

ORANGE & BLACK

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS of 1954, SIOUX FALLS, SD

ISSUE #1-10

An Internet Publication

January 15, 2010.

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



**Jeannie
Redfield
Kracht**

Home Rm. 418
4314 S. Townpark Pl.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-336-3962

jandlkracht@sio.midco.net

CLASS OF '54

THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER!

GOOD NEWS: In Larry & Jeannie Redfield Kracht's, Christmas Card to me, Jeannie confirmed that she is going to chair our Class of '54, Thursday evening (June 24, 2010), dinner at the Westward Ho Country Club. I know Jeannie will do a great job organizing this get together dinner for our class the night before the All-Class Reunion starts. She is currently working on all of the arrangements for the evening and will be getting a post card out "after the first of the year".

**So, reserve June 24th through
June 27th for a great WHS weekend!**

For more information on the All-Class Reunion contact the Pavilion Box Office,

1-877-927-4728

Pricing options are available for the weekend:

- ♦ Friday Night Dinner and Entertainment - \$30
- ♦ Saturday Night Dinner - \$45
- ♦ Sunday Brunch - \$25
- ♦ *All weekend package* - \$90 (does not include Saturday Night Entertainment)
- ♦ Saturday Night Entertainment in the Great Hall:
 - ♦ Level A \$50 ♦ Level B \$40

* Prices do not include tax



Jeannie & Larry Kracht with Kline and Nash

WEEKEND REUNION SCHEDULE, JUNE 24 - 27, 2010

Thursday, June 24:

Class of '54 Dinner at Westward Ho Country Club.

Friday, June 25:

- ♦ WHS Booster Club Golf Outing at Willow Run Golf Course
 - Register at www.whsbooster.com
- ♦ 4:00 p.m. - Reunion Registration Begins
- ♦ 5:00 p.m. - Social Hour
- ♦ 6:00 p.m. - Barbeque
- ♦ 8:00 p.m. - Entertainment

Saturday, June 26:

- ♦ Tennis Tournament at Washington High School
- ♦ 5:00 p.m. - Social Hour and Dinner by the decades
- ♦ 8:00 p.m. - Entertainment in the Great Hall
 - Comedian Scott Wood opening for *Frankie Avalon*

Sunday, June 27:

- ♦ 9:00 a.m. - Non-denominational Service
- ♦ 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Brunch
 - Seatings at 8:00, 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 a.m.

FRANKIE AVALON CONCERT

There are just a few seats left in the special block of seats reserved for the ***Class of '54 & their friends***, in The Pavilion Auditorium for the Saturday night **Frankie Avalon** concert. If you wish to sit with others from our class you should send your check for \$54.25 per ticket to Jack Phillips, 2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134. Feel free to invite any of your friends from other classes to join us. I must receive your check no later than Friday, January 29th.



Frankie and Annette Funicello In Their
1963 Movie, "Beach Party"
MEMORABILIA



Frankie Avalon will be performing all of his great hits including "Venus", "Why", "Bobby Sox to Stockings", "My Special Angel", "Goodnight My Love", "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me" & "Two Fools".

The ORANGE & BLACK is Expanding!

The number of WHS alumni receiving the Orange & Black has increased considerably since the first issue was emailed on May 1, 2009. Each issue is now emailed to over 200 addresses and as would be expected, the majority of those are members of the Class of '54. However, I am most happy to say that each month there has been a growing number of WHS alumni from other classes that have asked to be added to the mailing list and I am always glad add them. If you know of someone from other classes that you think might like to receive the O & B please just provide me their email address. To support this expansion I will now include news stories and photos from other classes that are submitted to me at jackmp@me.com. Please don't forget to always include your class year.

Class of '55 is Celebrating 55th Reunion

**Mavis
Larson
Carl**

Class of '55
Hm Rm-Chorus Room
1606 S. Carter Pl.
Sioux Falls, SD

mcarl47071@aol.com

Mavis, widow of Ron Carl, '54, works hard on the class of '55 committee and has been very helpful to me in locating some of the lost members of the class of '54. Mavis provided the '55 Reunion schedule to the right.

CLASS OF '55

55th REUNION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 6:30 PM: A CLASS MIXER will be held at the downtown Holiday Inn City Center. H'orderves will be served with a cash bar.

SUNDAY, June 27, 9 AM: A CATERED BREAKFAST will be served at Falls Park.

COST: \$35.00 FOR BOTH EVENTS.



CLASS of '55
Fiftieth Reunion
Committee

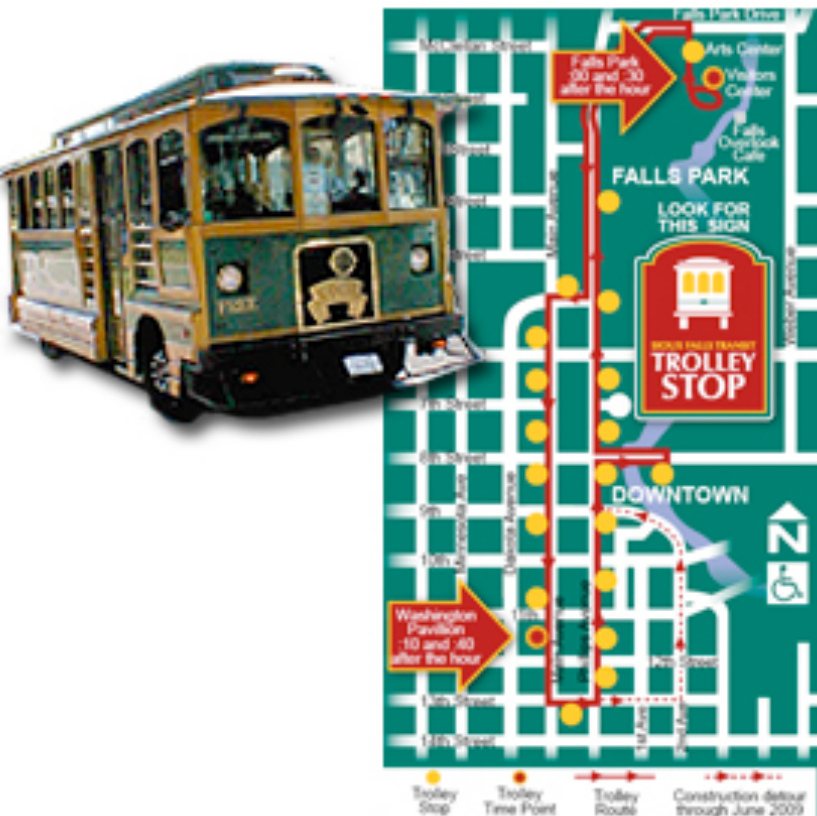
l to r. Mary Cadwell (Stans wife) Dolly Tague Wait, Stan Cadwell, Sally Lambert Linton, Mavis Larson Carl, Dorothy Renner Heck, Sheila Benning Ward, Dennis Zea, Jeanne Sweet Simunek, Jim Koons, (Host) Ron Green, Joyce Portice Graff, Jervin Wait, Christy Green, Diane Nelson, Ron Nelson, Butch Linton.

Great Reunion Room Rates of \$79!

Don't forget that we have a block of rooms reserved for **ALL WHS Alumni** at the Holiday Inn City Center for \$79.00 per night. Their phone number is 605-339-2000

Friday and Saturday Afternoons

In the special mailing I sent out on Dec. 2, 2009, I asked for your interest and suggestions for an activity to bring us all together during the free time on Friday and Saturday afternoons during the reunion. I suggested an afternoon of Bingo. I received so few responses, I do not plan to pursue the matter further so there are no plans for our class to get together on those afternoons. One really fun suggestion I have for you to do on your own is to take the **FREE "Down Town Trolley To The Falls"** and all through downtown Sioux Falls.



Riding the Sioux Falls Trolley is fun and easy - board every half hour at any of the trolley stop signs located on nearly every block in downtown Sioux Falls or at Falls Park.

Serving:

- Falls Park
- Sioux Falls Coliseum
- Old Courthouse Museum
- Museum of Visual Materials
- Main Branch of Siouxland Libraries
- City Hall
- Carnegie Town Hall
- The Federal Building
- The Orpheum Theater
- 8th & RR Center

And The Washington Pavilion

Callison: Experienced Warriors wanted

WHS reunion prompts search for oldest living grad, teacher

JILL CALLISON • ARGUS LEADER • JANUARY 5, 2010

After nearly a century of use, the stairs at Washington High School had developed grooves from the thousands of students who had climbed them. Those grooves are gone now, and the building no longer is used as a school. But thousands of graduates and former faculty and staff still retain an unbreakable tie to the Sioux quartzite building that faces Main Street. Their memories are fostered by Alumni Hall in what is now the Washington Pavilion's third floor west wing, which displays trophies, band uniforms, photographs and a typical classroom. Another chance to look back will come this summer at the All-Class Reunion on June 25-27. Before the reunion, the Alumni Hall Committee, made up of alumni and former teachers, is seeking the oldest graduate and oldest faculty member.

Two contenders for those titles still live in Sioux Falls. Fred Claudon served as a teacher and guidance counselor from 1964 until 1981, and Norma DeGroot graduated from Washington in 1932. DeGroot was known as Norma Studer when she began walking from her house at Seventh Street and Nesmith Avenue to the high school downtown. She will celebrate her 96th birthday April 6. She had attended Whittier, the first junior high school in Sioux Falls, and Whittier kids didn't begin at Washington until their sophomore year. "I had to walk across the Sioux River, and when the temperature was terribly cold, I tried to stop in some place to warm up a little bit," she recalls. "It was a long walk, but we didn't think anything of it. We walked, and that's the way we got there." In fact, with a noon lunch hour, DeGroot sometimes returned home for a quick lunch. Otherwise, she brought a sandwich or spent 10 cents for a bun at a downtown bakery.

DeGroot played basketball in high school, although "I don't know that we had a real team like they have now," she says. "I really just played for fun." In DeGroot's yearbook, then called the Monograph, 298 students are pictured. She is shown in a profile with the quote "A precious jewel is constancy" under her name.

DeGroot spent the summer after high school living with an aunt and uncle in Chicago and served as the vacation relief girl for a grocery store. But she decided to return to Sioux Falls and was employed with John Morrell & Co., working both in sausage production and in the store and employment office. After her marriage to Abe DeGroot, the couple had two children, both of whom graduated from Washington High School.

Claudon and his wife also had two children, but they attended Lincoln High School. That sometimes put Claudon in a tricky situation as a parent. He recalls one year when Washington and Lincoln were playing in the basketball sectionals to see which would advance to the state tournament. Claudon not only attended the game, he made the announcements on the public address system for Washington. Washington defeated Lincoln that night, advancing to state with a three-point victory. "When I came home, Jeannie was standing in the middle of the floor," Claudon says, referring to his older daughter. "She said, 'I hope you're satisfied,' and I said, 'Yeah, Jeannie, I am. My team won, your team lost.' " Her response: "Here I am, a senior in high school, and the tournament is out in Rapid City, and I don't even get to go."

When Claudon started at Washington, it was with the understanding that he would be there a year, then would transfer to Lincoln High School when it opened.

His first year, Washington students attended classes a half-day in the building, with Lincoln students there the other half-day. When Lincoln's building opened, its principal had someone else in mind for Claudon's slot. But he didn't mind. Washington's principal, Ben Rossow, said, "We'd be glad to have you at Washington," and he stayed. "I had settled into Washington real well, and I thought a lot of Washington," Claudon says. Most of the instructors and staff members felt that loyalty, he says, including a teacher named Annie Kleinsasser.

When the Claudons moved from Sioux Falls to Aberdeen, they bought a house in the Lincoln district, thinking it would be closer for everyone. But Claudon, now 92, found himself traveling downtown for 17 years. "Annie Kleinsasser always used to tell me, go to the IPC and tell them you want your kids to go to Washington," he says, referring to the school district office. "I'd say, 'No, Annie, they can go to Lincoln.'" Claudon had taught journalism and English, but he switched to guidance counseling when South Dakota established a requirement. He thought he could be closer to the students that way. "I really got to know the kids at Washington. My office was full of kids all the time," Claudon says. "One time, someone said to me, 'If the kids would stay out of here, I could get my work done.' I said, 'If the kids would stay out of here, you wouldn't have any work to do.'"

Jill Callison's column runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reach her at 331-2307.



Norma DeGroot, a member of Washington High School's Class of 1932, is one of the oldest WHS graduates still alive. She is 95.(Elisha Page / Argus Leader)



Fred Claudon, a guidance counselor at Washington High School from 1964 to 1981, is in contention to be named the oldest surviving WHS faculty member. (Elisha Page / Argus Leader)



Gary Norbraten's 8th birthday party. l. to r. Wally Boersma, Dick Sweetman, Jim Adams, Kent Morstad, Stan Thaelke, Roger Malcomb Joe Bednorz. The date was 1944. Photo taken by Gary Norbraten.

NEED YOUR STORY!

I am out of classmate submitted stories. PLEASE submit your story now! From the comments I receive on the O&B, the stories that have been submitted by our classmates have been by far the most popular part of the O&B. Your classmates love hearing about you. You can write anything; your life story, a special adventure, who you had a crush on in high school, your life's biggest moment, even just where you live now and how you spend your days. **Be sure to include photos.** But please, not of your kids or grandkids. Send to jackmp@me.com

Joe Floyd hosted the "**Sioux Falls Class of '54 Mens Luncheon Group**" on November 3, '09 at his really great Harrisburg garage where he houses his wonderful collection of pre WWII Ford Automobiles. The photo on right shows the group having lunch and it appears several wives crashed the Men's Luncheon for the special occasion. I understand lunch was served at 11:30 but most attendees didn't leave until 4 PM. *Photos courtesy of Joe's wife, Elaine.*





Rose Ann Zeren Egan, '54, left and Doug Egan, class of '51, on right, recently had plenty of snow to build this huge snowman in front of their home in Eden Prairie,

Hoover Dam Bypass

Bridge: I just have to show you the new bridge being constructed to by pass Hoover Dam just 30 minutes from Las Vegas. South bound highway traffic out of Las Vegas has always traveled across the top of Hoover Dam. But because of 9-11, the danger of a terrorists attack to the dam has been too great, thus this new magnificent \$160 million bridge 900 feet above the mighty Colorado River to bypass the dam. In an incredible feat of engineering, the road will be supported on the two massive concrete arches which jut out of the rock face.



Note the white water mark around the lake surface. The lake is now down over 100 feet due to our current severe drought.

The arches are made up of 53 individual sections each 24 feet long which have been cast on-site and are being lifted into place using an improvised high-wire crane strung between temporary steel pylons. The arches will eventually measure more than 1,000 feet across. At the moment, the structure looks like a traditional suspension bridge. But once the arches are complete, the suspending cables on each side will be removed. Extra vertical columns will then be installed on the arches to carry the road.



107 Deceased Members of WFS 1954 Class

Updated January 15, 2010

* Indicates the 3 names added since last update.

Shirley Albertus
Robert Amburn
Sonja Anderson
Bonnie Assam
Richard Bakke
Steve Beckman
Stewart Bellman
Marcia Bishop
Don Boyd
Jerome Braa
Robert Briggs
Richard Byllesby
Wesley Calhoun
Ronald Carl
Warren Clancey
Shari Clayton
Dale Colwill *
Robert Crowe
Clarence Curry
Dwayne Danielson
Elizabeth Darger
Barbara Denbow
Joan Determan
Evangeline Dick
Helen Eggers
Peter Eide
Richard Engel
Kathryn Engen
Dorothy Ennis
John Enright
Joy Erickson
James Fjelseth
Darwin Fletcher
Mary Freeburn
Barbara Getman
Earl Getty
Julie Gibson
JoAnne Gill



Robert Lee Goetschius *
Janice Gray
Dorothy Grey
Sharon Gunderson
Leon Halstead
Robert Hammers
Marilyn Joy Hansen
Don Harriman
Shirley Hathway
Lee Hayden
Verlyn Helgerson
Richard Hoier
Joanne Hovdestad
Lila Husby
Ron Iossi
Jackie Janisch
Janice Johnke
James Lancaster
Evelyn Larson
Paul Lindberg
Marilyn Lundberg
Merlyn MacArthur
Mary Maxwell
Kathryn McCahren
Myrna McFarlane
Neva Meyer
James Moe
James Morris
Ann Nachel
Robert Nason
Melva Neuberger

Beverly Ordal
James Palm
Carolyn Palmer
Ken Palmer
Timmy Peaker
Frank Peck
Marylou Petrie
Bayard Phillips
Thomas Poulos
Clarence Quigley
Jerry Reedy
Ernest Renner
Fay Robb
Ed Roberts
Tom Robertson
Paul Rogness
Jerry Rohl
Edith Rowlee
Robert Sacre
John Sears
Constance Shank
Pat Stoops
Maurice Studer
Darwin Sweeney
Fred Sykes
Wynn Tabbert
John Tapken
Stan Thoeke
Glenda Thompson
Lois Thorton
Bill Timmerman
Louie Tobias
Betty Lou Tuller
Vance Turgeon
Ron VanRegenmorter
Dorothy Wallbaum
Mary Williams
Robert A. Young * (107)