

ORANGE & BLACK

NO. 4 WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1954, SIOUX FALLS, SD VOL. 2009

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Your Photos & Stories Are Both Requested & Encouraged. Please Send To Jack Phillips: jackmp@me.com



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Jack - What wonderful stories from Volume 3 of the Orange & Black (senior edition). Our classmates have certainly had interesting experiences. I loved reading about them. When you requested information, I reflected on our story and I realized that it is one that is not necessarily remarkable but in fact, is so very similar to so many of our classmates. We were privileged to grow up in a beautiful mid-western community and graduate from a wonderful school that I think prepared us well for the future. Some of us went on to college - others embarked on other paths and some may be pursuing new dreams even to this day!

After graduation I attended the Univ. of SD along with a number of our classmates. It was fun to make new friends, but I also enjoyed continued friendships with former WHS classmates that I see to this day when I return to Sioux Falls to see family. I met my future husband Bob Ellis my freshman year at a fraternity mixer when I was 18 years old. (who would know that this relationship would continue through 50 years when we celebrated our anniversary in Lake Como,



Bob & Sandy celebrating their 50th anniversary on Lake Como in Italy.

Italy.) While at USD it was fun to have Bob meet and get

to know some of my former classmates including Jim Riemann, Jack Phillips and Dick Viehweg and many others.

After USD I returned to Sioux Falls where I received my first teaching position at Horace Mann elementary



Sandy Sona, Our Beautiful and Ever Gracious 1954 Homecoming Queen.

school. After graduation from the USD Business School, Bob and I were married in 1957, moved to Sioux City, IA and then on to Oklahoma. Bob fulfilled his ROTC commitment at the Ft. Sill

Artillery & Guided Missile School and a number of years later in the reserves where he served as the Battery Commander of the 14th Artillery retiring as a Captain just prior to Vietnam.

We moved back to Sioux City where Bob began a successful 43 year career in the automobile business working for the same wonderful company & people the entire time. It obviously was the right choice for our family. He received further education at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI and numerous other schools. Bob's management and leadership skills with Chevrolet made it possible for us to travel extensively throughout Europe, North Africa and the US. We were most grateful for those experiences.

I continued to teach off and on through the years while I was busy raising our 2 children and involved in community service. I was offered a position with KWIT public radio as Volunteer Co-Ordinator, editorialist on air, and later Development Director. It was fun to work with all the young staff from whom I learned a great deal. I also loved meeting a variety

of interesting celebrities whom we interviewed when they performed in Sioux City. I especially loved the fun of visiting with Garrison Keillor and the group from Prairie Home Companion when they did their show at our Orpheum Theater. We entertained them at an informal party and we were pleased that they all showed up and visited for a long time, (something they don't always do, esp Garrison!)

Through the years we



L to R, Sandy, her sister, Jan Sona Hyden WHS '53 (widow of Buz Hyden WHS '53), Marilyn Hill Viehweg WHS '54

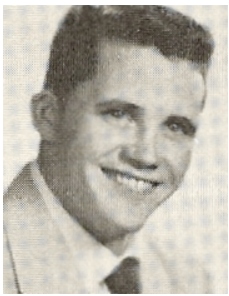
have enjoyed living in a community where we have been dedicated to trying to "make a difference" and have found it to be extremely fulfilling. Most of our efforts have involved the needs in the areas of education, the arts, Boy's and Girl's Clubs, social service needs,

cancer research and just about anything that involves kids!! We have been blessed to have raised two children in a great community like the one I grew up in!! Our son Bob is a corporate attorney who just participated in the Des Moines Register's "Bicycle Ride Across Iowa". Daughter, Beth is a College Professor who has done 3 Marathons, including the Chicago Marathon. We enjoy our 2 granddaughters who like to "walk" and have participated with us in the Cancer Relay for Life and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. A number of our loved ones have been affected by this disease so we will continue to do all that we can to eliminate it.

We have been fortunate to have many wonderful friends throughout our lives. It is also fun to think back on friendships of the past and the fairly uncomplicated lives we led growing up in Sioux Falls. I am looking forward to hearing "your stories" at our reunion in September. Bless Jack for all his efforts!!

End.

Note: Our gracious & modest Queen failed to mention that she was named "Siouxland Woman of the Year for 1997" for her work with many, many charitable organizations in Sioux City. She has been most deservedly referred to as "One of Sioux City's Greatest Assets".



**Don
Amundson**

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Jack, Thanks for the response. I hadn't thought much about the old days until you called. Seems like yesterday that we were sitting in class at WHS learning about $a/b=3c$. Then, I realized it was worth the effort.

Betty Lou and I just celebrated our 50th anniversary with our 4 children, their spouses and their 4 children. I told them in just over 10 years I entered High school, graduated, entered Augustana on football scholarship, broke my collarbone, left college, joined the Army, went back to Augustana after discharge, got married, graduated and started a career in Insurance. That was a wonderful 10 years (except for my time in Korea).

Since then, we have been transferred from Aberdeen, to Chamberlain, to Huron, to Fargo, to Wichita Falls, to Longview, to Waco and to Dallas; we

have lived here in Plano for 35 years. The kids; Jennifer, Daniel, Julie and David all spent most of their lives in the Dallas Area; graduated High school and College and married. Our immediate family totals 14.

I retired in 2005 to straighten out some health issues. Betty Lou is still working; and intends to retire next June. My time is spent handling the Grand kids needs. Like the Soccer



Don and Betty Lou Amundson

Grandpa.

We do regret losing contact with our friends; but all the variable factors involved with the family and work and living so far away lead us to live in our present environment.

Take care. Don

Editor's note: After receiving the prior letter from Don, I wrote him back asking for a photo and more about his wife, Betty Lou. The following was his response.

Jack, Betty Lou and I met at McKennan Park when I was 12 and she was 9. I walked her to her Grandparents and we said goodbye. She lived in Laverne, Mn. I saw her once when I was 15 and again when I returned from Korea. We dated for 3 years then Married in 1959.

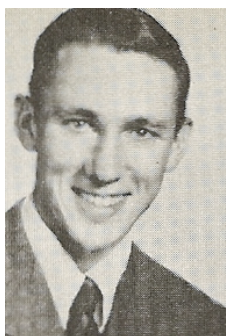
She graduated from Laverne High school. Betty Lou was a stay at home mom until the kids were grown; then she started her career as a Field Underwriter with State Farm.

Take care. Don

End



Have you ever wondered where the boys from the Idle Hour are today?



**Don
Klinefelter**

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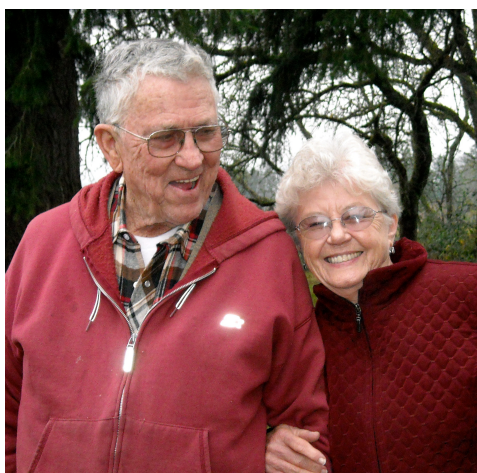
Hi Jack, Browsing through my 1954 annual brings back memories of so many of my classmates and their achievements but really never had the opportunity to personally know them. Working on a farm kind of restricted any after school activities.

Coming from a little old one room country school house to Washington High was quite a terrifying experience to say the least. It seemed that everyone but me knew where they were going and heaven help you if you were caught running in the halls. By my senior year I kind of got the hang of it. Kind of makes me think of that T.V. show called "WipeOut".

My greatest pastime, then, was roller skating at

West Sioux roller rink where in the fall of 1954 my friends, (so I thought) gave me a (surprise going away party) as some rumor had it that I was going to join the military service. Rumors are dangerous! So in January of '55 I volunteered for the Air Force and was on my way to Oakland, Ca. for boot camp.

After returning from an eighteen month tour of duty on Okinawa in 1957 I married Sylvia Quammen (class of '56). Her persistence finally paid off



Don and Sylvia Klinefelter

and drug me before the preacher in April of '57 at the Bellflower Lutheran church near L.A. Maybe not quite the way it was but just makes me feel good to say

it that way. Upon discharge from the service, we moved to the San Diego area and raised three children and I worked in construction.

Joining the Operating Engineers Union I ran heavy equipment of all kinds eventually deciding a crane operator never got dirty and sat on his butt most of the time. I liked it so well that I sold our house and bought my first crane. It turned out to be a good investment and the company was named "Don,s Crane Rental, Inc.

I had many interesting jobs of which the best was working for Walt Disney on a movie "MacDevlin Meets the Devil" at Carlsbad raceway with Elliott Gould and Bill Cosby. Another movie company shooting scenes at Del Mar race track hired me. I could write two pages on this low budget outfit that was trying to land two sky jumpers on the two lead race horses at the same time. What a mess.

I acquired a commercial pilots license
Don Klinefelter continued next page.

with my G.I. bill, owned a Cessna 172 and belonged to the San Diego Sheriffs Aerosquadron.

Sylvia and I are now

small town surrounded by cattle ranches and I have served two terms as Mayor of Montague with Sylvia still involved as Treasurer.



retired in Northern California approximately 30 miles from the Oregon border in a town called Montague. Montague is a

We do have fun with the 1930 Model A and 1921 Model T Fire truck seen in the pictures I am sending. Hope to make the reunion-----God willing.

Editors note: The name of the one room grade school Don attended was the "Oaks School District 10", located on West Highway 16 just West of the Great Lakes Pipeline tank farm. Don told me, " We started with one teacher for all eight grades and later the school room was divided in half with a curtain and another teacher hired for the lower four grades before I graduated."

I first got to know Don during Freshman and Sophomore football at WHS and I will always remember how impressed I was with what a nice, kind and gentle person he was. He was always rather quiet and unassuming so perhaps some of you don't remember him from high school, but I hope you will take advantage of meeting this super nice man at our reunion. It will be Don's first reunion and I am so glad he will be joining us in Sept.

End of Klinefelter story.

Hey Fellows, it's here:

Back to the Campus!

in a
One or Two Button

HOLLYWOOD MODEL

SUIT

Gray, Blue and Rust Flannels.

\$45-4950-\$55

Famous Jantzen Sweaters
\$7.95 up

Famous Day Cords
\$7.95

Hecker's
MEN'S STORE



Dinner with good friends on Debra's and my recent motorhome trip through AZ. L to R: Marilyn Rush Simmons '56, Bob Zimmerman, Connie Hammitt Zimmerman, Tom Simmons '55, Karen Gurley Brown, Jack Phillips, Debra Davey (not WHS), Bud Olson and June Olson (not WHS).

CLASS MASTER LIST

Beverly Baartman is going to have the latest and most up to-date version of our "Class Master List" ready at the reunion for you to purchase for \$10.00. Email Beverly at hbbaartman80@gmail.com to reserve your copy now for pickup at the reunion and save the postage.

WE ONLY HAVE 13 CLASSMATES STILL MISSING.

PLEASE LOOK AT THIS LIST AND HELP
US FIND THESE 13 PEOPLE.

Updated 8-4-09

Merlyn Christensen,
Marvin Fara
John Frederickson,
Maxine Frost,
Karen Gulbranson,
Sharon Gunderson Anderson
Carolyn Johnson,
Judith Jones Gores,
Betty Nelson Jacobson,
Cynthia Nold,
Lavonne Omer Stockstad
John David Palmer
Robert A. Young



LOTS OF FREE CDS

Don't forget, everyone whose reunion registration is received by Wayne Mitchell on or before Sept. 10 will receive a specially recorded music CD entitled "**Precious Memories**" which includes 26 of the most popular songs from our 4 years at WHS '50 to '54.

There will also be an additional 56 music CD's given away through-out the weekend as prizes. These 56 CD's will come from an additional 7 specially recorded musical CD's consisting of 2 volumes of "**Classic Country**", 2 more volumes of 50s music and 3 volumes of "**55 Years of My Favorites**".

How are you at answering trivia questions? The questions will all relate to our years at dear old WHS. We might even have a dance contest on Saturday night.