

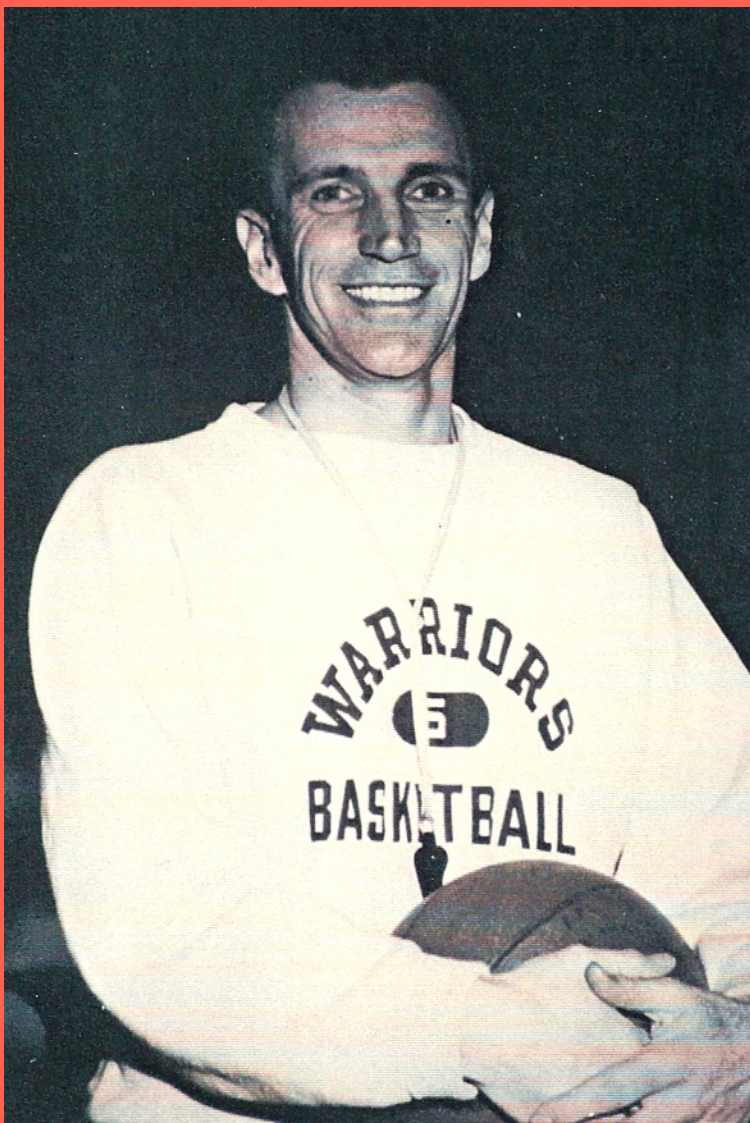
THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK

Issue #6-11

November 4, 2011

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

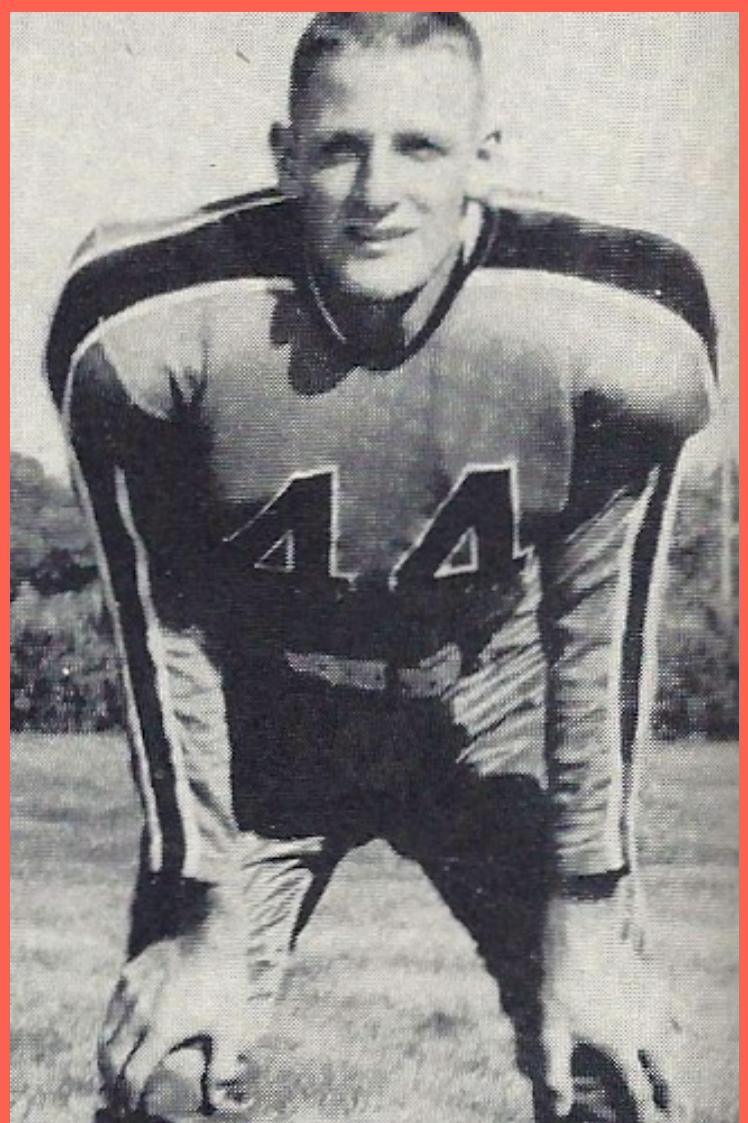
An Internet Publication Especially for the Classes of the 1950's Decade. Your Photos & Stories Are Both Requested & Encouraged. Please Send to Jack Phillips: jackmp@me.com



The Arnie Bauer Story

WHS Student '42, Coach & Teacher

Story Pages 2 thru 6



Fred Hecker '57

Arguably WHS's Greatest All-Around Athlete

Story Pages 7 thru 11

The Arnie Bauer Story

WHS Graduate, '42 - WHS Science Teacher & Coach 14 years, '50 to '64
Educator & Administrator in Sioux Falls School System 34 years, 1950 to 1984

If you attended WHS anytime from 1950 to 1964 it is likely you were either taught a Science Class or coached in some sport at some level by this warm, caring and gentle man. Those of us he did touch were so very fortunate to have him as part of our formative years.

"Coach Bauer", as I addressed him on the old Howard Wood football field on East 10th Street, was always one of my favorite coaches. Out of total respect he was always, "Mr Bauer", in any other environment. Now that we seem closer in age, (he is now 88 and I am 75), I always prefer the much more endearing and affectionate, "Coach Bauer".

After reading and re-reading the considerable research I was able to gather on Coach Bauer, it became abundantly clear as to why both the "Coach Bauer" and the "Mr. Bauer" were always so loved and held in such high esteem by not only myself but by everyone that knew him.

Coach Bauer put together an "epistle" for his family and friends in 2002. I loved reading every word of it and will pass on some of it in this tribute to him. Reading it helped me understand why I have always felt Coach Bauer was such an extraordinary person and such an extraordinary mentor to young people.

While reading and learning more about Arnie's life it kept coming to my mind that another American classic movie such as, *"It's a Wonderful Life"* or the popular 50's TV sitcom, *"Father Knows Best"*, could easily be made from Coach Bauer's life. Coach Bauer is and always has been the epitome of both characters, "George Bailey", played by Jimmy Stewart and "Jim Anderson", played by Robert Young. All three were just average, hard working, God fearing and unselfish American men that so positively effected all those

that came into contact with them throughout their lives.

Coach Bauer's life has had all of the ingredients of an unsung American hero. The story of a very gentle man who's life tells the American success story of simple devotion to his country, his family, his God and his career. In Arnie's case, his career translates to his thousands of students that he so positively touched during his 35 year career with his soft spoken manner. There are so many parts of this really good man's life story that readily bring tears of love, compassion and admiration each time it is read.

He was born in his Grandmother Phillip's home at the edge of Parker, SD in 1923 which makes him a bonafide member of America's *"Greatest Generation"*. He had two older brothers, Harry, 10 years older, and Roland, 2 years older.

Arnie's early life was happy and totally filled with love from his family, but in quite a humble setting.

Coach Bauer wrote in his epistle, "My mother, Clara Phillips attended school in Parker though the 8th grade. She was a sweet lady. Mother was dedicated and expressed much love for her three sons. I can recall a time when she literally gave me her last dime so I could pay for a school magazine. I wouldn't say our family was poor; we just never seemed to have any money."

Arnie's father, Martin Bauer, in his later years shared this comment with Arnie, "In my lifetime, the highest wage I ever received was \$2.50 an hour. Get an education, Arnold."

Arnie continued to write, "We left the farm and Dad became a custodian at the Orland



Arnold Bauer '42
Faculty Photo - "General Science"
From 1956 WHS Yearbook.

Consolidated School near Madison, S.D. My mother, father, two brothers and myself - five people, all lived in a single room on the third floor of the school. I was just a year old so don't recall making that move. I do, however, remember starting first grade in that building and Rollie and I having the task of emptying the wastebaskets each

Some of The Outstanding Honors Coach Bauer So Proudly Received.

- ⚔ Elected WHS Homecoming Marshall 1942. (An honor that was a high point in Arnie's high school years.)
- ⚔ Elected president of the WHS Monogram Club in his senior year.
- ⚔ Won the 1942 SD State quarter mile championship.
- ⚔ Inducted into the Washington High School Athletic Hall of Fame.
- ⚔ Member of the Lincoln High School Hall of Fame.
- ⚔ Member of the Augustana College Athletic Hall of Fame.
- ⚔ Member of South Dakota Coaches Hall of Fame.

night after school. It was a three-story brick building, first grade through high school. It seems that most of my life has been spent in a school of some form or another."

Arnie's Mom, Dad and two brothers moved to Sioux Falls when he was in the 5th grade. He attended Bancroft, Franklin, Whittier and Washington High, graduating from WHS in 1942. He played basketball and ran track throughout high school and was a member of the varsity teams in his junior and senior years, winning SD state championships in both sports. In track Arnie ran on the 880 and mile relay teams.

Arnie received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy after WHS graduation, but declined it. He was anxious to do his part in the war effort and didn't want to spend 4 years of the war in Annapolis. Instead he entered the Navy V5 program to become an aviator. In 1945 he received his "Wings of Gold" as a Navy ensign.

Right after his Navy graduation in 1945 he married Marian Caldwell from Detroit Lakes, MN,



Arnie & Marian Dating in 1944

whom he had met in 1941. Their long courtship was carried on via U. S. mail since he was not allowed to have a wife during his Naval training. They were married in the First United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls, which Arnie still attends.

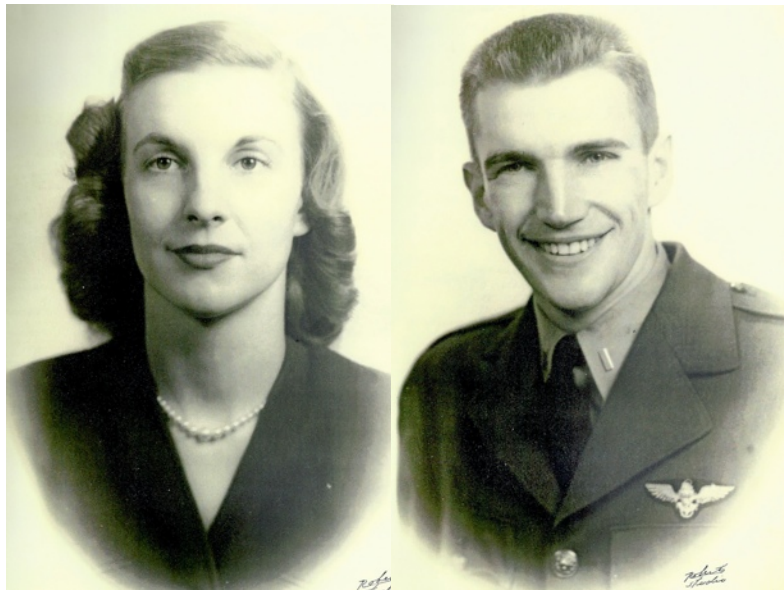
Arnie and Marian were then able to be together while he was stationed in Florida, South Carolina and Washington State. He was separated from active duty in 1945

and they moved back to Sioux Falls. Arnie stayed active in the Naval Reserve as a training officer and eventually as executive officer of the local surface division. He retired as a lieutenant commander after 22 years.

After the war, with encouragement from Marian, Arnie immediately enrolled at Augustana and Marian worked as an assistant buyer at Shriver - Johnson Co until their first son, David was born



The Marriage of
Marian Caldwell to Arnold Lyle Bauer
in Sioux Falls, SD, February 9, 1945



These two photos were taken of Marian and Arnie on their honeymoon in Sioux City, IA in 1945.

in 1947. She then became a full - time mom for the next 17years. After the boys were in high school she completed her college work and took a position as a biology instructor at WHS.

The Bauer's were blessed with 3 fine sons.

David Leslie Bauer was born in 1947. He and his wife Jayne live in Texas and have 4 children.

Douglas Martin Bauer was born in 1951. He is now widowed, has two daughters and lives in Rosemount, Minnesota.

Bradley Arnold Bauer was born in 1954. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Florida and have 5 children.

Everything I have read about Marian and Arnie's marriage indicates that they enjoyed a wonderfully happy marriage and were ideally suited to be life time partners. It seems so evident that they truly loved each other and were totally devoted to each other.

When Arnie graduated from Augustana in 1949 he was hired as the track and basketball coach in Hawarden, IA at an annual salary of \$2,700.00. The Bauer family stayed in Hawarden only one year as Arnie was asked to return to WSH to become assistant coach in all sports and teach general science.

Then in 1956 Arnie was appointed head basketball coach at WHS and held that prestigious position for eight years, accumulating a winning record of 149 wins - 43 losses.

In 1964 the new Lincoln High School opened in Sioux Falls and Arnie accepted what he described as "the finest coaching position in the state of SD", that of head track coach at Lincoln. Arnie was able to win the South Dakota state track championship in just his 2nd and 3rd years at Lincoln. But then he was asked to move into school administration.

With the exception of his first



The Arnie Bauer Family at son, Doug's wedding.
l. to r. David, Arnie, Douglas, Marian and Bradley.

year in Hawarden, IA, he and Marian's entire careers were spent in the Sioux Falls School District. Marian completed 14 years of teaching biology and Arnie spent a total of 34 years. The last 14 years Arnie spent as principal of Axtell Park Junior High School.

To add to his teaching income over the years Arnie worked in the summer adjusting hail damage to farm crops and officiating basketball and track. He served as the head starter of the state track meet in Sioux Falls or Rapid City for fourteen years until he was unable to continue because of a brain aneurysm. For over 50 years he worked as a volunteer on the Howard Wood Dakota Relays.

The last paragraph Coach Bauer wrote in his epistle to his family and friends speaks volumes to the kind of man he is and always has been, the character he has always possessed and why he so deeply touched and embellished thousands of people's lives, from his students to his contemporaries.

"As I look back, it occurs to me that I've been fortunate to have lived during a great period in history. I've had a multitude of experiences -- most of them enjoyable. Being born into a home with very little money and much love, was an advantage. We learned early that a person can get along well without a lot of material things. I've found that one does not need to hunt for happiness -- It's always there if we can recognize it."

So Coach, CONGRATULATIONS! Up to now you most certainly have lived a ***"Wonderful Life"***! A life that has so positively touched literally thousands in ways and degrees you will never fully know and we are all looking forward to enjoying your blessed friendship and inspiration for many more years to come.

Sadly, Coach Bauer lost Marian, the love of his life, quite suddenly in February of 2003. Coach continues to live in the Sioux Falls retirement complex that he and Marian selected together in 1998. **His mailing address is 3408 W. Ralph Rogers Rd., Apt. B204, Sioux Falls, SD 57108-2636, and his email address is Alb2212@aol.com.** He would dearly love to hear from any of you who would like to write.

The End

Affectionately & admiringly written by Jack M. Phillips '54

ADDITIONAL TRIBUTE LETTERS TO COACH BAUER



November 2, 2011.

From John Simko '57

"You need to wait until the end of the day to judge what kind of day it has been." That's what he said. But we don't have wait to judge what kind of man Arnie Bauer is. We knew even as uninformed kids that he was special, that we were blessed to have him as coach and teacher.

Mary and I have spent some memorable Saturday mornings in the Bauer home visiting with Coach Bauer and his late wife Marian over rolls and coffee. This elite quarter miler survived a life threatening aneurism shortly after retirement and uses a cane to help with balance. But he doesn't let that small thing affect his life's balance. He's got a great sense of humor. He tells of the guy who was puzzled about his condition. After the exam he asked "Doc, how do I stand?" Doc said "that's what puzzling me!"

Coach Bauer loves to tell of the pranks the coaches pulled on each other. One of them was Coach Lloyd Dobratz filling a bucket with water the night before, and then slowly and endlessly pouring the bucket of water into the toilet bowl in Coach Wally Diehl's small office the next morning. Coach Bauer reports— "nonplused, Teddy Bear said nothing." (Coach Bauer would never call Coach Wally Diehl "Teddy Bear." That was our affectionate reference to Coach Diehl.)

He's still a great teacher. A private pilot friend credits former Navy pilot Bauer for teaching him more on one flight than he had learned before. In the midst of a trip from Sioux Falls to Rapid City, someplace where no could guess, WWII Navy pilot Bauer asked some pertinent questions: "Where is the wind? What speed? What's your ETA? What's your ground speed? How much fuel do you have left? How much are you burning per hour? Do you change course with your feet? Where do you look when flying into the sun?" Coach Bauer didn't tell the private pilot what to do or how to do it. His questions were the lesson.

He's a philosopher as is apparent from the opening sentence. He's a collector of toy box toys.

His collection is worth thousands. He's a learner. He quickly embraced the computer age. He keeps current with the news and travels the world in his den with his Mac. He's a trusted friend. Just ask his teammates— Lloyd Dobratz, Ken Kessinger, and Virg Sandvig, — and his coaching colleagues Dick Day and Bob Caselli, — and his neighbor Roger Fredrikson at Trail Ridge. He's humble. Just try to get him to talk about himself. He is a proud dad. Just ask him about his boys. (He would also remind us not to use the word proud.) He's widely respected and revered in South Dakota sports world. Just ask John Egan. He is the longest serving member of the Howard Wood Dakota Relays group, serving way more than fifty years collectively as Meet Director and member of the Board of Directors. Just ask Dean Mann and Rich Greeno. He is adored by his players. Just ask Mark Line. He is a man to be emulated. Just ask anyone who knows him!

Coach Bauer's basketball teams won conference championship each of the eight years he was the coach. He stopped coaching when his son was a member of the basketball team because, true to his values, Coach Bauer did not want to embarrass his son by his dad's decisions about playing time. Jim Luce speaks for the class of '57 when he says "one of the biggest disappointments for me our Senior year at WHS was that we could not give Coach Bauer the State basketball Championship he so truly deserved." Jim adds "he was a great coach and is a great role model."

It is no overstatement to say we were blessed to be students and players under Coach Arnie Bauer!

John Simko, WHS '57



November 2, 2011
From Mark Line '57:

I was in a Minot motel when I picked up on the radio the finals of the South Dakota State Basketball Tournament. The year was 1965 and Sioux Falls won the state championship under coach Llyod Dobratz after Arnie Bauer retired. Dobratz was clear in crediting Arnie with this team and pointing out what a great coach Arnie Bauer had been. He said this was Arnie's team and he

deserved credit for the win. So Arnie wins his first championship after he retires.

Personally, he was in my eyes the best coach I had in all of sports. I remember his starting me daily in track and field to improve my start. He was "class" and dedicated to his craft of developing young people. He went on to be an outstanding principal and led his staff to their highest achievement.

How many lives did he touch....thousands. How much he meant to each young athlete is immeasurable. He was excellent in the class room, on the athletic field, and in the community. He was a leader who got things done without fanfare. Think of the many Dakota Relays that he chaired and grew into one of the finest in the Midwest.

His hands are on my shoulders and have been for many years. A great man and a caring citizen.

Mark Line, WHS '57



November 3, 2011
From: John Egan
RE: Arnie Bauer Tribute

It was through Coach Ole Odney while playing basketball at Augustana College in 1950 that I first met a man who would become a lifelong hero and mentor to me. Arnie Bauer is a gentle and compassionate person, and he was as gentle and compassionate as a coach could be while still maintaining discipline. He and Wally Diehl and Lloyd Dobratz were friends and coaching colleagues who became dear friends of mine. I treasure the memories with them and join in the well deserved tribute to a wonderful man, Arnie Bauer.

John Egan

Note for those of you not familiar with John Egan, he graduated from Augustana College, I think in 1950. As a result of his outstanding journalistic talents, John worked his way up to the position he held for many years of Sports Editor for the Sioux Falls Argus Leader. John has been retired from the Argus Leader, again I think for about 25 years. He now resides in Sun City, AZ, just outside of Phoenix. John is the older brother of Dal and Doug Egan, the most popular twin brothers that were members of the WHS class of 1951.

Fred Hecker, WHS '57

July 2, 1939 - June 26, 2006

There are hardly enough adjectives to describe just how good an athlete Fred Hecker was in high school. Mr. Stu Whitney, sports reporter with the Sioux Falls Argus Leader wrote the following wonderful article on Fred entitled, "*He did just about everything*". The article appeared in the Argus Leader on July 7, 2006.

My sincere thanks to Mr. Whitney for granting me permission to reprint his article.

'He did just about everything'

Hecker's success in four sports made Washington a powerhouse



Fred Hecker died at age 66 last week after a battle with cancer. He graduated from Washington in 1957.

Long before Denny Tiefert, Chad Greenway or Dusty Coleman set modern standards for multi-sport success, Fred Hecker was casting the mold.

The 1957 Washington High School alum – who lost a battle with cancer at age 66 last week in San Diego – mixed toughness and talent to become one of the greatest all-around athletes in South Dakota history.

"He believed he could do anything, and as a result he did just about everything," says John

Simko, a close friend who played alongside Hecker in several sports at Washington and football at Augustana College.

"We've all heard those sports cliches like *ferocious competitor, never say die and refuse to lose*. Well, put all those together, and you'd have half the measure of Fred's capacity. He was the kind of guy that everybody wanted on their team."

Hecker did his best to oblige,



STU WHITNEY

earning 11 letters at Washington in football, basketball, track and golf. By soaring in those four sports, he helped define an era in which the Warriors were an Upper Midwest prep sports powerhouse.

"I've always felt that he was probably the finest athlete to come out of that school," says Ken Kessinger, a longtime teacher

See **WHITNEY**, page 2C



left:
Fred Hecker '57
1957 WHS Yearbook.

HECKER FILE

BORN: July 2, 1939, in Hinsdale, Ill.

GRADUATED: Washington High in 1957, Augustana College in 1963.

SPORTS FEATS: Hecker was an All-American in football and basketball as a senior at Washington. He earned 11 letters in all, excelling in golf and track as well. At Augustana, Hecker helped the Vikings win the 1959 NCC football title.

PRO: Hecker was a pro golfer, playing on a variety of tours throughout the country. He qualified and played in the 1996 U.S. Senior Open.

Whitney: Hecker fought to the end

Continued from 1C

and coach who published a history of Washington High athletics in 1990.

"He was the leader on the field, and his teammates understood that. He inspired other people to perform at their best."

The son of a former Purdue football standout, Hecker was a bruising fullback and three-time all-state pick under legendary coach Bob Burns. As part of a talented class that also included Simko and quarterback Jim Luce, Hecker led the Warriors to a 23-2 record from 1954-56.

He accounted for 95 points as a 6-foot-1, 175-pound junior, and as a senior he made All-America on an undefeated powerhouse despite breaking his collarbone and missing five games.

Of course, as a four-sport athlete, Hecker was just getting started:

■ In basketball, he helped the Warriors claim state titles as a sophomore and junior. As a senior, he was named All-American as the Warriors finished 21-3 and fell in the state finals to Belle Fourche.

■ In track and field, Hecker was a major part of three state team titles while fueling a mile relay squad that dominated South Dakota competition.

At the 1957 Dakota Relays, Hecker teamed with Larry Torkelson, Pinky Scheinost and Rick Devereaux to win the mile relay in 3 minutes, 29.1 seconds – an all-time state record at the time.

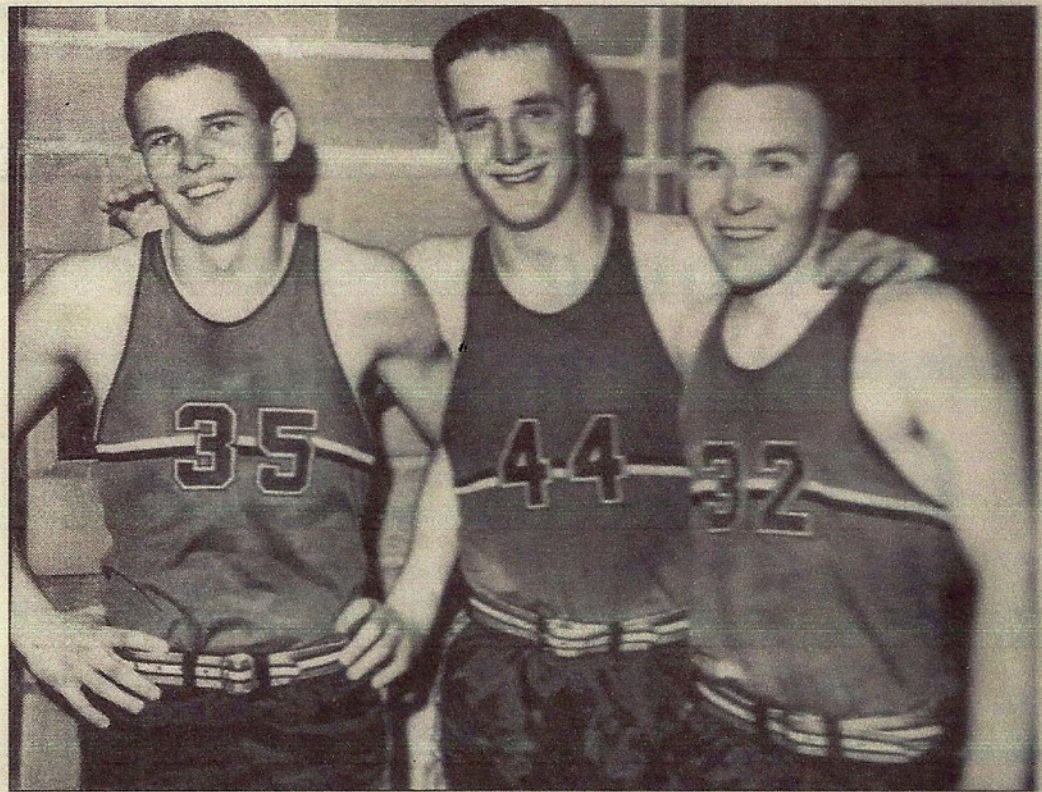
Flexing his versatility, Hecker also took second in the state in shot put as a junior and set a state record in that event (52 feet, 10 inches) as a senior.

■ In golf, Hecker led the Warriors to the 1956 state team title as a junior, earning medalist honors with rounds of 68 and 73.

"If you talk to guys of my era, nobody would argue his pre-eminence as an athlete," says 1962 Washington grad Terry Comstock, now a local golf professional. "You're talking about a guy who would compete in the shot put, and then head over to play in the state golf tournament and win it. Football was his sport, but he was a tough competitor in just about everything."

Hecker played college football at Northwestern under Ara Parseghian before transferring to Augustana to join his old coach, Burns, and former teammates Simko and Luce.

"I had some problems making the transition away from Sioux Falls," Hecker told the *Argus Leader* in 1996. "I was fairly immature, and it felt like there was something missing for me. All I'd ever had was (Burns) as my coach, and nothing else measured up. I wasn't happy there, so I left."



Friends and teammates (from left to right) John Simko, Fred Hecker and Jim Luce helped define an era of Washington High dominance in the 1950s. Hecker starred in four different sports.

Though slow to regain the superiority of his prep years, Hecker helped Augustana win its first and only North Central Conference football title in 1959.

He graduated in 1965 and made his career in the Air Force, retiring as a full colonel in 1988. He served as a consultant for a San Diego technology firm after that, but a stroke in 1992 led to a doctor's edict to "play lots of golf."

Hecker took him seriously.

Determined to make the Senior Tour, he chased down mini tours and qualifiers with the same spark and spunk he showed as a tough-nosed fullback at Howard Wood Field.

"He wasn't the best golfer that ever lived, but he sure believed in himself," says Comstock. "He played the Dakotas Tour in his 60s, going against kids who were all in their 20s. But I don't think he ever believed he was wasting his time."

Hecker was vindicated somewhat in 1996, when he qualified for the U.S. Senior Open in Beechwood, Ohio. With typical confidence, he announced his intention to win before shooting a pair of 83s to miss the cut (the title went to Dave Stockton).

A tougher battle emerged a few years ago, when Hecker was diagnosed with prostate cancer after doctors found a tumor in his bladder. The cancer later spread to his

bones, but Hecker still made it back to South Dakota and insisted on going to the golf course.

"He died exactly the way he played sports – he believed he was going to beat it," says Simko, a federal judge who first met Hecker when they were fourth-graders at Longfellow Elementary. "Beating (cancer) was one more thing he was sure he could do – and in a way he did it. He survived a lot longer than doctors thought that he would."

In 2002, Hecker was inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame – joining his friend Simko and cementing his status as one of the state's most accomplished athletes.

A memorial service was held Wednesday at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery at Point Loma, Calif. But Hecker's family plans a funeral service in Sioux Falls later this month, giving all his former Warrior teammates a chance to say goodbye.

"If you got a bunch of us old-timers together for a pickup game in any sport – you name which one – Fred would always be the first one picked," says Simko. "He was a competitor second to none, and you knew he would fight to the end."

Stu Whitney's column appears every Friday in the *Argus Leader*. Reach him at swhitney@argusleader.com or 977-3922.

The best of Washington High

Kessinger picks school's all-time greats

By PAT DUNCAN

Argus Leader Staff

Ken Kessinger is a 1943 graduate of Washington High, where he competed in basketball and track.

But it's the exploits of other Washington athletes that have captured Kessinger's attention in recent

years. His book, *Sioux Falls Washington High*

WHS bests by sport. 3B

School Sports Heritage, chronicles athletics at the school from 1899 to 1989.

He used research from that book, yearbooks, microfilm research from the *Argus Leader*, longtime sportswriter John Egan, and discussions with former coaches and athletes to develop lists of the school's all-time best in each sport.

"I started on this a year ago, when I knew Washington High was going out of business," Kessinger said.

He knows there will be differences of opinion on some of the choices. No letters please.

A large volume and variety of people and sources were used as a basis for the lists. For football and basketball, Kessinger compiled three teams each for the period of 1899-1945, and three each for 1946 to the present.

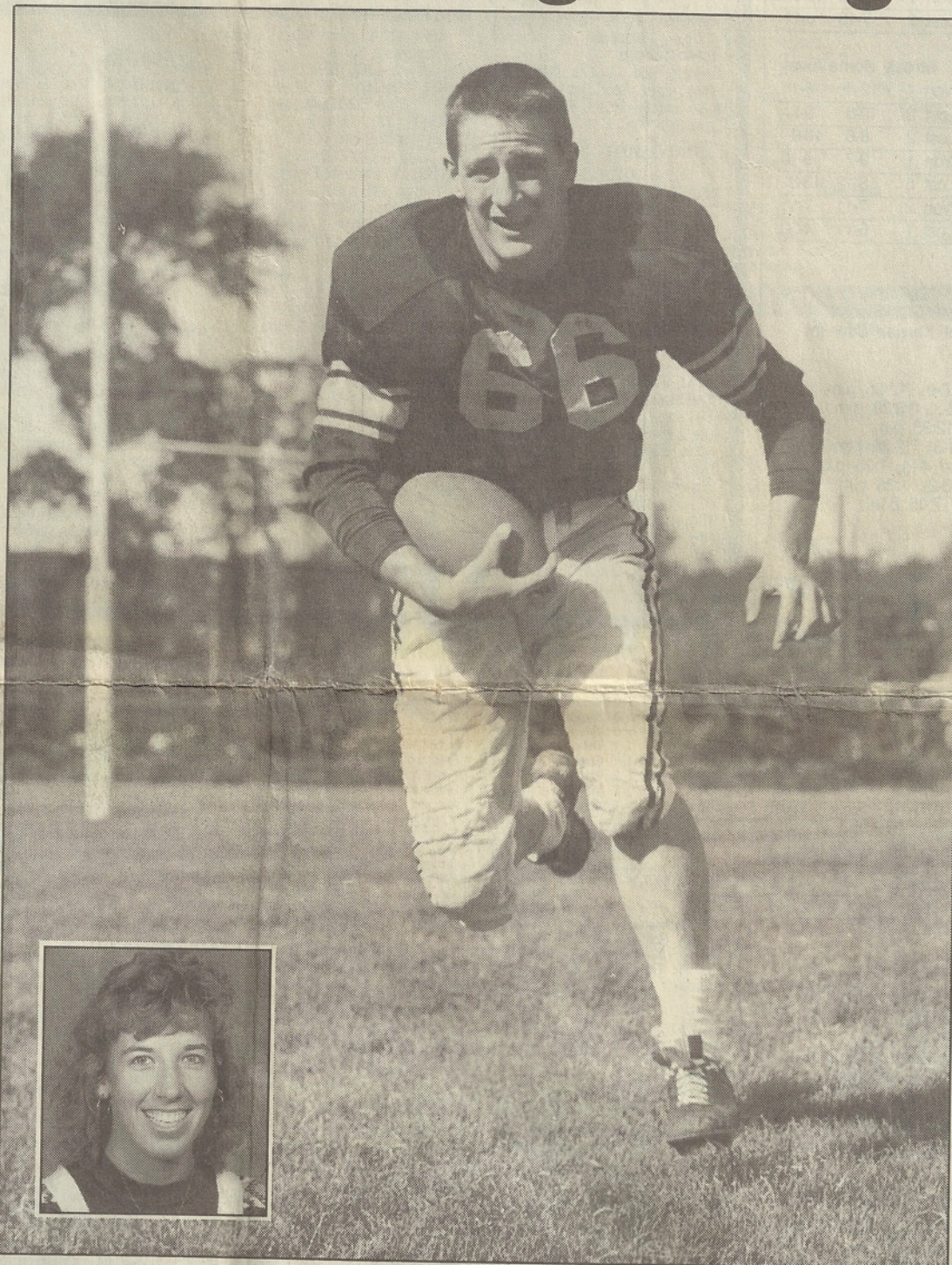
"Nearly everyone was an all-stater; many were captains. But I didn't always have all-state teams to go by," said Kessinger, a Minnesota Twins sales representative and retired former chairman of the Augustana College physical education department. "I feel there's good credibility to it."

Kessinger also devised a list of 14 top male and five female athletes in Washington history:

■ Fred Hecker (1957) — Competed on football teams that went 23-2, two state champion basketball teams, three state champion track teams and a state champion golf team.

Three-year starter in basketball and football. Shot 68 and 73 for individual championship as a freshman in golf. Broke various meet records in the shot put and ran on a mile relay team that never lost a race.

Leading scorer on 8-1 football team as a junior, and 9-0 team as a senior. Named to all-state and national high school All-America teams. Two-time all-state basketball player. Led Warriors to 21-3 record and an Eastern South Dakota Conference title as a senior.



Fred Hecker, a 1957 Washington High graduate, played on Washington teams that won state track, basketball and golf titles. Rochelle Heirigs (inset) earned nine varsity letters at Washington, most of any female athlete.

Argus Leader file photo

Kessinger, WHS '43, & long time Augustana Coach is a most popular and respected figure in South Dakota Sports. He is the auth Ken or of the wonderful book, "Sioux Falls WHS Sports Heritage, 1899-1989". Ken is as qualified as anyone to choose "The All Time Greatest Warrior Wonders"



Warrior wonders

Top athletes in Washington High history as chosen by Ken Kessinger, author of *Sioux Falls Washington High School Sports Heritage*

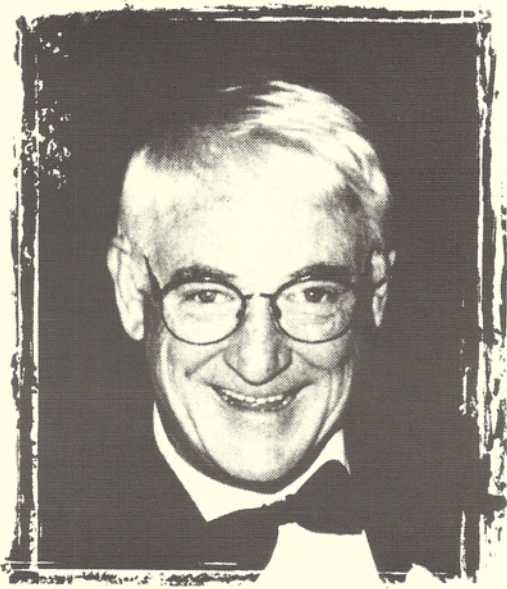
BOYS

1. Fred Hecker (1957)
2. Dick West (1947)
3. Emil Bendush (1936)
4. John Simko (1957)
5. Jack Neuroth (1953)
6. Don Dummermuth (1971)

8. Pierce McDowell (1921)
9. Lee Rensberger (1944)
10. Dick Callahan (1960)
11. Dave Dummermuth (1971)
12. John Legel (1988)
13. Chad Anderson (1988)
14. Theodore (T.R.) Johnson (1911)

GIRLS

1. Rochelle Heirigs (1988)
2. JoElle Byre (1982)
3. Kari Soyland (1982)



JULY 2, 1939 ~ JUNE 26, 2006

Memorial Service for Fred Hecker will be held at
Calvary Cathedral Episcopal Church,
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Friday, July 28, 2006
10:00 in the morning

A military ceremony will be held at
Woodlawn Cemetery following the church service.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

John Frederick Hecker

Fred passed away, at his home in Lakeside, California on June 26, 2006 at 5:00 in the evening. He is survived by his wife Terry, children Casey Hecker-Franklin, Mason Hecker, grandchildren, Jack, Drew, and Madeline Hecker, and Brice Franklin sister Donna Hecker-Shearer and brother, Frank Hecker.

Born in Hinsdale, Illinois July 2, 1939,
Hecker graduated from Sioux Falls Washington High in 1957.
Hecker attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and then graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls in 1963 where he met his wife Terry. He was a high school All-American in football and basketball and excelled in golf and track. He was inducted into the "South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame" for his athletic accomplishments.

Hecker was accepted into the Air Force OTS in 1964 and in 1988 retired as a full colonel. He served in Viet Nam and was highly decorated being honored with:

- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Meritorious Service Medal 2 Oak Cluster
- Air Medal One Silver Oak Cluster
- Air Force Commendation Medal 2 Oak Cluster
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
- Combat Readiness Medal
- 12 other honor awards and medals

After retirement he worked for SAIC in San Diego, California as a consultant working for the Air Force until he retired to become a professional golfer in 1992. He qualified for and played in the 1996 U.S. Senior Open in Cleveland, Ohio.

Memorial Service for J. Fred Hecker will be held at
Rosecrans National Cemetery
Point Loma, California
Wednesday July 5, 2006
9:00 in the morning
Services are being conducted by
Dr. James Wilson



Editor's Personal Note On Fred Hecker:

Sometime in the mid 1990's Gary Nerison '55 and I drove to Napa, CA to watch Fred Hecker play in the PGA Senior Golf Tournament at Silverado Country Club. We followed Fred and his foursome on their round and then had lunch in the clubhouse. Fred invited two of his golf buddies who were playing in the tournament to join us. The five of us were having a delightful lunch on the patio when Fred did something that impressed me and I will never forget!.

Fred was a Freshman at WHS when I was a senior and I did not know him well but for a very long time I had marveled and respected him for his unbelievable athletic talents! I played football on the WHS '53 team but *no comparison* should ever be made of my athletic ability with that of Fred Hecker's. The lunch conversation centered around golf, the Senior Tour and the Napa tournament and Fred was a great host. He was skillfully making everyone feel comfortable in conversations about golf when he totally changed the subject and started telling his two friends what an outstanding football player I was in high school and in effect indicated that he had looked up to me.

Every good host tries to make their guests feel special and Fred had certainly just accomplished that as far as I was concerned. His comments took me by total surprise and even though his kind words were flattering, what he said made me uncomfortable. I, better than anyone, knew that my football achievements and/or abilities should never be compared with those of Fred Hecker. I felt then, and still do that there are only a very few WHS football players that deserve being discussed in the same conversation with Fred, and I definitely was not one of them.

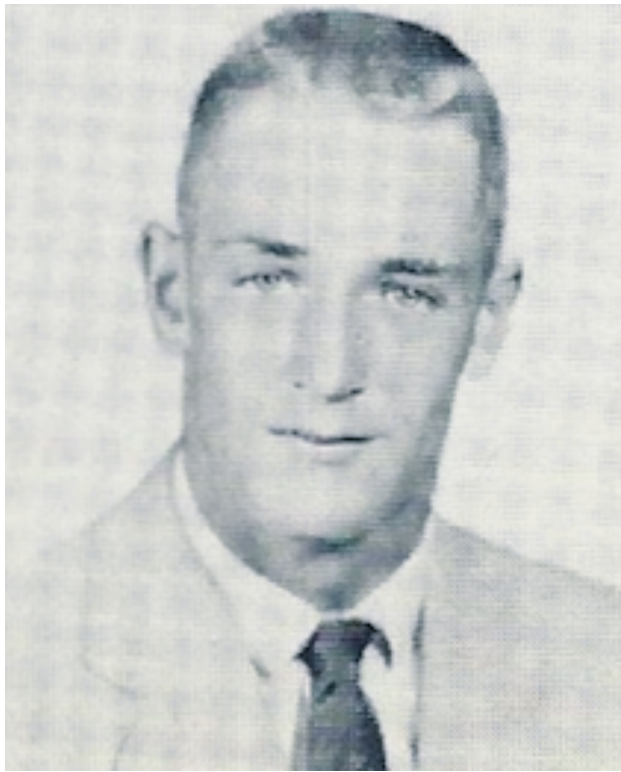
I remember thinking what a nice, unselfish guy he was. I thanked Fred for his kindness, but redirected the conversation by telling his friends just how truly great of an athlete Fred was, not only in football but in every sport he participated in. I told them that in my opinion no one from our high school could compare with him. Fred modestly changed the subject. I remember thinking what a class guy he was! He was such a special gifted athlete and that day more than ever he became someone I totally respected and admired as a humble and thoughtful person.

Fred was the perfect host to Gary and I that day and he made our trip to Napa so memorable. I really liked Fred and so valued the day with him.

Jack M. Phillips '54

P.S.: An added note from Fred's sister, Donna Hecker Shearer '59: "Fred was scheduled to play in a golf tournament about the time of his marriage to Terry Hansen of Sioux City (another Augustana student) back around 1962-3. Terry, the trooper that she was and still is, caddied for him on their honeymoon."

Donna, thank you for your help with this story. I apologize for taking so long in getting it together and published.



Left:
Fred Hecker '57
Senior Yearbook Photo



Right:
Fred Hecker '57
Orange Letter Day
Homecoming Marshal



STATE THEATER RESTORATION

Yes, our old State Theater on Phillips Ave. is being restored and I have been asked to pass the following information on to you in hopes of soliciting your financial support.

“They’ve been iconic neighbors for years over eighty-five years. The original Washington High School was completed in 1908. Eighteen years later, the Sioux Falls State Theatre was constructed less than a block and a half away. These Downtown siblings played host to countless Warrior students over eight decades.

How many young men asked a young lady out for their first date in the hallways of Washington High School? How many couples made that first date a night to remember at the Queen of Downtown movie houses? The list of movies that helped make memorable first dates is endless – *The Graduate* (1967), *On the Waterfront* (1954), *The Maltese Falcon* (1941) and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939).

Hot popcorn, cold drinks and high school sweethearts snuggled up in the State’s balcony. Maybe some of these couples even saw some of the movie! The Sioux Falls State Theatre Company would love your help in make the State Theatre come alive for a new generation of Sioux Falls citizens.

The campaign to restore the State Theatre is in full-swing. Over \$2.5 million has already been raised over the past five years. After a successful fundraising drive in the business and corporate community this year, the State now stands \$1.2 million away from re-opening its doors with the same elegant splendor it did on its original opening night in 1926. The campaign to re-open the State is being deftly handled by Joe Henkin of Henkin-Schultz and Dave Fleck of Sioux Falls Construction.

Please log onto www.siouxfallsstatetheatre.org to check out the project. You can call (605)335-5757 for more information or to set up a private tour. And, please feel free to share your State Theatre memory by emailing: office@siouxfallsstatetheatre.org





**Kent Scribner '56
Wrote & asked for
this Mini Reunion
info be published.**

CLASS OF '56

MINI REUNION SCHEDULED FOR SEATTLE.

Three members of the Class of 1956 have put together a "mini-reunion lunch" in the Seattle area on Wednesday, November 16. Invitations went to 20 folks in Washington, three in Oregon and one in northern Idaho, and as of October 27, fifteen class members have responded that they will attend, some of whom will be accompanied by their spouses. The noon lunch will be held at the Bahama Breeze restaurant at 15700 South Center Parkway in Tukwila, WA. The Bahama Breeze is located in the SouthCenter Mall complex "in the northwest corner of the parking lot directly across from Nordstrom's."

The following Class of '56 alums plan to be there: Perm Bedford Kielman, Jim Brown, Leora Capen Bass, Clara Jeffrey Amesbury, Pat Jorgensen Palagi, Susan Lommel O'Brien, Bob Pedersen, Andy Perlbachs, Dale Peterson, Myra Scholten Swanson and Carol Winden Johnson, all from Washington; Gene Ross and Bob Shuck from Oregon; Marlys Rush Newcomb from Idaho, and Kent

Scribner of Sioux Falls, who will be visiting his daughter in the Puget Sound area at the time. Questions about the lunch should be directed to Perm Bedford at 4perm@comcast.net or to Pat Jorgensen at gppalagi@aol.com.

Fifteen class members and over 20 attendees is well beyond what Perm, Pat and Kent were thinking when they "cooked up" this idea at the 55th year reunion of the class in Sioux Falls this past July.

You guys have fun and send some photos.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Aug 27, 2011, at 8:51 PM, Donald Brown wrote:

Jack,

In June I visited Sioux Falls, and several old friends got together at Dale (Pete) Page's home on Wall Lake. Pete ('54) is on the right. Next to him is Harley Newman ('52). Second from the left is Dale Paulson ('53), and that is his hot rod. On the far left is Pierre Forrette, who only had the good luck to spend a single year at WHS.

With continued thanks for all you do,
Don Brown ('53)



DALE (PETE) PAGE '54 HOT ROD GATHERING.

On Sep 8, 2011, at 9:17 AM, David Paulson wrote:

Jack,

Thanks for including Fred (Gellerman) in your WHS obits. That was darn nice of you. Fred and I were pals and roomed together for a while at the Delt House in Vermillion. I had not been in contact with Fred for some time, but had a good time at the 2010 WHS event. You always wish you had spent more time with your friends after they are gone. Fred was no exception.

Have a good day.

Dave Paulson '53

ANYONE KNOW OF ANY PLANS FOR A 1958 AND/OR A 1962 CLASS REUNION?

On Oct 7, 2011, at 1:25 PM, Dianne Anderson wrote:

good afternoon jack.,i am dianne marie anderson of the class of 1958...i just returned from visiting my sister-in-law who graduated in 1962...her maiden name is paula jo jensen and she is interested in attending any upcoming 50th anniversary class activities and doesn't know wh to contact for info...can you give us any help with a name and address or phone number...much appreciated...sincerely...dianne marie anderson (who truly loved being at my 50th reunion)

On Oct 12, 2011, at 12:51 PM, Dianne Anderson wrote:

jack..thanks for the reply...your suggestion is a good one and we would appreciate you doing so...i hear through the grapevine that a 55th is being planned for the class of 58...for those of us who have no details, an announcement in your publication would most likely be appreciated as well...i would like to attend if at all possible...thanks again..dianne marie anderson

FRIEND SEARCH;

On Nov 1, 2011, at 11:03 AM, Les and Judy wrote:

Jack, my nane is Judy Stark Hobbs. I gradurated in 58 from WHS. I was wondering if you had info , phone no, e-mail address or anything on Robert"Bob" Troemel from WHS? He probably graduated in 54 or 55 but not sure. Think he lives in Minneapolis, Minn. Would appreciate it and thank you . Hope you can find something. Judy Stark Hobbs judyandles@comcast.net

Ed's note: Was happily able to locate Bot Troemel '50 and put them in touch with each other. Bob was in the class of 1950, not '54 or 55.

ANOTHER 9-11 EXPERIENCE:

On Aug 23, 2011, at 7:38 AM, Doug Aldrich wrote:

Jack, what a great issue! It was fascinating to read about Gary's (Norbraten) experiences on 9/11!

I was working in Shanghai on a lab construction project for Dow Corning, in my hotel room late at night. An Australian friend called me and said to turn on the TV. The images of terrorist planes and burning towers were shown, but the announcer's words were only in Mandarin. The BBC had no information either, and it was chaos to find out anything from the States, until I logged on to CNN the next day from the plant.

I was stranded in China for a week until flights started taking Americans back. It was also poignant and revealing. Not a single Chinese person said anything about the attack. However, the Australian ex-pats gathered all the Americans they knew together and hosted a somber but warm, friendly dinner, just to say "We know you're hurting and are so sorry." There were also Canadians and British people; no wonder we have such a bond with our English-speaking friends around the world!

Doug Aldrich WHS '57

RESPONSE TO JJ ALMA ANDERSON JOHNSON'S '53 STORY:

On Aug 23, 2011, at 8:42 PM, Litljump@aol.com wrote:

Jack, I sent this to Kenny's (Anderson '51) sister. I really enjoyed dealing with and knowing Kenny. Royce (Adams '58)

From: Litljump@aol.com

To: jayne_johnson35@yahoo.com

Sent: 8/23/2011 9:57:42 P.M. Central Daylight Time

Subj: Royce Adams here, Class of '58 - thinking about Kenny

It was so nice to read your story in the O&B from Jack. Yet also it was sad. Kenny was a good friend of mine and countless times we had coffee together at Kirks or Lee's with Bill Hall, George Kirk and many other businessmen. I hesitate to tell you this next thing, but I hope you will take it in the light in which it was always received by all of us at coffee.

One morning, long ago, when everyone in the group was gathered at Lee's, Kenny came in to join us and Bill Hall said, "About time you got here Kenny, sit over there in the back of the bus!" Kenney said "You are mistaken Bill, this is the front of the bus and I am driving this bus!!" Of course we all laughed because we never had any feelings about Kenny's "color".

He was always upbeat and so much fun to be with. The conversation, even when political in any way, was lighthearted.

Our classmate was Jesse Clark, who is another great guy. We played ball, swam at the river, and just had a good time on the east side of Sioux Falls. I always remember his little brother, Dougie, who wanted to keep up with us and we hauled him along. Jesse was a great kid.

Long ago, 1959, in Memphis, Tennessee, I was stationed at the Naval Training Base, Millington, TN. We were Marines training there with navy guys and one of our friends, Peter Bourne, was a black kid. He was as dark as I get when I am deeply tanned. We had an occasion to take liberty in Memphis and 5 of us went to the Gridiron, a hamburger shop. We sat down and they told us Peter had to get out. There were stools at the counter, screwed into the floor. 5 of them were "removed" and we got out of there fast, never to be caught. We felt better.

Prior to going to Memphis, I was stationed at Jacksonville and it was there that I first experienced racism. As 3 of us walked down a street near the bus station a black man walking towards us stepped into the street as we walked by. I asked a kid from the south why was that. He told me that "they better get out of our way, or else". I thought where am I? At that same bus station there was a divider between the cafe, one white - one black side. There was a common cooking area and dishwashing area. What a display of ignorance. And the final thing was my being not allowed on a bus because I let 3 black ladies board before I did. The driver told me to get on and I said "OK, but the ladies may go first". I was told after that to "get off my bus "You "n" lover".

I am grateful to have known Kenny and I hope he felt that way about me too. What a wonderful man he was. Thanks for listening to me - I rarely speak of these things.

Royce G. Adams, Class of '58, WHS USMC, USAF, retired businessman and teacher

GREAT THEN AND NOW STORY FROM ROYCE ADAMS '58! NEVER HAPPEN TODAY:

On Aug 22, 2011, at 8:42 PM, Litljump@aol.com wrote:

Talk about stories, there must be hundreds for sure. Everyone has them. I often think about the days that Dave (Czerny) Miller and I would drive to Buffalo Slough early in the morning, hunt ducks and drive like a bat to get back to WHS in time for class. Because we couldn't lock our cars (the door locks were not working) we would dash into the school and put our shotguns in our lockers for safe keeping. One day the principal saw us and cautioned us to be sure our lockers were locked. Can you imagine any kid doing that in this day and age?

Can you say LOCK UP!

Royce Adams '58