

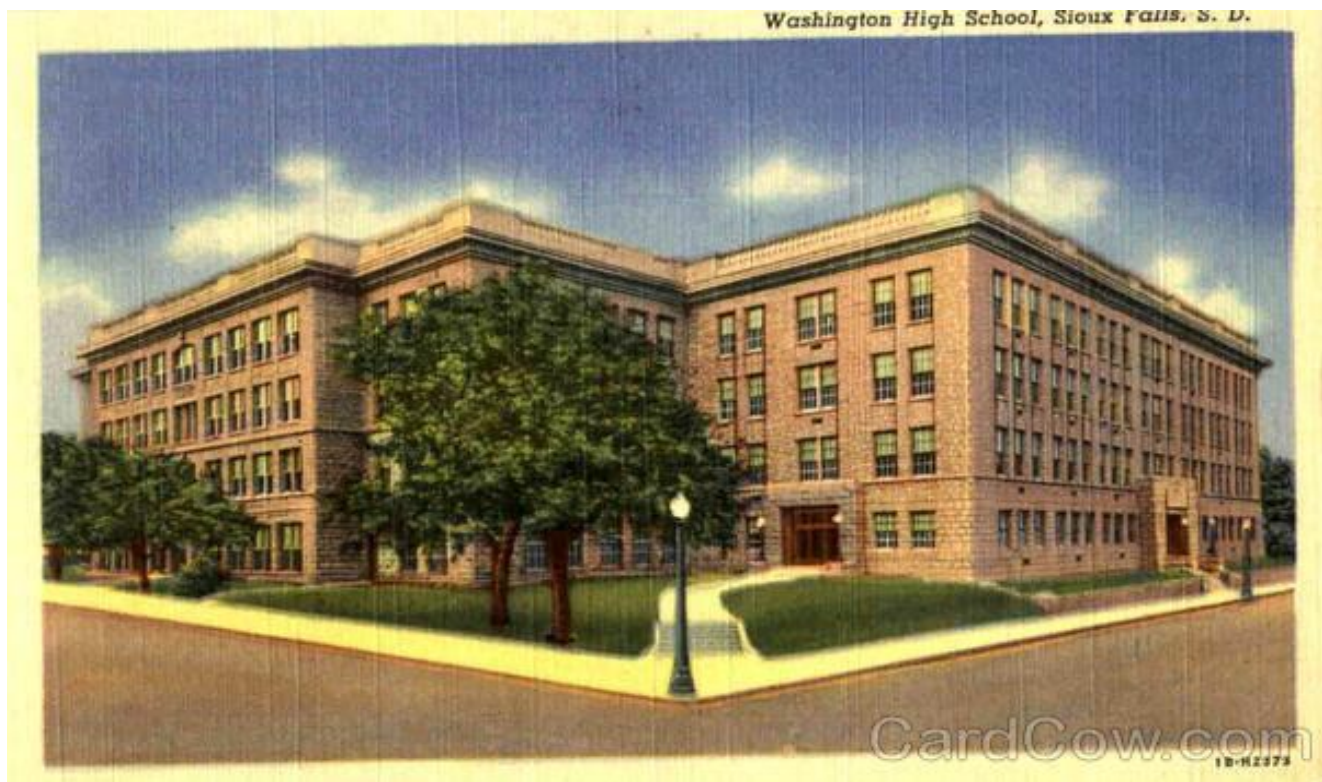
THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

Serving the Classes of The Great '50's Decade. Photos and Stories Requested!

Published in memory of our Founder Jack M. Phillips '54. Issue #05-25

orangeandblackonline@gmail.com 2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134



Thank you to dedicated Classmates that are reporting to the O & B !

Mary Montoya '59, Jim Carlson '58, Eric Gustafson '58 plus our

Virtual Executive Assistant Bill Lobe '59

Please [CLICK HERE](#)

to send your news, stories & photos plus Letters to The Editor to Keep the O & B ALIVE !

Jack & Debra Phillips

Letters to the O & B



Glen Anderson '57 <wlfsg914@aol.com > wrote on July 22, 2025

**WOW! Nice surprise to open my e-mail today and find the O & B!
Thanks so much. Though I live in Florida, my roots still run deep in S.D.**

**Glen Anderson
Class of '57**

**Editor's Note: Glen so happy the Alumni Newsletter brightened your day!
Send us a story of one of your favorite memories! Regards to Diane.**

Judy Hobbs Stark <judyandles@comcast.net> wrote on July 22, 2025

My memories of my best friend Karen Tuttle Sommerfield '58 who passed 1/25/25.

Karen and I were best friends all through high school. She and I were both in the choir and she was a good singer. We both took Spanish and if it weren't for Karen, I would probably still be sitting in my Spanish class!

We went to Okoboji, on some kind of a Senior trip. It was a blast. Karen and I, in our Senior year drove to Sioux City, to shop and have lunch in the very popular tea room, in downtown Sioux City. Karen had on a pink and white gingham sun dress. All of a sudden, I notice Karen was very flushed and getting redder by the minute. It was very hot that afternoon and we thought it was just the heat. While we were eating, Karen broke out in a red rash, well it was the measles! She felt ok so we just kept on eating and then more shopping. I bet she exposed more people to the measles in Sioux City. We laughed about that so often!

Her husband Phil was in the Army and stationed in Lawton, OK. I got married on Jan 6th, 1962 and she flew up to Arvada, to be my Matron of Honor, at my parents' house. I was married at home and we were married almost 50 years. I just have so many good memories of Karen.

**Judy Hobbs Stark
Class of '58**

Editor's Note: Judy thank you for sharing your favorite memories of your best friend from high school!

Ellen Janssen < janssenell@outlook.com > wrote on July 23, 2025

**Thank you for continuing this beautiful newsletter.
I really enjoy it.**

**Ellen Flaherty Janssen
Class of '58**

Editor's Note: Thank you, Ellen! It is my pleasure and kudos to all the Alumni Staff that help make this happen! [Click here to read about Ellen's successful efforts in support of O&B Newsletter delivery to all subscribers posted on our website, Special Issue WHS O&B #5-17!](#)

Robert J Solem < skyking.rjs@gmail.com > wrote on July 23, 2025

Joanne Guemmer Ellison, RIP

Here is a link to Joanne's Argus Leader obituary -

<https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd1234360>

Her obituary caught my eye because we were both members of the first three South Dakota All-State Bands which rehearsed and performed in the WHS Auditorium in 1951 and 1952 and in Huron in 1953.

Here is a link to the South Dakota Bandmasters website which, in turn, has links to the program and group photo for each year. Each program also lists the names and home towns of the members for that year.

<https://sdbandmasters.org/all-state-band-2/>

The following three links are to the group photos for the years in which Joanne was the harpist. (She and her harp are on the right front of each photo but the harp is turned a bit in the 1951 photo so is not so easily seen.)

<https://sdbandmasters.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ASB1951Sioux-Falls.jpg>

<https://sdbandmasters.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ASB1952-Sioux-Falls.jpg>

<https://sdbandmasters.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ASB1953Huron.jpg>

Please let me know if there are problems with any of the links.

Thank you to everyone who is working to continue Jack's wonderful legacy of the O&B!

**Bob Solem, Bridgewater High School (1953)
Camp Tepeetonka (camper, junior counselor, counselor)
Augustana College (1957)**

P.S. I receive the O&B because my Tepeetonka co-worker and friend, Bill Simpson (WHS 1953) alerted me to Jack's O&B at one of our Augustana College class reunions and put me in touch with Jack who kindly added me to the O&B mailing list.

Richard Smith < diabetesspeaker@gmail.com > wrote on July 23, 2025

Thank you very much for keeping this going!

Dick Smith '56

Ronald Larson < rnrttime@sio.midco.net > wrote on July 31, 2025

Ron Larson wrote and asked to call. When we spoke and he was thrilled we continued with the Newsletter. He said he loved his WHS high school days and wanted to be a Patron of the O & B I received a letter in the mail from him with his support and sponsorship!

Ronald Larson
Class of '59

Editor's Note: The Newsletter is grateful for Ron Larson's support of the O & B this year as a **PATRON!** Many thanks and kudos Ron! It is really appreciated!

Winona Dubbe northislandqueen@gmail.com wrote on Sept. 5, 2025

Bob and Nona Wumkes Dubbe celebrated our 70th wedding anniversary on August 27!
Enjoy hearing from our classmates! Jim Redfield lives in San Diego, CA. He can see North Island from his back porch. I worked there for many years. Hope all is well. We are feeling our age but still enjoy living on our 20 acres.

Nona Dubbe
Class of '50

Editor's Note: **WOW CONGRATULATIONS ON 70 YEARS!**
Wishing you both many more!

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS BY WRITING TO LETTERS to the EDITOR!
<mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com>



From The Editor in Chief Everyone Has a Story

Everyone has a story in them! Not just celebrated authors or world travelers - but everyone! Everyone you pass on the street or silently wait behind in line has lived a life filled with triumphs, heartbreaks, moments of grace and unsolved questions. We are all walking novels, unwritten memoirs, chapters in progress.

It is easy to think that our own lives are too mundane to matter. Stories are not measured in action scenes or exotic locales. They live in the details: the look a parent may give a child when words fail, or the simple resilience of a person who keeps going despite feeling invisible. The most moving stories are not loud or flashy, they are honest, raw and true.

Stories give shape to who we are! They help us make sense of this ever-changing world. When shared they connect us. In telling our stories we give others permission to do the same. And in hearing someone's story, we see their humanity and perhaps soften a little. We judge less and listen more.

Too often people keep their stories locked inside, thinking they aren't worth telling. That's a tragedy. You don't need to be a writer to tell your story. You just need to believe it is worth something - because it is. Your story matters. Everyone has a voice we just need to use it. Long after we are gone, it's our stories that linger. The ones we told and the ones about us. A story passed down becomes more than a memory - it becomes a piece of the listener. Stories are how we remember, how we honor, and how we heal.

You don't need a perfect ending to start telling your story. You don't even need to know the whole plot. Begin with a moment. A feeling. A memory. Then follow the thread. You'll be surprised where it leads. Because at the heart of it all, everyone has a story in them. And yours is worth telling!

Debra Phillips



In dedication to my storyteller husband, Jack Phillips

Photo: Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas 5/23

Little Did We Know

Source: HistoryAllDay.com from Janelle Wright, Contributor



Ben Franklin left \$2,000 to the cities of Boston and Philadelphia in his will to help young tradesmen, but they could not draw the balance for 200 years. In 1990, it was worth \$6.5 million. The money has been used to fund scholarships, women's health, and help firefighters and disabled children.

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

@ HISTORYALLDAY



This is Jonas Salk (1914 - 1995) who decided not to patent his 1955 Polio Vaccine so that it would be affordable for millions of people who couldn't afford it. As a result, he lost out on an estimated 7 billion dollars.

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

@ HISTORYALLDAY



A knock-upper was someone whose purpose was to wake people up during a time when alarm clocks were expensive and not very reliable. They earned about six pence a week using a pea shooter to shoot dried peas at the windows of sleeping workers in East London, 1930s. She would not leave a window until she was sure that the workers had woken up.

PICTURE COURTESY: THE RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM TRUST

@ HISTORYALLDAY



Wedding Bands that were removed from Holocaust victims prior to being executed, 1945 Each ring represents a destroyed family. Never forget.

PICTURE COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

@ HISTORYALLDAY



Photographer Daniel S. Sorine took pictures of two mimes in 1974, and 35 years later discovered it was Robin Williams before he was famous.

PICTURE COURTESY: DANIEL S. SORINE

@HISTORYALLDAY



In 1959, a coffee maker was an optional extra in Volkswagen cars.

PICTURE COURTESY: OPENCULTURE

@VINTAGEFACTS



This is such a powerful photo. It was taken in April, 1945, by Major Clarence Benjamin and shows a train of Jewish prisoners that had been intercepted by Allied Forces. This is the moment they learned that the train would not be heading to a Concentration Camp and they had been liberated.

PICTURE COURTESY: U.S. Army, Major Clarence Benjamin, 743rd Tank Battalion.

@HISTORYALLDAY



Despite being dead for over a year, famous author Agatha Christie saved a baby's life in 1977. Her novel The Pale Horse described thallium poisoning so well that a nurse who had been reading it was able to diagnose a sick 1-year-old who had doctors stumped. The baby was immediately tested, they found traces of thallium, doctors changed treatments and her life had been saved by an old murder mystery novel.

PICTURE COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

@HISTORYALLDAY



Before she became a famous actress in classic sitcoms like Maude and The Golden Girls, Bea Arthur served as a truck driver in the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve during World War II. She respectively earned Honorable Discharge, and was regarded as "One Hell of a Marine."

PICTURE COURTESY: PUBLIC DOMAIN

@ HISTORYALLDAY



When Franklin Roosevelt started a foundation to fight polio, Comedian Eddie Cantor came up with the "March of Dimes", asking people to mail a dime to the White House. They were soon overwhelmed with 2,680,000 dimes mailed to them, literally truckloads, mostly from children. These dimes went directly to research that resulted in the Polio vaccine. This is why Roosevelt is on the U.S. dime.

PICTURE COURTESY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

@ HISTORYALLDAY



United States Soldiers pay tribute to the 8 million Horses, Donkeys, and Mules that lost their lives during World War I, 1918

PICTURE COURTESY: Library of Congress

@ HISTORYALLDAY



In 1922, at the University of Toronto, scientists went to a hospital ward with children who were comatose and dying from diabetic keto-acidosis. The scientists went from bed to bed and injected the children with the new purified extract - insulin. As they began to inject the last comatose child, the first child injected began to awaken. One by one, all of the children awoke from their diabetic comas. A room of death and gloom, became a place of joy and hope. Thank You Dr. Banting and Dr. Best!

PICTURE COURTESY: Library and Archives Canada

@ HISTORYALLDAY

"We must adjust to changing times but cling to unchanging values"

Julia Coleman

Boys of '57 Mini Reunion

The Boys of the Class of '57 met in June for what may be the 21st and possibly final annual retreat at Pete Hegg's Circle H Ranch near Gregory, SD. Prior to heading to Gregory a primer and fantastic dinner was hosted by Pete and his son Paul at the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Sioux Falls. About 20 Girls of the Class of '57, wives and friends attended. Six hardy "Boys of '57" spent three days retelling and improving memories of the WHS Class of '57. Normally 15 to 20 classmates make the trip to Gregory, however these six hardy souls -supported by three canes, enjoyed all the memories!



Pictured at an appropriate location near Gregory –“Pete’s Taxidermy” are Pete Hegg, John Simko, Fred Fellows, Ron Warren, Chad Baese, and Bob Miller.

Contributed by **Ron Warren** rbwarren@gmail.com Class of '57 on Sept 4, 2025



WHS DECEASED LIST for 2025

9/5/2025

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	CLASS	OBITUARY LINK <i>RED Denotes most recent Passings</i>	DOD
Solveig	M	Beckman	50	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/solveig-beckmen	07/08/25
Jack	William	Hamilton	50	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/jack-hamilton	01/31/25
Mary	Ann	Costello	50	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/mary-costello	12/25/24
Dina	Brandt	Holgate	51	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/dina-brandt-holgate	02/22/25
Lavonne	Joyce	Schildhauer	51	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/lavonne-schildhauer	08/17/25
Verla	Joyce	Fehrenz	51	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/verla-joy-fehrenz	08/21/25
Joan	Perrenoud	Odland	53	https://www.postbulletin.com/obituaries/obits/joan-m-odland	03/10/25
James	R	Smalley	53	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/james-smalley	05/26/25
Ronald (Ron)	F	Mattice	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-mattice	05/29/25
Lowell	Eugene	Larson	53	minnehahafuneralhome.com/obituaries/lowell-eugene-larson	06/17/25
Wayne	Lee	Steensma	53	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/wayne-steensma	07/02/25
Rodney		Bird	53	https://www.millerfh.com/guestbook/rodney-bird#45780563	07/26/25
Joseph	H	Floyd	54	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/joseph-floyd	01/14/25
Charla	Farnsworth	Smith	54	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/charla-smith	05/24/25
James	R	Waldner	54	https://heartlandfunerals.com/james-waldo-revillo-waldner/	09/02/25
Loetta	Lee	Munson	55	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/loretta-munson	01/13/25
Ronald	Gene	Fisher	55	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-fisher	02/09/25
Ralph	J.A.	Rosser	55	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/ralph-rosser	07/16/25
Robert "Bob"	Dennis	Thompson	56	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/robert-bob-dennis-thompson	02/11/25
Donna	Mae	Murphy	56	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/donna-murphy	03/17/25
John	E	Johannsen	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/john-johannsen	03/11/25
Marcia	M	Ostrem	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/marcia-ostrem	05/24/25

Charla		Smith	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/charla-smith	05/24/25
Dave		Herrick	58	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/david-herrick	2/27/25?
Richard "Dick"		Miller	58	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/richard-dick-miller	03/02/25
John	S	Hedland	58	https://adportal.adn.com/adportal/listing/JohnS-Hedland/W0052259.html	04/16/25
Ron		Updegraff	58	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/ron-updegraff	05/29/25
Robert	E	Wichner	58	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/robert-wichner	06/27/25
Karen	Tuttle	Sommerfeld	58	Requested no obit	01/25/25
Philip	S	Helland	59	https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd1123483	03/15/25
Stephen		Veenker	59	legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/stephen-veenker-obituary?	04/17/25
William	Bill	Kullander	59	www.millerfh.com/obituary/william-bill-kullander	05/11/25
Susan (Sue)		French	59	https://www.hansenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/susan-french	05/22/25
Patricia	O'Reilly	Miller	59	https://www.martinson.info/obituaries/Patricia-O-Miller?	08/09/25

[*Click here to view our website's historical deceased lists*](#)



To all the WHS Alumni Grads Keep the Stories Coming!

Many thanks to Mary Montoya '59,
Jim Carlson '58 & Bill Lobe'59
for keeping the O & B informed!

Please send your news, stories, photos & Letters to the Editor to our address
orangeandblackonline@gmail.com

Jack Phillips & The WHS Alumni Staff

Story to follow in the next edition of the WHS Alumni O&B
Scholarship Recipient Winner

Mariah Clark

