

ORANGE & BLACK

NO 5 WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS of 1954, SIOUX FALLS, SD 2009

An Internet Publication - August 19, 2009

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

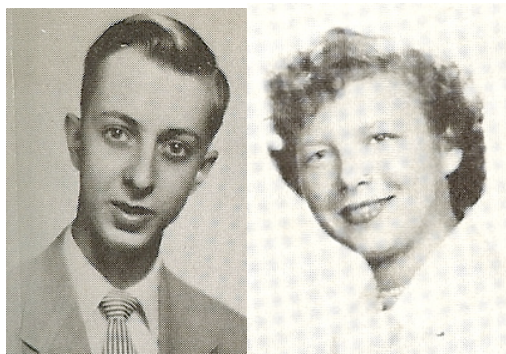
FIRST THINGS FIRST!

Reunion Co-Chairman, Roger Malcomb, has asked that I remind you that your registrations need to be sent to Wayne Mitchell, 102 East 7th Street, Dell Rapids, SD. 57022-1640 by September 10th, 2009. (Everyone whose registration Wayne receives by Sept. 10th will receive in their registration packet, a special recorded copy of "Precious Memories", Volume 1, consisting of 27 songs from 1950 to 1954.) Banquet tickets for Friday night are \$30.00 per person. Saturday night dance tickets are free. Again the dates are September 25th & 26th.

The Holiday Inn City Centre is our Reunion Headquarters. Call 1-605-339-2000 and ask House Reservations for the WHS 55th Reunion. You must call by September 10th to get the special \$89.00 per night room rate.



**Don't be the last
one to get on board
for our 55th reunion!**



Roger & Ann

Home Rm. 304 Home Rm. 409

Nachel Mickelson

(Ann deceased in 2006)

1432 Catron Ave. S.E.

Albuquerque, NM 87123

505-332-9273

RogerAnn@aol.com

Immediately following four years of college, Roger Mickelson married WHS classmate Ann Nachel. They then embarked on almost 30 years of moving around the world after Roger reported for active duty in the US Army.

Moves were frequent (a total of 30 addresses since 1958) and often disruptive. Maryland, Alabama (three addresses), Oklahoma, Korea (Ann back to SF), Texas, New Mexico, Virginia (DC assignment), Italy for three years, Alabama again, Maryland again, Vietnam (Ann and family to El

Paso), Kansas, DC, Germany for three years, Rhode Island (don't go there, they're provincial), Virginia (three addresses this time) and Albuquerque. While Roger was "gallivanting" around the Army, Ann raised two wonderful daughters, Kimberley and Pamme, plus an assortment of pets--mostly Boxers of the female persuasion.

Made it back for only two WHS Reunions and enjoyed both.

After retiring as a Colonel, Roger worked for a
Mickelson continued next page.

very reputable company involved in national security policy analysis, emergency response, and information technology for 20 years in the Virginia suburbs, then as a telecommuter from New Mexico. The easiest job transition possible -- doing almost the same things in the private sector as in Government, but paid much better!

Most regrettably, Ann succumbed to cancer complications in 2006 after a gallant three-year battle. She is enriched in a columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery.

Roger has been involved in nuclear weapons programs, guided missiles, field artillery (both eardrums ruptured at the age of 24), air defense, intelligence, foreign assistance, and a bunch of General Staff assignments (Italy, Vietnam, DC, Germany, Pentagon), including five years with the Office of the Secretary of Defense--plus 6



Roger & Ann Nachel Mickelson

years as a senior consultant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, working on White House and Interagency projects.

Currently, he is President of The Military Conflict Institute, trying to get a dwindling number of authors to complete a book titled **A Philosophy of War** and refining analyses on the US-Iraq-Afghanistan-other conflict that the institute prefers to call World War IV. His 24-year-long, intermittent "dabbling" with Afghanistan matters

continues, with occasional free advice presented to some old crony Fed officials--the advice receiving about as much attention as the cost justifies, it seems.

Roger is the Chairman of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Awards Committee; just completed the tenth annual evaluation of MANY awards applications. It's very encouraging to witness the extraordinary accomplishments of dedicated college Brothers so often maligned for immature actions (and those do occur rarely).

He has been very active in community activities. On the Board of his neighborhood association; President of a coalition of community groups in SE Albuquerque, and frequent testimony to the city council and other local government bodies. The short summary of this volunteerism is "Frustration with a few victories."

End of Mickelson Story

4th period teacher Skiff

7th Period

Name Jack Phillips Date 5-18-54 Classification 42

is assigned to SEVENTH PERIOD in room 302 for 2 periods, beginning tomorrow.

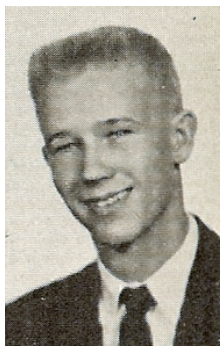
REASON sate too many times

(4)

Skiff

This period begins promptly at 7:30 o'clock a. m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Tardiness to seventh period calls for a tardy slip.

Remember 7th Periods?
 Boy how I hated them!
 Talk about your
"Cruel and Unusual Punishment".
 I think my Mom hated them almost
 as much as I did because it was so
 difficult for her to wake me up.



Bob Berg

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Williamsburg,
VA 23188

757-258-7780

robertberg@cox.net

Jack and Roger,

I was SO looking forward to seeing you and other friends and classmates at the reunion. My wife, Sharon, graduated from Aberdeen's Central High School, class of 1954, and they are having their class reunion on the **same weekend** as ours in Minneapolis. Sharon and her



Bob & Sharon Berg

two sisters are also having their family reunion there that weekend. Result: I won't be able to make it to the WHS reunion - bummer :-(. I want to pass along to you and all reunion attendees my very best wishes for a wonderful 55th reunion celebration!

With Great Regret,
Bob Berg

PS - I have attached a recent photo of my wife, Sharon, and myself. We are retired in Williamsburg, Virginia, and are enjoying our four families who live in Virginia. We enjoy many community activities such as adult education classes at the College of William and Mary, golf, and traveling to visit historical locations in Virginia and throughout the eastern and southeastern United States. We are enjoying a wonderful retirement and wish the same to all of our classmates!

End of Berg Story.



Who is this
Great White Hunter?
No, it is not Spanky.



"THE GIRLS OF '54"

Corrine Albright Ludwig sent me information on this active group of lady classmates that have been meeting for lunch once a month in Sioux Falls since January of 2000. It sounds like they have a really fun time and they invite all ladies from our class of '54 to join them. For more information call Corrine at 605-334-9917. Back Row: Roz Lewin Bryner, Gloria Lundstrom, Lorraie DeBoer Dahlhoff, Corrine Albright Ludwig, Beverly Caesar Baartman. Front row: Wauthena Nelson Brooks, Nancy Holm Renner, Janice Steinmetz Hass, Janis Graber Larson.



Food has replaced sex in my life...
now I can't even get into my own pants!

www.pmcaregivers.com/Humor.htm



Gary Norbraten took this photo of North Phillips Avenue in 1968 looking north from the Post Office. Note Donahue's furniture store, the State Theater, Shriver's department store.



Shelly (Rochelle) DuBray Toutges
and Dick Engel. 1954

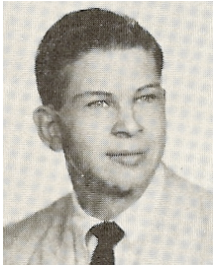
Jack, Thanks for the update of '54 WHS deceased classmates. I was saddened to see Dick Engel's name among the new names added. He and I worked as clerks & soda jerks at Schoff's Sundries, (12th & Minnesota), just a block west of WHS. I worked there part time my sophomore, junior and senior years in high school. I hadn't seen him since I left Sioux Falls in 1954. Your email brought back a flood of fond memories of the happy years I spent in Sioux Falls. Shelly DuBray Touthes.

Right or Left?:

Q: On which side of the chest should you display your name tag?

A: Although it is easier for right handed people to put a name badge on the left side, **they correctly are worn on the right side** so the person shaking hands or greeting has easy eye contact with both the person and the badge as a way to help remember the name or to see where he/she is from, etc. This is the purpose of wearing the badges in the first place.

Thanks to Dick Briggs for heading up registration for our 55th Reunion



Ron Veenker

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Holden Beach,
NC 28462

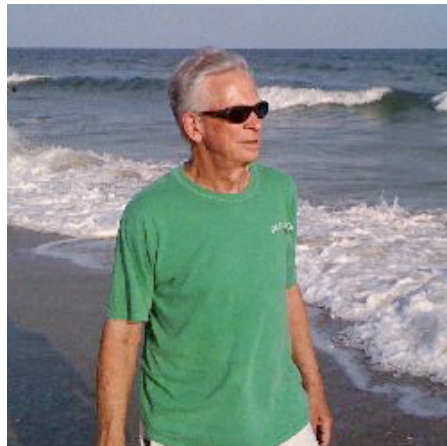
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I've talked to so many people through the years that would never attend a class reunion because they hated high school so much, but I have only the fondest memories of the four years I spent at WHS. I was a year younger than most of you because of the mid-year graduation program during the '40s – a year younger chronologically and socially. Perhaps for that reason I liked the experience, that is, I was just too young to “get it.” But I must add that through severe discipline and intense concentration I have managed to be a year older than most of you now.

In order to continue in the pleasure of your company, after graduation I followed many of you to Vermillion. It was a grand year. I often wonder what my life would have been like had I stayed around southeastern South Dakota. But I left in the fall of '55 for the University of Arizona on a scholarship. I was back home in Sioux Falls before Thanksgiving having found out that we had received a fine education at WHS and much of the rest of the world was far behind.

So began my academic journey after a year off trying to get older fast and catch up with my classmates. The fall of '56 found me at Bethel College in St. Paul MN, a small but excellent private college where I majored in music and minored in Spanish [note to Ms Elizabeth Caldwell: They did not offer Latin]. Graduation came in '59 and I found myself contemplating my next career move. I was qualified to make a living composing music and to market it in Mexico. I was very much at home on that little campus and the world outside did not look warm and fuzzy. So I stayed on campus in St. Paul and entered the only graduate program offered, the Master's program in the divinity school.



Ron enjoys the beach daily that he and his wife, Beverly live on in Holden Beach, NC.

But wait, it was already the spring of '59 and I did not realize that one year of Greek was required to enter the program. Alas! [Note to Ms

Caldwell: I'm embarrassed, ma'am, for they did offer Greek.]

The summer of '59 was spent in the basement of my parent's home in Sioux Falls trying to teach myself Hellenistic Greek grammar. In the fall I returned to campus and took a written exam and passed. Whew!

I enrolled in second year Greek and began studying Hebrew, which to my delight I found more pleasant if not more exotic than Greek. By now I realized that I really enjoyed playing with ancient languages. The energetic young scholar just out of his PhD program that was teaching the class captivated all of us. He was much more engaging than the 85 year old Swedish profs. His language students found out that he knew many more languages that were in the same family with Hebrew and prevailed upon him teach classes in Aramaic, Ugaritic [an ancient Canaanite language] and Old Babylonian, the classical language of that famous ancient city that brought us King Hammurabi's Law Code.

Example from Genesis in the Hebrew Bible.

By this time I am married and have a son, Jonathan. Let me say that Jon was also a music major at Bethel College and is now the chairman of the Music Department there. I don't mean to say it was a tough bunch that ran the place, but I found out later that I had signed papers stipulating that were I to default

Continued next page.

on my student loans the college had the right to my first-born son. Alas again.

Meanwhile, back in '62 studying exotic things in the seminary, I realized I would have to make another decision soon. The end of another four-year program was fast approaching. By this time I was going back and forth between applying for a PhD program in music and a program in ancient languages. I had been in music since I was 10 yrs. old and this language thing was like a bright, new, shiny coin. I decided on the latter and was accepted in the program for Hebrew and Cognate Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, a Reform rabbinical seminary and graduate school of religion in Cincinnati OH.

When I arrived on campus in Ohio, I was informed that both German and French were required after the first year in residence. Oy veh! Back to Sioux Falls, parent's basement, studying German. [I wanted to be back in Mrs. Caldwell's class! *Omnia Gallia in tres partes...*]

Living in a Jewish community as part of a very small group of Christians was a very valuable and interesting experience. I believe everyone benefits from living as a minority for a while, especially those of us that have been in the majority of the culture for most of our lives. I had four wonderful years there and still look back on those as some of the very best in my life. The scholarships were very

generous and I was able to emerge without crushing debt. Mind you, friends, this is my third four-year program in a row. Yeah, I was a professional student. My theory was that if you remained a full-time student, upon reaching the age of thirty you would get Social Security.



Ron entertaining at our 2004 Class Reunion doing his popular Victor Borge imitation.

Need I tell you it did not happen?

The degree program required, regardless of your major, secure knowledge of Hebrew, Aramaic, French and German. Then I decided to major in Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature. That involved learning to read and translate Sumerian, Akkadian, Ugaritic and Syriac. I must say that I had great fun in that pursuit. The languages were a challenge but I'm still better translating a cuneiform tablet that doing the Sunday Times cross word puzzle. Those are really hard!

Most of the translation in my study involved the world's oldest languages, which were written four to five thousand years ago on small clay tablets. The Sumerians [Sumer is now southern Iraq] invented the writing system known as cuneiform or "wedge shaped" writing. With a small reed stylus clusters of wedges were impressed on soft clay. There was no alphabet, but they employed 600 ideograms [much like Chinese] with various meanings and various phonetic values in different periods of history. About 80% of the literature is administrative and economic, i.e., receipts, inventory lists, deeds to property, lawsuits, and the like. Only about 20% is really what would be called literature by our standards.

After graduating I discovered the truth of the old saw: "It's not what you know but who you know." Both of my teaching positions, the first at the University of Miami, were available to me because of my former professors in Ohio and Minnesota. Has that been your experience too?

During the summer of 1969, while in Sioux Falls, I had tea with Elizabeth Caldwell in her little stucco home near Mark Twain elementary. I had to tell her that her ne'er-do-well, marginal Latin scholar finally had some linguistic success.

I spent most of my career in Kentucky teaching at a

Continued next page

regional university in Bowling Green. For thirty-six years I taught Old Testament [we called it Hebrew Bible], Hebrew language, Jewish history and literature in the Religious Studies program at Western Kentucky University.

I haven't left it all behind even though I'm now retired. A few years ago a young man from Smithfield NC showed up at Duke University with a genuine Sumerian clay tablet more than 4000 years old. He was told that no one in the Triangle [North Carolina, Chapel Hill; NCSU, Raleigh; Duke, Durham] knew this language. A faculty member at Duke knew that I was making frequent trips to Holden Beach so he gave the young man my email address. I have just finished an article about the tablet with a co-author at the University of Berlin. It turned out to be a third stage appeal of a lawsuit involving a father's sale of his son as a slave to another party.

The Sumerian Lawsuit from Smithfield NC

I have not forsaken my interest in music. I am playing in a "big band" with 17 other mostly retired musicians and enjoying the experience very much. Right now, we're working on Count Basie's *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*. Much fun!

End Veenker story.



Classmate, Lenny Blue, sent me this photo of classmates gathered in Sioux Falls on August 1, 2007 for the memorial service for classmate, Helen Eggers Olson. Front row: Carolyn Robson Hoyme, Bob Zimmerman, Janice Johnson Erickson, Marilyn Hill Viehweg, Roselyn Lewin Bryner, Connie Hammitt Zimmerman, Sharon Moreen Reynolds, Dick Briggs, Mary K Houston Moen, Jody Syverson VanderPloeg, Bud Olson. Back row: Lorraine Fremming Frame, Hal Erickson, Kent Morstad, Lenny Blue, Lois Rossow Gellerman, Dick Dahse, Wayne Gustafson.

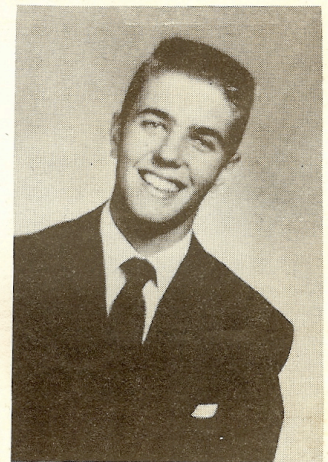
ORANGE LETTER DAY

Schedule 1954

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
 8:30 a. m. Talent show & Pep Meeting
 11:00a. m. Work on floats
 1:45 p. m. Coronation in Assembly
 3:00 p. m. Parade
 7:30 p. m. Football Game
 Warriors-Little Maroons
 10:00p. m. Dance at Arkota



Master of Ceremonies



GARY WEHLAGE

Remember
 what a great job Gary did
 as MC for our homecoming
 festivities in 1954?
 What a great day!