memories of Anita that you would like to share with Gentry, please send them to me here at the O&B, jack@jackmphilips.com. I will be most happy to print what you share in a future issue and pass them on to Gentry. I hope many of you will assist Gentry in her important quest.

On Mar 10, 2015, Gentry Stanley wrote:

Jack, I found your website and wanted to thank you. My mom, Anita Prillwitz graduated in 1959 and I was wondering if you had any more information on her. She passed when I was 12 and would like to find out more about her. LMK if you can help.

Thanks, Gentry Stanley

Editor's Response: Dear Gentry, I was in the WHS class of '54, so being 5 years older than you Mom I unfortunately did not know her. I don't know if you have ever seen her senior yearbook, "The 1959 Warrior", but above is your Mom's senior photo. In also checking the '56, '57 and '58 Warriors I found out that she did attend WHS all four years. From the list of activities listed for her in the '59 Warrior, she was quite active while in high school. The list of her activities included; I.R.C. which encouraged international good will, Student Council - Sophomore, Y-Teens, The Orange & Black which was our weekly school newspaper, Art Club, Spanish Club, Camera Club and Junior Red Cross. From such a long list of so many activities it is pretty certain that your mother was quite a popular, and busy, young lady while at WHS. Below you will find a photo of your Mom as a member of the Student Council from the 1957 Warrior. Your Mom's WHS senior class was a big class. There are 510 senior photos in her senior yearbook. I sincerely hope you are successful in discovering lots of beautiful things about you Mom's youth. I assure you that she attended a wonderful school, in a wonderful city, during a wonderful period of time!

I sincerely wish you good luck in your search and hope you discover only beautiful and heart warming things about your Mother. If I can be of any more help please let me know.

Jack Phillips '54, Editor

STUDENT COUNCIL First row, l. to r.: Theone Scheinost, Veryl Oakland, Sheila Carter, Eric Gustafson, Jan Campbell, Don Noordsy, Jane Thompson, Roland Pochop. 2nd row: Deanna Henline, Keith Welchlin, Anita Prillwitz, Joan Thornburg, Sharon Norris, Mary Thornburg, Andy Austrums, Nell Williams, Major Stephenson. 3rd row: Joyce DeGroot, Richard Olson, Verna Feters, Carolyn McClain, Judy Harvey, Jack Quitter, Bob Legvold, Rita Mundt, Leonard Cook. 4th row: Ann Feuerhelm, Carolee Gerken, Larry Thirstrup, Connie Warren, Glen Van Der Schaaf, Mary Saavedra, Virgil Keith, Dale Rhead. 5th row: Karen Osgood, Rick Devereaux, Kay Macheak, Kitty Hickenbotham, Jerry Bauch, Andrea Jackson, Ronnie Warren, Lavonne Sacken, Gary Inglis. 6th row: Don Skaro, John Hisel, Jim Luce, Palmer Peterson, Arien Knutson, Lowell Hansen, Terry Robinson, Loreene Roddel, and Curt Brandland.





On Mar 10, 2015, **Don Noordsy '58** <heythere63@comcast.net> wrote:
 Jack,
 Emerson class of '1954.
Don Noordsy '58

Don Noordsy '58 WHS Senior Photo



Row 1: Stuart Van Kevern, Tim Klannagen, Eddie Sessler, Don Noordsy, Jim
Wouk, Dan Marx, Larry Todd, Bob Kroon, Burnell Henriksen, Jim
Sorenson, Jim Soward.

Row 2: Kay Coffitt, Dick Alick, Wayne Moo, Dennis Mastere, Jerry
Priesen, Dale Lokke, Dale Margeson, Harlan Lemohn, Dennis Vander
Ploeg, Bob Billman, Leroy Farrand, Glenn Gravalla.

Row 3: Miss Jordan, Carol Loewen, Lila White, Diane Barrett, Janice
Cravelt, Susan Dussau, Gloria Welch, Barbara A. Lakker, Mary Ann
Casperson, Barbara Bakker, Carol Triggstad, Janet Norman, Judy De
Vany, Mrs. Holst.

Row 4: Deanna Harline, Leslee Kremer, Sharon Hink, Sybil Nordin, Rochelle
Schoffe, Frances Luerssen, Barbara Kannenberg, Beverly Jones,
Judy Leighton, Ginger Venema, Janet Common, Marilyn Melinke,

Row 5: David Herrick, Larry Mitchell, David Backhus, Greg Hall, Bob
Moberly, Major Stephenson, Duane Gieser, Don Otten, Billy
Christensen, Kenny Starks and Dennis Stride(not in picture)

hmmmm...
and yet another
day has passed
and I did not
use Algebra
once...very
interesting.



You're getting old
when you don't
care where your
spouse goes, just
as long as you don't
have to go along.



Jim Redfield '50
WHS Senior Photo

On Mar 11, 2015, at 11:52 PM, **Jim Redfield '50**, jimwred@cox.net wrote:
Jack: Another fine obit on one of my old school acquaintances @ WHS. Knew him obviously before he served his country & became a man of the cloth at my old church in Sioux Falls where my attendance was unfortunately somewhat random. He was a consummate jazz & boggie pianist & remember parties where he played & played until his fingers gave out & then played some more! Great guy, obviously very giving & my condolences to his family.

Jim Redfield, Class of 1950



Daleanne Anderson '56
WHS Senior Photo

On Mar 16, 2015, **Daleanne Anderson '56** <imdaleanne@mchsi.com> wrote:

HELP!

Dear Jack,

My friend (Sandra Sabel..maiden name) from Augustana (who was a cheerleader with me) would like the information on DeeAnna VAN Dyke. They were good friends!!! Sandy's email is as follows: jeans1942@aol.com Could you email the information on DeeAnna to Sandy????? Thank You!

Daleanne Anderson, Ph.D. (515) 964-5399

102 NE Oak Drive

Ankeny, Iowa 50021 imdaleanne@mchsi.com I am not the computer literate to

figure out forwarding! Uffda! **Daleanne Anderson '56**



Dick Smith '56
WHS Senior Photo

On Mar 23, 2015, **Dick Smith '56** <d-smith@worldpath.net> wrote:

I just stumbled onto a FB page called "Forgotten Sioux Falls"

<https://www.facebook.com/ForgottenSiouxFalls>

Lots of old photos . . . especially buildings. A nice trip down memory lane. I don't recall seeing a photo of Emerson grade school or WHS.

Hope this finds you healthy & happy.

Dick Smith '54

The O&B Still Needs The Following Yearbooks.

1941 - 1943 - 1944 - 1947 - 1948

and

1961 and All Later Years.

Do you have any of these books you can part with?



Verna Fetters '59
WHS Senior Photo



Bob Billman '58
WHS Senior
Photo



Bill Billman '59
WHS Senior Photo



Ervin Fetters '56
WHS Senior Photo



Larry Fetters '62
WHS Sophomore Photo
Deceased



On Mar 25, 2015, **Verna Fetters Billman-McKay '59** gvmckay@netzero.net wrote:

Hi Jack Thanks for the information on all you do and thanks for including me in your mailing list. My sister's name is Viola (Fetters) McTague. She was 86 years young and only went through 8th grade at Whittier School. A coincidence you would know **Bob** (Billman '58 deceased.). He was my husband for 24 years. He died of a massive heart attack in 1989 at the age of 47. He did go to Washington High and was a 1958 graduate. His brother, **Bill Billman**, graduated with me in 1959. Bill lives in Las Vegas. Their sister, **Beverly Billman Rose** attended WHS also. She was 10 years younger than Bob so I believe she graduated in 1968 or 1969. She lives in San Antonio, TX. They also have another sister, Barbara Billman, who is developmentally challenged and lives/works in the Sheltered Workshop/area in Sioux Falls. Bob was never sick a day in his life, never met a stranger, loved/missed by all who knew him. I was a widow for 16 years, raised two children and met George McKay (born in Flint, MI), married him in 2014. Everyone knew me by the Billman name which I kept; thus the name Billman-McKay. My home address is 316 Bordeaux Drive, La Porte, IN 46350, telephone number is 219-326-7643. We winter in Florida and summer in northern Michigan on Lake Huron. My maiden name is Fetters; thus Verna (Fetters) Billman-McKay. I attended Riverside Elementary School, which I think is now Laura B. Anderson Elementary School. From grade school I attended Whittier and then graduated from WHS, then on to South Dakota State (Brookings). I have one brother, **Ervin Fetters '56**, still living in Sioux Falls. He is a 1956 WHS graduate. My other brother, **Larry Fetters**, was also a WHS graduate of 1963 or 1964. He was a veteran of the Viet Nam war and died of agent orange fall out in 2010. I have given you more information than you asked for I am sure. Thanks again for including me in your distribution. Sincerely, **Verna Fetters Billman-McKay '59**



On Mar 30, 2015, Bill Stanton '53 jandbstanton@sio.midco.net wrote:
Jack, Sorry. I should have included my class year which is 1953.

Looking through the deaths from the class of '53 I notice Bill Harvey is missing. If you need the date, I will try to get it from his brother-in-law.

Bill Stanton '53

Bill Stanton '53. WHS Senior photo.

Bill Harvey '53, WHS
Senior Photo. deceased.



**WANTED!
YOUR STORY!
WITH PICTURES!
PLEASE SHARE IT WITH US!**



On Apr 1, 2015, **Sharla Dworak Cartwright '55**
<scartwr2002@yahoo.com> wrote:

Imagine That!

From, Sharla R. Dworak Cartwright '55

Sharla Dworak '55. WHS Senior Photo.



During the 3-1/2 years of World War 2 that started with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and ended with the Surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945,
"We the People of the U.S.A. " produced the following:
22 aircraft carriers,
8 battleships,

48 cruisers,
349 destroyers,
420 destroyer escorts,
203 submarines,
34 million tons of merchant ships,
100,000 fighter aircraft,
98,000 bombers,
24,000 transport aircraft,
58,000 training aircraft,
93,000 tanks,
257,000 artillery pieces,
105,000 mortars,
3,000,000 machine guns, and 2,500,000 military trucks.

We put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services,
invaded Africa,
invaded Sicily and Italy,
won the battle for the Atlantic,
planned and executed D-Day,
marched across the Pacific and Europe,
developed the atomic bomb,
and ultimately, with Great Britain and many other Allies
conquered Japan and Germany.

Reminder of The New O&B Newsletter Format

See more detailed explanation on page 1 of issue “#1-15 Ltrs.”

The Orange & Black is still battling file size limitations on all Newsletter mailings. In on going efforts to limit and control unwanted “Spam” mailings, a maximum file size limit of 5 mb has been placed on all “*Constant Contact*” mailings. This size limit never effects our “Special Edition” mailings because they are so small, but it does effect the all of the full O&B Newsletters because they are so much larger. It seems the only solution that doesn’t sacrifice the quality of the finished product is to just make each newsletter smaller in size.

Therefore, all O&B Newsletters are now divided into two issues and two mailings. The first mailing will contain the “Letters To The Editor” and the follow up mailing will include the news and feature stories. To make it easy for you to ascertain which is which, “**Ltrs.**” will be added to the issue # in the subject line for the issue containing the Letters To The Editor.

On Apr 3, 2015, at 5:23 PM, **Harry Hoiland '54** <paveknife@hotmail.com> wrote:



Harry Hoiland '54
WHS Senior Photo

The Blonde and the Chimpanzee

A blonde was about two hours from San Diego when she was flagged down by a man whose truck had broken down. The man walked up to the car and asked, "Are you going to San Diego?"

"Sure she answered the blonde, do you need a lift?"

"Not for me. I'll be spending the next three hours fixing my truck. My problem is I've got two chimpanzees in the back which have to be taken to the San Diego Zoo. They are a bit stressed already so I don't want to keep them on the road all day. Could you possibly take them to the zoo for me? I will give you \$100 for your trouble."

"I'd be happy to," said the blonde. So the two chimpanzees were ushered into the back seat of the blonde's car and carefully strapped into their seat belts. Off they went. Five hours later, the truck driver was driving through the heart of San Diego when suddenly he was horrified! There was the blonde walking down the street and holding hands with the two chimps, much to the amusement of a big crowd. With a screech of brakes he pulled off the road and ran over to the blonde. "What the heck are you doing here?" he demanded. "I gave you \$100 to take these chimpanzees to the zoo!"

"Yes, I know you did," said the blonde, "but we had money left over so now we're going to Sea World."

From Harry Hoiland '54

Ed. Note: My apology to all blonds. Next time I will make it another color.

Don't Forget!

2015 ALL SCHOOL REUNION

SEPT. 18, 19, 20, 2015.

Registration Info Will Be Coming Soon.

The Orange & Black suggests that each individual class schedule their own dinner or lunch over that weekend. Thursday night is perfect for a dinner and Friday or Saturday is good for a class luncheon. Just let the O&B know of your classes' plans and it will be listed along with all other activities.

Class of '54: Dinner, Thursday Night, Sept. 17th
More information coming soon.