

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

An Internet Publication Especially for the Classes of the 1950's Decade. Your Photos & Stories Are Both Requested & Encouraged. Please Send to Jack Phillips: jackmp@me.com



**Harry Klessen's
1951 WHS Junior
Yearbook Photo.**

This Harry Klessen Story

Is Presented by

"The Friends of Harry's"

Harry Klessen '52

Home Room 319

1017 Grandview Avenue, Sioux Falls 57103

Harry can also be reached through his daughter,
Suzi Wedlund at wedlund@frontiernet.net

If you attended WHS between '48 and '52 and had an interest in cars or motorcycles you almost certainly knew Harry Klessen. If you were a gal who had an eye open for nice guys who were also really handsome, you might very well have noticed him: the Orange and Black reported in his senior year Connie South '53 took Harry to the Sadie Hawkins Day dance. If you had your Levis pegged at that time, it is probably because you saw them first on Harry. If you have lived in Sioux Falls in recent decades you would know Harry's art works.

Harry did not graduate in '52, due to problems in an English course after the teacher died. But after serving in the Air Force he spent 13 years part time studying at Sioux Falls College, Augustana and the University of South Dakota at Springfield. In 1978 he graduated summa cum laude with a BA in Education and enough extra credits that would have qualified him for a masters in Guidance and Counseling. For 29 years until his retirement in 1994 he taught shop (Auto Body and Fender) at Sioux Falls' Lincoln High.



Editor's Apology

Debra says I am, "in a pickle" and I guess that best sums up my being so far behind with Orange & Black business.

As you may recall I wrote in the last O&B that Debra & I were going to spend 11 days vacationing on Turtle Island in Fiji in September. Well when I returned 1,900 emails had accumulated in my mailbox. I receive 100 to 200 emails daily so it has been extremely difficult to make much of a dent in catching up on that backlog.

Then to make the situation even worse I have also had an unusually high demand on my time from several personal business matters.

In the past I have always made a practice of responding to almost every letter I receive. But now I must apologize to those of you who have written and have not received a response. I have just not had the time to respond to everyone. If you wrote and didn't receive a response I hope you will write again.

Since publishing the first Alumni version of the Orange & Black on May 1, 2009 I have always published at least one new issue each month. But now, I am sorry to say, it has been over 3 months since the last issue was mailed on August 29, 2010.

This issue, #11-10, was originally planned to be a WHS football tribute to recognize 5 men who contributed so much to the great WHS football program of the '50's decade. I know some of you have been anxiously, waiting for that issue, but because it has become the most time consuming issue to create of any I have ever done, I have found it necessary to move the football tribute to the next issue. I am continuing to work on it daily.

Jack Phillips, Class of '54

Harry's interest in motorcycles had begun with a Whizzer motorbike. From it he



moved up to a 125 cc 2-stroke James, then to a 350cc 3T Triumph, and to a 1,000 cc Ariel Square Four before finishing at WHS. He was an avid reader of Hot Rod Magazine and before long had put a '30 Plymouth coupe body on a '36 Chevy frame, later removing its engine to put in a '31 Chevy coupe. If memory serves correctly, he chopped that body and put in a hard roof.

It was the skills he acquired with motorcycles and cars that led to Harry's teaching, and it was those same skills that led to his art, primarily in the form of metal sculpture and other items made from metal. One of his large pieces—and many of his works were monumental—adorns the East Market arts hub at 8th and Railroad Center and another is on the north side of 12th at Grange. His works—he produced a few thousand—have been exhibited as far away as Chicago and New York. In very early years and then again in later years he painted. Along the way he dabbled with ceramics too.

Connie South may have snagged Harry for an evening but Harry and Peggy Haas '54 snagged each other for the long haul. They were married on Senior Skip Day

in 1954 and have now been married for 56 years. They have lived in the same home on Grandview Avenue in Sioux Falls since 1962.



Peggy & Larry 1954



Peggy & Larry Klessen

Harry and Peggy raised two children who inherited their parents' creative streaks. Kliff lives in Germany with his wife, Ursula. A graduate of the University of Minnesota and a landscape designer for many years, he is now working on writing and illustrating a series of children's books. They have two daughters, Danila and Kayla, who are studying the arts and dance in Los Angeles. Susan lives in the Minneapolis area with her husband, Mark Wedlund and son, Jack, 13. She is a graduate of USD and a former HGTV television producer, now a stay at home mom. Susan enjoys gardening, attempts at making the perfect green curry and creating paper m â c h é

sculptures.

Given that problem with an English course in his final year at WHS, Harry has taken some pride in getting some memoir-stories and poems in print. His "One Wild Whizzer" describes the shift in his thinking as he went from his own motorbike with big mud flaps and other gewgaws to advising and helping Dale Paulson '53 to modify a Whizzer inspired by the hotrod ideal. Another recounts his ride to the motorcycle rally in Sturgis on his 3T in '51 and then on his Ariel in '52. His classmates Harvey Hofkamp and Harley Newman accompanied him on the latter trip.

At age 48 Harry became a serious fitness addict. He completed numerous half-marathons and triathlons. In the winter, when the weather was too cold to run he'd hit the gym daily for a swim and workout. The Summer 2010 issue of the national magazine Club Running has an article by him about how he got



The 7 ft. tall, "Triangle Totem", at Wells Fargo Bank is just one of Harry's many sculptures in Sioux Falls, SD.

into running. There is another of his poems there, "The Last Fun Run", and a brief biography.

For his 60th birthday Harry bicycled to Sturgis That feat was

Klessen continued.

written up in the Argus Leader. All this has left him wiry and solid as a rock.

Around ten years ago several of the guys who hung around together in high school had a reunion at Pete ('54) and Lorraine Page's home on Wall Lake, and Harry wrote a poem about it:

In later years it is fun to see old friends from far and near.

Those that are near you see most of the year.

Memories of those from afar are not quite so clear.

When we meet there are handshakes, hugs, and words of cheer.

Those from afar may have

changed more in the past year.

Those near, your memory of them is more clear.

Food and drink abound around a large table.

Memories come forth when we were more able.

Time can change the exact details of a past situation.

Thoughts from the back of the mind can create detail inflation.

Conversation goes around the table mostly of the past.

Talk is when we were young and would always last.

Pictures in their minds are coming and going.

A time when our age was not showing.

All stories were good, some bold and some very old.

At the end of the day we all had our tales told.

I know not when we will meet again, those from far and near.

These people wearing masks of old men and women, maybe next year.

By Harry Klessen



1994 reunion of dear old WHS friends at Dale "Pete" Page's home on Wall Lake. Gary Hartenhoff '53, Jerry Murray '54?, Dale "Pete" Page '54, Arden Fjellanger '53, Pierre Forette '54 (attended both Cathedral and WHS), Harry Klessen '52, Harley Newman '52, Jim McAlear '54, Don Brown '53, Gerry Potter '53, Gene Abdallah '54 (attended both Cathedral and WHS).



**"St Francis"
St. Lamberts Church
Sioux Falls, SD
14' tall & 8' wide**



**"Crucifixion"
Welded steel
14" high**

Editor's note: Harry Klessen is indeed a rich man to possess such dear friends that think so much of him that they would prepare and submit this thoughtful and loving tribute to him.

End Klessen story.



**Jim
Redfield '50**
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619 223-1277
jimwred@cox.net

Jim Redfield '50
Yearbook Senior Photo

Dear Jack,

After High School, I went to the University at Vermillion & graduated with a Business degree, production management minor.

Boeing came thru the "U" in '53 & offered me a job, contingent upon getting my degree. I accepted & went to Seattle when I graduated in '54 with honors, after doing my two week active duty in the Naval Reserve (joined in high school) at Great Lakes.

Was hired as an industrial engineer then went into financial supervision & ultimately left for a job with General Dynamics, Convair Division in sunny San Diego, as contrasting to rainy & damp Seattle, as an industrial engineer in '60's. I stayed there until retirement in '90, after 30 years, having moved from engineering to material & procurement finally as chief of subcontract administration.

I married Joan Marie Connolly in '66 & had a ready

made family with her son John of 8 years, at the time, and we'll be celebrating our 44th wedding anniversary this year. John is professional photographer. My younger sister Jean is still very active in Sioux Falls along with her husband Larry Kracht and their three sons & granddaughter located between Utah & South Dakota. They are involved in WHS, USD & Fraternity/Sorority functions & events as well. Larry is a H&R Block partner.

I stayed in the Naval Reserve for 31 years & retired in '80 as a Commander (05) with benefits commencing in '82.

After a couple years of consulting work with various public agencies I retired from paying jobs & I began volunteering with the Red Cross, Salvation Army & the Navy Family Service organizations. Still having an interest in aircraft & aerospace, I joined the volunteer force of the San Diego Air & Space Museum in the '90's, restoring historic aircraft. Got involved with such aircraft as an L-19 Birdog, F-102 Delta Dagger, AV8 Harrier and Tomahawk, Maverick, Falcon & Sidewinder missile reproductions.

Efforts at this time were underway to get an aircraft carrier to San Diego as a museum. Soon, I was "Shanghaied" by a friend to help them set up & commence an aircraft restoration facility at the

North Island Naval Air facility to prepare aircraft for display aboard the prospective carrier, subsequently ending up being the USS Midway, CV41. From 2001 to 2004 I split my volunteer efforts between both museums, restoring aircraft, from prop. planes to jets.

I coordinated the restoration of the first eight aircraft by the time the ship opened for business as a floating museum at Navy pier in San Diego bay in June of '04. Aircraft my group was responsible for included the E-2 Hawkeye, A-6 Intruder, A-7 Corsair II, F-4 Phantom, F-14 Tomcat, SNJ Trainer, A-4 Skyhawk & UH-1 Huey gunship.

Since '04 I have concentrated on assisting the Director of Volunteer programs as Sr. advisor in the awards program, leaving the aircraft restoration business to others. I still am active with aircraft restoration efforts at the San Diego Air & Space Museum - Gillespie Hangar.



Jim Redfield
CDR, USN (RET)



Jim Redfield CDR, USN (RET)

I have been fortunate to have been recognized for my volunteering efforts at both museums throughout the years, culminating with my most cherished award as Volunteer of the Year in August '10 aboard the Midway Museum whose active volunteers number over 700.



Jim & Joan Redfield

Hope I haven't bored you or your audience with too much chatter or detail, but I'm sort of



Jim Redfield CDR, USN (RET)

proud of my career & happy with my life at the ripe old age of 78! Really enjoyed the all year reunion this year & seeing all of you folks again, including you, Jack.

End of Redfield story.

Historic Sioux Falls Trivia

What was the first store in Sioux Falls to have air-conditioning?

**When did Shrivvers leave the downtown area? Where did they go?
When did they finally close?**

See answers on page 6.

FRED CLOUDON, Oldest WHS Staff Member.

The story below on Fred Cloudon appeared in the O&B issue #9-10, dated August 1, 2010. At that time I did not have a photo of Mr. Cloudon, but I would like to thank Mr. Michael (Mick) Zerr, for sending this photo (on the right) of Mr. Cloudon.

Mr. Zerr retired last year after teaching at WHS for 42 years and is currently serving as chairman of the WHS Historical Committee.

Fred Cloudon Honored As Oldest WHS Staff Member.

! Mick Zerr, WHS teacher who retired after 42 years, and now serves as chairman of the WHS Historical Committee, informed me that Fred Cloudon, 92 years of age, was determined to be the "Oldest WHS Staff Member". It was announced that Mr. Cloudon held that distinction during the recent All School Reunion at a ceremony held on Saturday, June 26, 2010. Regrettably, I was unable to attend and do not have any photos of the event. I would sincerely appreciate anyone having photos of Mr. Cloudon and the event to please send them to me for publication in the next O&B.

1956 CLASS REUNION



**PAUL
JESCHKE '56**
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Muir Beach, CA 94965
415-388-2278
jeschkepaul@gmail.com

Paul Jeschke '56 wrote to inform me that the Class of '56 reunion committee has scheduled a social hour and dinner on Saturday, July 30, 2011. This letter is being sent early so you can make your plans to attend.

At this time, a Saturday night social hour and dinner is the only activity being planned. If anyone has a suggestion or request for something additional: Pavillion tour, golf, Sunday coffee or anything else you think of), please let us know. Send your requests to one of the following:

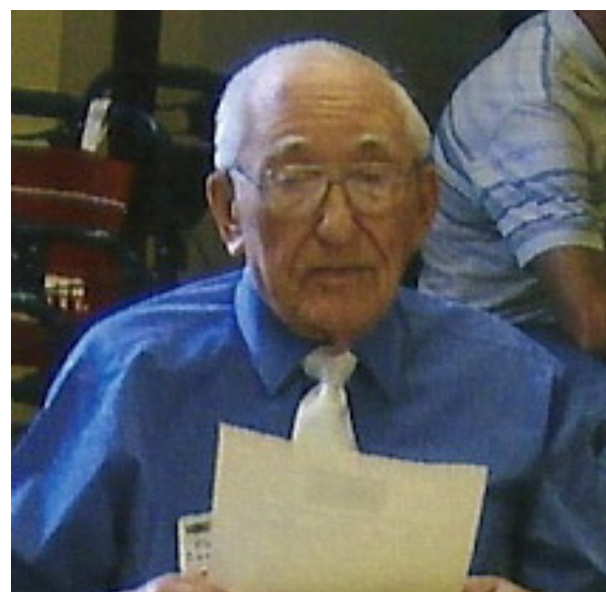
Georgia Johnson
4009 S.Glenview Rd
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-4541
Ph: 605-338-7060
Email: gjtn7odsf@aol.com

Marsha Millage '56
717 Pam Rd
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Ph: 605-332-7638
Email: mam717rd@aol.com

The committee needs help finding addresses for the following:

Abraham, Dave
Anderson Golden, Barbara
Carman Hansen, Jackie
Chesterton Moore, Beverly
Crisp, John
Crist, Merrill
Currier Frazier, Gloria
Davis, Ray

Harms, Gary
Jensen Anderson, Marhy Lee
Kenison, Kay
Masters, Janice
Peterson Larsen, Sally
Tracy, Sharon
Van Veldhuizen Ruibis, Ruth
Van Voorst Van Beek, Janet
Wong, William



**Mr. Fred Cloudon
Oldest WHS Staff Member.**

A Very Special Thanks To Don Brown '53

Over the last year Don Brown '53 has contributed so many wonderful stories and photos to the O&B that I want to publicly thank him. Here are two more priceless photos Don just sent me of Gary Norbraten's, (Class of '54), 6th and 8th birthday parties held in 1942 and 1944. I feel photos like these are such treasures and I am always so pleased to share them with all of you.

These 2 photos are particularly timely since Roger Malcomb '54, the beloved friend of so many of us and who passed away this past Friday is in both photos. As always, thanks so much Don.

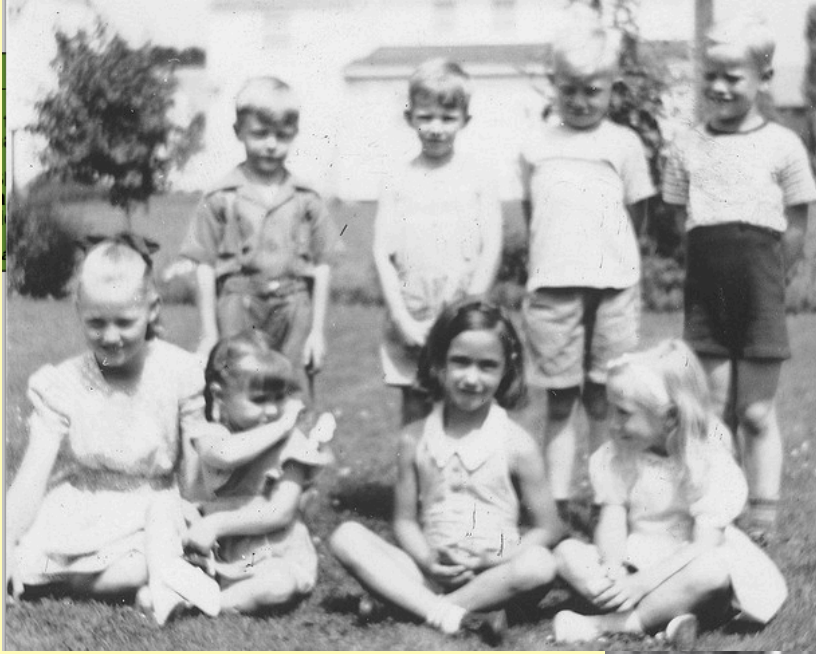
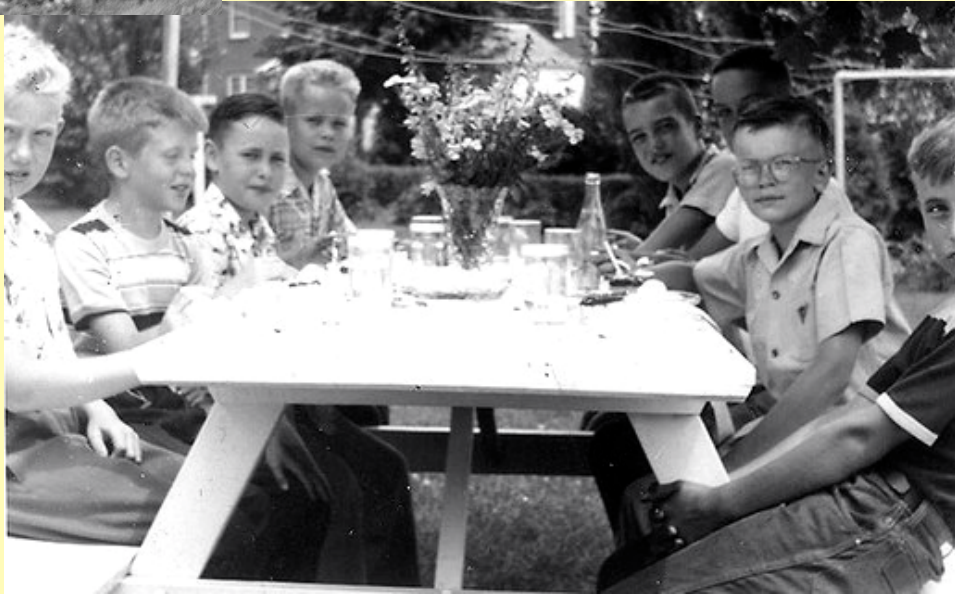


Photo at left is of Gary Norbraten's 6th birthday party held in 1942.

Front row, from left, Louise Edmonds, Gail Norbraten, Carol Capen, Leora Ann Capen. Back row, from left, Gary Norbraten, Joey Bednorz, Roger Malcomb, Jimmy Adams

Photo at right is of Gary Norbraten's 8th birthday party held in 1944. Everyone in the photo were members of the WHS class of 1954.

From left, Roger "Sonny" Malcomb, Gary Norbraten, Stanley Thaelke, Jimmy Adams, Kent Morstad, Dick Sweetman, Joey Bednorz, Wally



Answers to Trivia Questions

From Page 5

The Woolworth Store constructed in 1941 between Ninth and Tenth Street on Phillips Avenue was the first Sioux Falls store with AC.

Shrivers first moved into the Western Mall in 1979 and later into the New Town Mall. It closed business in 1986.

**Today is December 7, 1941
"a date which will live in infamy"**





Left photo: Karol Kittelson '56, sent this photo of his wife, Joan Nason Kittelson '54 and Jane Shingledecker Miller '54, enjoying the beauty and the wine tasting of beautiful Napa Valley, CA this past October. Joan and Karol, who live in Yankton, SD were visiting Jane who lives in Mill Valley, CA. The next day Karol and Joan boarded a cruise ship in San Francisco for a 15 day cruise through the Panama Canal that ended in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Spectacular

seems to be the best adjective to describe this amazing photo of the sun rising on the beach. It was taken by Stephen Veenker '59 during one of his early morning walks on the beach he lives on in Holden Beach, NC.



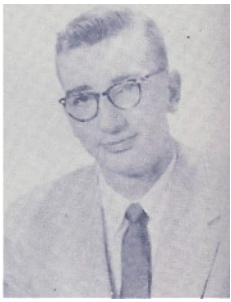
Daily Exercise Routine For Seniors.



A reminder to regularly visit Sioux Falls's very talented artist, Gary Hartenhoff's ('53) web site by just going to Gary Hartenhoff.com



Wonderful Christmas Gifts.



**George
Olson '55**
4324 East 36 St.
Sioux Falls, SD
57103
605-275-1497

I attended Augustana College and graduated in 1960. In the summer school session I was stage manager for a play at Augie and met my future wife, Joan Paulson(61). I began to work for the Social Security Administration in the fall of 1960 in Fargo, ND. Joan and I were married in August of 1961 and we made our home in Fargo for 12 years. Our two

children, Christopher and Jane were born in Fargo. During these years, we belonged to a kennel club and I was an instructor for their dog obedience's classes for 7 years.

I was transferred to Huron, SD in 1973 where we lived for 31 years. As our son got involved in Boy Scouts, I too became involved. I was Scout Master for over 25 years and had the honor of seeing over 31 boys, including my son, reach the rank of Eagle Scout. I am still involved in scouting as a District Commissioner. The theater bug bit us again and I was involved with the Huron Community Theater, serving on the board for 10 years and played different roles in many plays. I also was a 4-H dog

obedience instructor for 10 years while raising our own three dogs.

In 2005 we moved back home to Sioux Falls to be near our children, 4 grandchildren and my doctors. My wife and I volunteer at the Washington Pavilion and we each have over 700 volunteer hours.

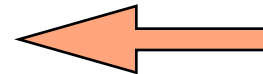


**George
Olson**



'59 Old Friends Luncheon.

A big part of what makes high school reunions so much fun and so very special are good old friends getting together. Left to right at the recent All School Reunion are Linda Aksland, Shirley Kittelson, Mary Lou Ehde, Jody Madland and Karen Schanck. All were members of the WHS 1959 graduating class.



Ron Veenker's House Guests

Bob '54 & Connie Hammett '54 Zimmerman who now live in Mesa, AZ were house guests of Ron '54 & Bev Veenker in Holden Beach, NC this past October. I have always heard that Ron is a connoisseur of single malt scotch whisky (see collection in top right photo). In the photo on the bottom right he is sharing with Bob & Connie as they enjoy the view from his deck overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Ron's major in college was "Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Literature". His studies involved the translation of the world's oldest languages, which were written four to five thousand years ago on small clay tablets. These languages are referred to today as "dead languages". I think I recall Ron telling me that he can read something like 10 to 15 dead languages. Reading all those dead languages from 5,000 years ago no doubt explains why Ron now drinks.



*I to r: Bob & Connie Hammett Zimmerman & Ron Veenker
All class of '54*



Bev, & Ron Veenker '54 with October house guests, Bob '54 & Connie Hammitt '54 Zimmerman. Photo by Stephen Veenker '59



Ron Veenker '54 performing with his 18 piece big band orchestra.



At this most wonderful time of the year Debra and I would like to wish each of you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy & secure New Year. I would also like to announce that I have asked Debra to marry me and thankfully she has said "yes". We have not yet set the wedding date. Every single day I thank God for the happiness & precious blessings he has bestowed on me.