

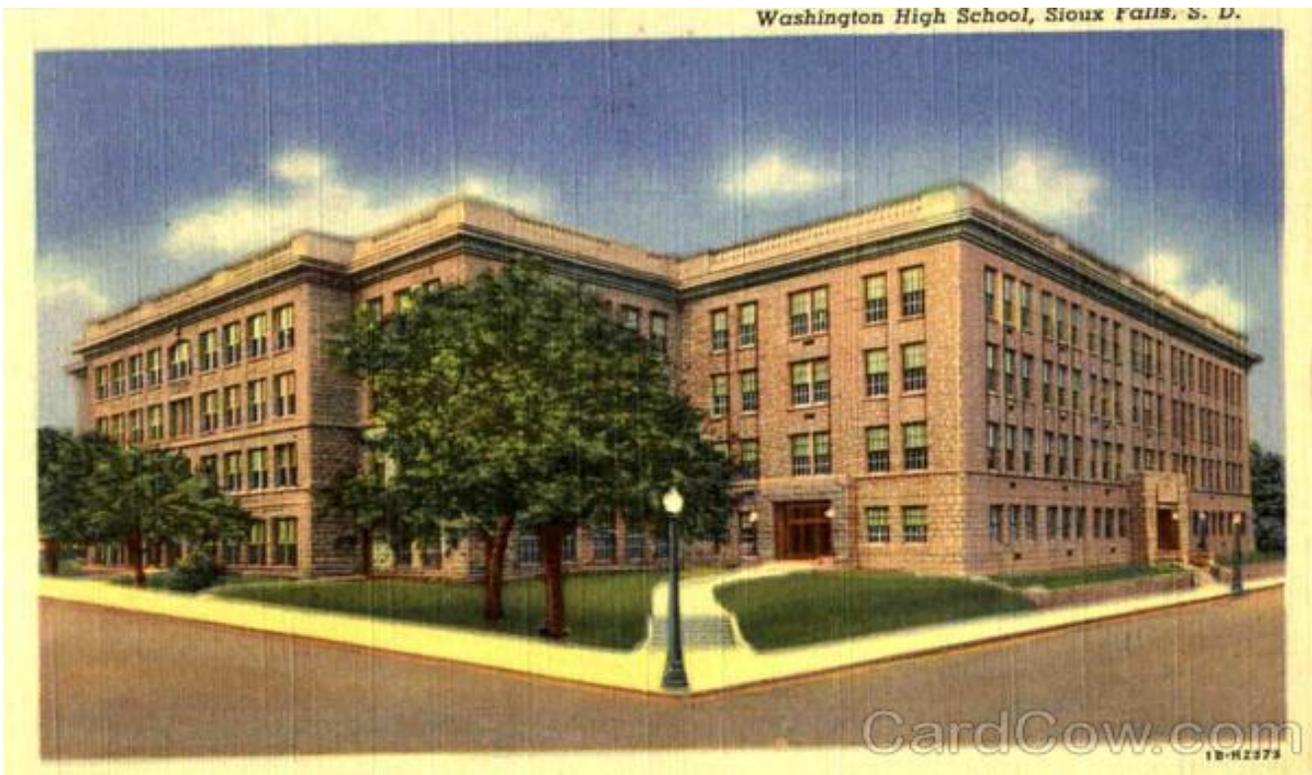


WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

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

Published in memory of our Founder Jack M. Phillips '54. Issue #01-26

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, Peg Teslow '57
& 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



Ron Veenker <Ronald.veenker@wku.edu> wrote on December 9, 2025

Dear Debra,

I really enjoyed this latest edition of the O & B You are doing a great job and you didn't even grow up with us!

Thank you so much,

Ron Veenker
Holden Beach NC
Class of '54

Editor's Note: Thanks Ron! I miss Stephen's help and contributions!

Jim Carlson <pegandjim@sio.midco.net> wrote on December 9, 2025

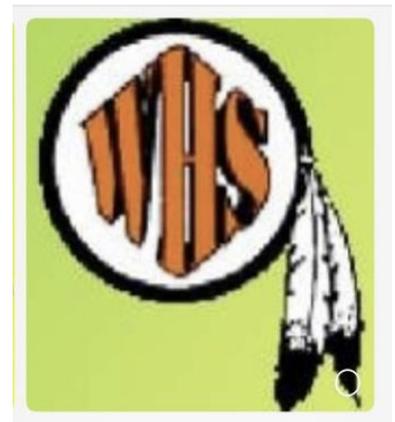
Hi Debra,

Great newsletter!

I did see one error, you have the new Washington High School on Sertoma Ave. The correct address is 501 N Sycamore, in case any out-of-towners want to drive by.

Jim Carson
Class of '58

Editor's Note: Good catch. Thanks to you & Peg Teslow!



CJ Turco <ocrut8@gmail.com> wrote on December 13,2025

My name is Carl Turco. I graduated in Class '58. I retired in 1992 as a Civil Engineer. Just wanted to send you a picture of

My last building project. I have one set of stairs finished; I have the other end of the porch to do.

Some of my neighbors think I'm too old to build Stairs. You found a way to continue the great work Jack started.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you and Your Family.

**Carl Turco
Class of '58
(707) 268-5644**



Editor's Note: We all need to Challenge ourselves!

From: Roberta Atkins <robertaatkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 3:25 PM
To: WHS Alumni News <editor@whsalumninews.com>
Subject: Re: WHS O&B Alumni Newsletter, Issue 07-25 for Roberta Atkins

Thank you again for the O & B!
Roberta Atkins
Cathedral Class of '59

From: Double R Rudisill/Miller <richrudy@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 1:24 PM
To: WHS Alumni News <editor@whsalumninews.com>
Subject: Re: WHS O&B Alumni Newsletter, Issue 07-25 for Harold Aaron Rudisill

Hopefully not too late, but.... Best Wishes and a Happy New Year to all. This is to include the fine folks who keep this site going! At 87 yrs, it is still good to see some of us are "In the Mood". It almost "Takes the Wild Horses" to get me up each morning. I'm "Crazy" for not doing more than I do. Do any of you have A "Doggie in the Window?" " How much can that doggie be" now? Probably, the best friend you can have. So "Let The Good Times Roll" and let's hope for a grand New Year...

*Harold "Hal" Rudisill
Class of '56*

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS BY WRITING TO LETTERS to the EDITOR!
[E-mail to:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com)



Older Than Dirt Quiz: Contribution by Peg Teslow

Count all the ones that you remember not the ones you were told about. Ratings at the bottom.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
- 2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water**
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
5. Coffee shops or diners with tableside jukeboxes
- 6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers**
- 7. Party lines on the telephone**
- 8 Newsreels before the movie**
- 9. P.F. Flyers**
- 10. Butch wax**
- 11. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (there was only 1 channel)**
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody
14. 45 RPM records
15. S&H green stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulb
20. Packards
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young

If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older

If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age,

If you remembered 16-25 = You're older than dirt!



Debra & Jack Phillips <orangeandblackonline@gmail.com>

Editor’s Page

Wishing all Alumni Subscribers a Happy New Year!

Unfortunately, we received news of twelve alumni passing away since our last December issue of the O & B. Our thoughts are with their families and friends during this difficult time, and we honor their memory through the tributes shared by their families below.

Holly Christensen <hollychristensen26@gmail.com> wrote on December 30, 2025
Subject: Merlyn J. “Chris” Christensen, Class of ‘54

Hello,
Dad wished for us to notify Washington High School upon his passing.

His obituary is included below.

We are grateful we could bring Dad back to South Dakota and Washington High School in 2023. Here are two photos of him at the WHS!

Sincerely,
Mark and Holly Christensen

<https://www.davisfuneralhomenh.com/memorials/merlyn-christensen/5310213/>





Mark F. Madura sent on December 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My mother, **Patricia O'Rielly Miller** passed away August 9, 2025. She graduated from WHS in 1959 and was a member of the chorus. Here is a link to her obituary.

<https://www.courant.com/obituaries/pattie-miller/>

Thank you for maintaining this wonderful archive.

Merry Christmas!

Mark F. Madura
mark@datacad.com



Anyone remember this building? Peg Teslow Class of '57
Located on Main between 10th and 11th Street



Hi Debra,

Please find below photo pages from the October 18, 1957 **Orange Letter Day** information featuring the **Class of '58**.

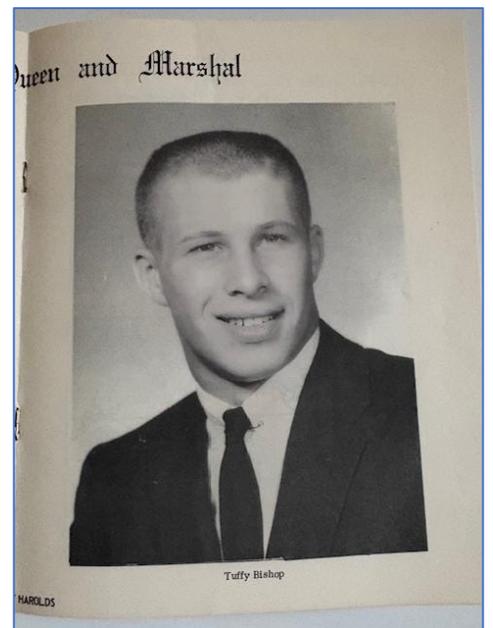
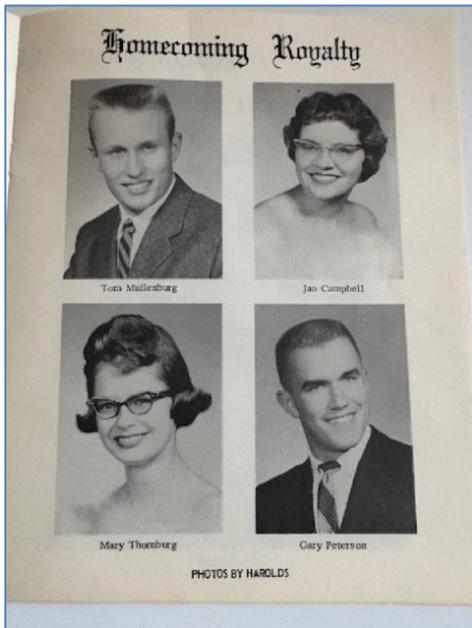
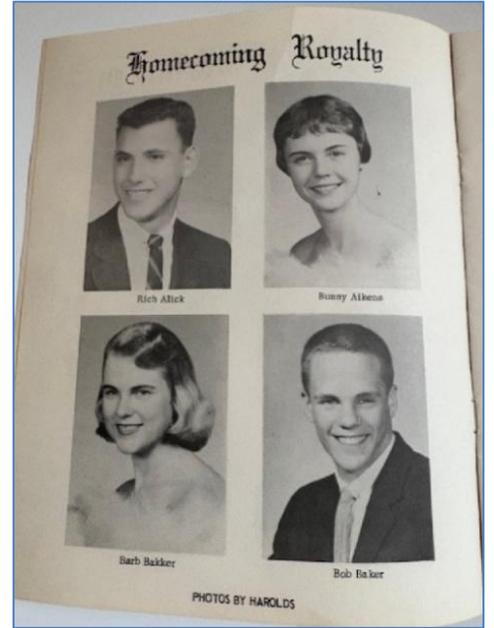
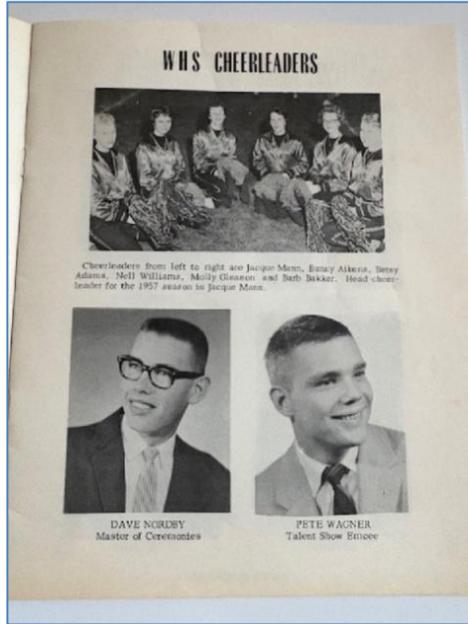
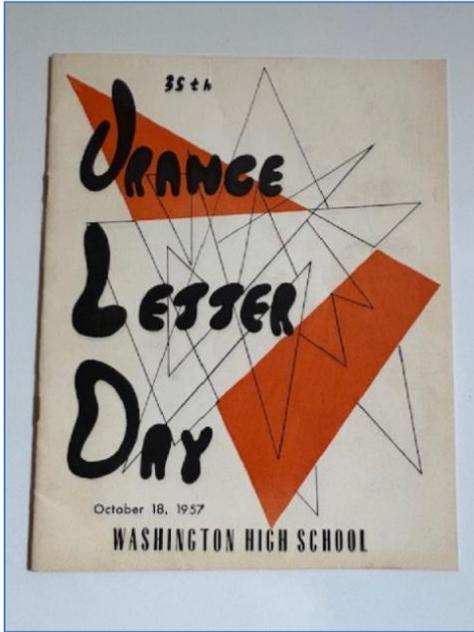
Since 2020 some of us, Class of '58 guys have been meeting every Wednesday at 12:30pm at Hardies, 37th and So Minnesota Ave. As our numbers are down, we want to invite classmates of '57 and '59 to join and meet with us.

We all have similar memories! Anyone in Sioux Falls, stop by and meet, or anyone else when you're back home visiting please join in! Of course, anyone from the 50's is welcome. We remember the old days, WHS history, talk about our families and current events. This is an open invitation!

Thanks
Jim A Carlson
Class of '58

Orange Letter Day

Class of '58



Greetings from the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation!

We are proud to offer more than 60 competitive scholarships, offering over \$500,000 in support to local students each year. One of these scholarships, the **James B. and Vera A. Sadler Graduate Student Scholarship**, is intended for **current high school or middle school English/Language Arts teachers** who are continuing their education - and I'm hoping you can help spread the word to eligible applicants!

Scholarship Details:

Awarded to current high school or middle school teachers. *For the 2026-2027 award season, this scholarship offers \$260 per enrolled credit hour for selected recipients.* Eligibility requirements include:

- Currently pursues a graduate degree in Education, English or Language Arts at any accredited college or university
- Has a minimum of two years of teaching experience in English or Language Arts
- Currently teaches English or Language Arts at **Washington High School** in Sioux Falls, SD, **or** is a graduate of **Washington High School** in Sioux Falls, SD, and currently teaches English or Language Arts

** Multiple scholarships are awarded; Recipients can re-apply for this award in succeeding years*

Please share this message with English/Language Arts teachers. The online scholarship application for this opportunity is [linked here](#).

Thank you for your help in promoting this opportunity.

Wishing you a fantastic week ahead,

Jamie Weyh
PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation
(605) 336.7055 | www.sfacf.org



WHS DECEASED LIST for 2025/2026

1/28/2026

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	CLASS	OBITUARY LINK Red denotes NEW 2025 & Blue denotes 2026	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
Corlus		Caldwell	50	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/corlus-caldwell	12/16/25
Vivian	Helen	Wehling	50	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/vivian-wehling	01/12/26
Richard	A.	Kinsley	50	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/richard-kinsley	01/13/26
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
Stephen	Henry	Jensen	51	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/Stephen-jensen	10/08/25
Donald	M	Branson	52	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/donald-branson	09/10/25
Joan	Perrenod	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

William	O	Garner	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/william-garner	09/09/25
Kay		Reiner	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/genevieve-rainer	09/21/25
Barbara	Juanita	Pinnell	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/barbara-pinnell	11/13/25
James	H	Page	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/james-page	
Luann Kay	Loge	Greear	53	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/luann-loge-greear	01/14/26
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
Eunice	Gelman	Kipp	56	https://www.kinzleyfh.com/obituary/eunice-kipp	09/21/25
Deanna	Ann	Severson	56	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/deanna-severson	11/22/25
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
Gary		Bishop	57	Kehler Funeral Home	09/11/25
Kathleen Kitti	Culp	Bullis	57	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/kathleen-bullis	12/27/25
Karen	Tuttle	Sommerfeld	58	Requested no obit	01/25/25
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

Janet Irene	Langdon	Rist	58	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/janet-rist	10/20/25
Thomas		Brown	58	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/thomas-brown-9481262	10/29/25
Jerry		Arens	58	Barnett-Lewis Funeral Home	12/31/25
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
Vaughn		Neshiem	59	https://www.wightandcomes.com/memorials/vaughn-neshiem	09/12/25
Beatrice "Bea"		Baumberger	59	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/beatrice-bea-baumberger	10/20/25

In
*Loving
Memory*
Those we love
never go away
They walk beside us
Even on this day
Unseen Unheard
But always near
Still loved still missed
And very dear



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE '50's DECADE

Thank you all so much for what seems like more stories and photos coming in which keeps the O & B active! The Staff cannot do it without you!

Many thanks to our staff

Peg Teslow '57 & Mary Montoya '59,
Jim Carlson '58 & Eric Gustafson '58
for keeping the O & B informed!
and Bill Lobe'59 as Executive Editor

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

**With St Valentine's Day approaching send us stories of your Sweetheart from
WHS or your first dance! Send photos please!**

Jack & Debra Phillips & The WHS Alumni Staff

