

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 #01-25

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

Thank you to several Classmates that are keeping the O & B alive!

Mary Montoya '59, Stephen Veenker '59, Bill Lobe '59, Jim Carlson '58

Keep the stories and photos coming or we are unable to continue!

Letters to the & B

Royce Adams '58 <litljump@aol.com> wrote on March 1, 2025 :

Dear O & B

Back in the old days, when we were "kids" many of us left the school, old WHS, and went to "Dave's". a small burger shop that once, for a short time, was on Main and north of the school. I recall it was being run by a retired Navy veteran and it was a good burger. I don't remember (84 years old now) if because they established a cafeteria in the school or why the Principal announced that from that time on by his announcement no one was to be leaving the school through the doors at lunch time. WHAT!! What about Dave, the guy working so hard to make a living. He depended on us "skippers" to be successful in his business.

Wait! He said we could not leave "through the doors". OK - one of us, can't remember who but it wasn't me, solved that problem about the doors - by going out the windows in the Electronics classroom in the lower Northeast of main floor! Yea!! We still were able to enjoy burgers, the good old greasy kind and Dave stayed open. Like it depended on us.

The windows were large ones and had the old-style latch that locked them. We just had to go back to school through those windows, One lunch hour several of us "regulars" made the noon trip to Dave's and then hurried back to school for classes. We went to raise the window and it was locked!!!!!! And so were all the other windows! We were stuck! Then we saw Gary Burdette in the room and he was laughing. Then we knew how we were locked out. We thought we were really "with it" until Gary popped our lunch time balloon. Our times at WHS were great and fun. And this isn't the only thing we did by "bending" the rules!

Royce Adams '58

TEACHER FEATURE

Initiated & Created by Stephen Veenker '59

In our last issue we invited readers to share stories about WHS teachers who changed their lives or showed how to navigate their road ahead. We have received some already and hope we will be seeing more in the days ahead.

There is a funny saying: "I'm not gonna be a teacher forever. I just got into Education to make a quick fortune, then I'm going to do what I always planned to." Teachers teach because they feel called to make a difference in young lives.

Many times, the gestures that mean the most were quiet ones, not public but private. One alum told me she was immensely grateful for Barbara White, who was one of the few who knew about the imminent passing away of the student's mother. Barbara taught accounting and business skills, but in this case counseled the student through difficult times before and after the mother's passing. Her gracious counseling is a high point of the WHS experience, enormously comforting, though at the time no one knew about it. I just learned about that experience last month from a phone conversation. (It was private, so I won't identify the alumni.)

Barbara White had a special dedication. I was active in Dramatics, and I remember she volunteered to be a faculty sponsor of the program. Not just dropping in and encouraging us: when we were building a set for one of the plays, I showed up to the WHS stage on a Saturday morning, and there was Miss White, in a work shirt and jeans, on her hands and knees rolling paint onto one of the canvas wall pieces. Then at our class's 40th Reunion, and 50th, there was Barbara White, signed up for the celebration and remembering old times with so many of us. She even remembered which of us had been dating which other, after four and five decades!

When I told Jane Graham Alley '59 I was starting this feature, she sent a recollection of her own:

Would like to vote for my favorite teacher. It was [L.R.] Barney Kremer. Without whom I would have NEVER been able to graduate High School. It took me forever to study sitting in a classroom. He agreed to be my mentor when I took summer correspondence classes from USD. I would go to his home whenever I finished a section and he would administer the test. Then give me the next section to study. With his guidance I did at least 5 or 6 of the required classes needed to graduate. I could usually finish one at home in 6 or 7 days. Got A+ in all of them.

The HS administration didn't want to give me my diploma because they said "I did not have enough classroom hours." When I went back a year later it was sitting in the office safe and they gave it to me!

Pass this on as my vote for Favorite Teacher.

Thanks, Jane.

I worked for Barney all 4 years at WHS. He knew our father was a union stagehand at the Coliseum, so when I asked how I could help and work, he immediately hooked me up as lighting technician, and I lit every assembly, play, concert, and graduation for four years. Barney retired in '73 to fulfill a commission to archive Dramatics in Sioux Falls, for the city's Centennial celebration. The 86-page work is an exhaustive study of our hometown. He lived from 1908 to 1992.

Bill Lobe '59 shared his recollection of a grade schoolteacher who changed his life. He wasn't WHS faculty but served at the Y. Here is Bill's recollection:

After giving this considerable thought, I feel obligated to offer my choice outside the WHS school system because he did teach and inspire me more than any other, I can think of. His name was Dick Hubble. I joined the YMCA at an early age. It was there that Mr. Hubble taught me how to swim. At the Y and at Camp Tepeetonka, Mr. Hubble played no favorites amongst us kids. He taught us more than skills and crafts. He taught us honesty, confidence in ourselves and many other virtues at a time in one's life when we are most vulnerable. I felt like The Little Engine That Could being taught what I can accomplish when I believe in my ability.

Later, in my young life, I was surprised and delighted to see Mr. Hubble step in as my 7th grade teacher at Mark Twain Elementary. I didn't ask if he remembered me. I've remembered Mr. Hubble all my life.

Jim Carlson '58 shared

I really can't say I had a favorite teacher at WHS, although my memory brings up classes with Spanish teacher, Eudora Stegner, I think she was a character, enjoyed her personality. Didn't have a class with Paul Graves, as he knew our family, he used to tease me. Joe Lemohn was my HY sponsor. I remember Doug Evans, physical education, as we were lined up in the gym, he looked at Don, Tom Kohoutek, who were next to me, and said "I remember when you two were born." Of course there was Bob Burns, in men's health class, he would say "did you all read chapter's 2-3?," then he would diagram football plays on the board.

But, if I had to pick, I'd say Arnie Bauer, my home room teacher for 4 years in room 408. Did learn a lot from Mr. Bauer, enjoyed his personality, our home room featured dissected frogs.

My freshman 54/55 homeroom class:

Pictured front row officers, I to r : Bev Byington, Roger Stordahl, Rich Foss.

Row two: Leslee Kremer, Deanna Henline, Randall King ,Dennis Iossi, Edna Eichmann, Edwina Jacobson, Zina Albert, Sandra Henie, Lyle Engel

Row three: Martha Rogness, Ellen Flaherty, Edward Searles, Don Kohoutek, Dennis Preston, Barb Fitzgerald, Jim Howalt, Marcia Aldrich, Linda Pratt, Ron Ferguson.

Row four: Bob Moberly, Sunhild Schwab, Carol Waggoner, Colleen Calhoun, Eddie Kiggins, myself, Ray Pritchard, Bill King, Tim Flanagan, Curtis Schumacher, Wayne Moe.

As far as I know at least 14 of this group has passed, maybe even more than half.

Jim A Carlson, '58



I am certain many of our readers recall one special teacher or episode that even today stands out as a milepost on the route we've taken ever since WHS days. Can you share some of yours? In this way we can keep their legacy current, and they are still with us. Think back.

Send us your memory now. Know that you've continued a tradition. Drop us an email at orangeandblackonline@gmail.com

Stephen Veenker '59

Home Away from Home

Growing up from childhood, all of us generally have no option we can call our own as to having a choice as to where we live and call home. I guess most of us are raised by our parents. Today, with changing times, many of us are raised by our grandparents or a single parent or foster parents. And there are those less fortunate to be raised in other environments such as government institutions. And, at worst, there are those young people without proper guidance falling into the hands of less than desirable human commodity brokers.

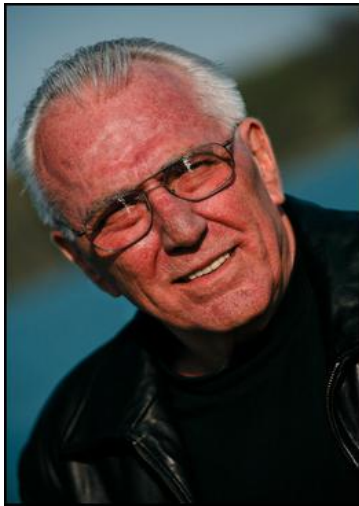
Regardless of our own personal circumstances, we all need and seek refuge in a place that we feel is home. Each of us finds it in different places. Traditionally, most of us think of home as our safe family household daily retreat from the outside challenging and complicated world we live in. There are many, many others in our society and throughout most other nations that, due to work demands and ambitions, are unable to return to that refuge on a daily basis.

Although numbers are statistically dwindling over the last few decades, denominational places of worship have traditionally provided that safe haven for many. The First Lutheran Church across the street from our high school was home to me all during my developmental years and through high school. Admittedly, after that and leaving Sioux Falls, my church attendance dwindled to only weddings and then funerals.

Many of us feel at home when out of town at ball parks, sporting events and activities, city and state parks, in and on the water and all else that nature has to offer. One institution, however, has always been home to me no matter where business or social demands have geographically relocated me – the local main library.



Starting with my first visit to the Carnegie Free Public Library in Sioux Falls by myself as a youngster, I mostly remember that it was calm and quiet. I'll never forget how impressed I was with the size of that dictionary on a stand all by itself! I also remember how helpful the librarians were in voluntarily introducing me to my new surroundings. The Carnegie Free Public Library served the city well for 70 years.



Throughout my life and travels, particularly lengthy stays in new cities, the local main libraries remained my retreat – my home away from home. All libraries I've visited throughout this country sponsor and encourage young and elderly patrons alike to participate in various creative and positive activities. I encourage you to ask your local librarian what you can do to help.

Bill Lobe '59
Contributor
bill@wclobe.com





WHS DECEASED LIST for 2024					
FIRST NAME	NEE/Middle	LAST	CLASS	OBIT LINK RED Denotes most recent Passings	DOD
Audrey	Lutz	Rinder	50	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/audrey-rinder	
Roger Allen		Schiager	50		
Robert		Huhn	50		04/24/24
Betty M	Koenekamp	Kroon	50	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/betty-kroon	08/29/24
Mary	Ann	Costello	50	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/mary-costello	12/25/24
Sally Lee	Haas	Kocon	51		
Dean	Douglas	Mann	51	https://www.millerfh.com/obits/results?obit_lname=Dean+Mann	07/31/24
William		Frank	52		06/24/24
Betty	Holmoe	Pfeifle	52	https://www.millerfh.com/obits/results?obit_lname=Betty+Pfeifle	08/06/24
Arlene	Viola	Hanger	52	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/arlene-hanger	11/21/24
Roger Dean		Gravelle	53	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/roger-gravelle	03/09/24
Donald		Brown	53		
Bob		Newcomb	53	www.yatesfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Bob-Newcomb?obid=32819558	08/16/24
Clinton	Charles	Baldwin	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/anna-wineinger	12/12/14
Gordon	L	Beck	53	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/gordon-beck	11/30/24
Lorraine	Beryl	Forslin	54	https://washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries	05/07/24
James "Dean"		Hayes	54	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/james-dean-hayes	
Raymond		Geiger	54	https://www.lifeandlegacyservice.com/obituary/Raymond-Geiger	
Donald		Amundson	54		
Mary Kathleen	Houston	Moen	54	https://argusleader-sd.newsmemory.com/?publink=24dae2b18_134d31a	04/09/24
Jack		Phillips	54	https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/jack-phillips-1152	11/03/23
Wayne		Gustafson	54	https://www.osheimschmidt.com/obituary/wayne-gustafson	11/27/23
Ronald (Ron)	Juel	Hoefert	54	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-hoefert	07/29/24
Dale	Reed	Hart	54	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/dale-hart	08/12/24
Sharon	Vee	Reynolds	54	https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd0987325	09/15/24
Lois	Rossow	Gellerman	54	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/mary-costello	11/10/24
Ronald Dean		Nelson	55	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-nelson	
Darlene	Timmons	Hodge	55	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/darlene-hodge	
Marilyn	Rush	Simmons	55	https://www.azcentral.com/obituaries/par073286	
Judy	Allen	Portice	55		
Lucille	Mae	Reents	55	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/lucille-reents	11/20/24
Robert "Bob"		Amundson	56	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/jerry-may	12/11/24
Joann	Plucker	Redenius	56	https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd0870109	06/30/24
Michael	Mack	Gibson	56		04/20/24
Jeanette	Snelling	Foster	56 57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/jeanette-foster	
William US VET	Lawrence	Gallagher	56	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/william-gallagher	11/20/24
Jerry	Wayne	Hill	56	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/jerry-hill	11/11/24
Edward "Ed"		Hanisch	56	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/edward-ed-hanisch	12/08/25
Larry		Broesder	57	https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000490328/	06/01/24
Marjorie	Willard	Andrews	57	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/marjorie-andrews	11/04/24
Karlyn	Hendricks	Painter	57		
Thomas		Maples	57		
Katherine (Kay)	Macheak	Lambert	57	https://obits.eastlawn.com/katherine-lambert	02/24/24
Elizabeth "Betty"	Ann	Otten	57	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/elizabeth-betty-otten	11/25/24
Audrey	Bultena	Strand	58	https://www.kirkfuneralhome.com/obituary/audrey-strand	09/05/24
Robert	Edward	Kroon	58	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/robert-kroon	11/09/24



Judge Robert Amundson '56 Passed on 12/11/24

Graduated from WHS in 1956, Augustana in 1961, University of SD Law school in 1964. He was a Circuit Judge from 1987-1991, when he was appointed to the SD State Supreme Court! Retired in 2002. Pictured here at the WHS Hall of Fame with his lovely wife Kathy.

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FIRST NAME	NEE/Middle	LAST	CLASS	OBIT LINK	DOD
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
			52		
			53		
Joseph	H	Floyd	54	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/joseph-floyd	01/14/25
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
Robert "Bob"	Dennis	Thompson	56	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/robert-bob-dennis-thompson	02/11/25
			57		
David		Herrick	58	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/david-herrick	02/27/25
			59		



Many thanks to Mary Montoya '59,
Connie Nelson '59, Jim Carlson '58,
Eric Gustafson '58 & Bill Lobe '59
& Stephen Veenker '59 as
Contributors & for keeping the O & B informed

**Please send your news, stories &
photos & Letters to the Editor
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orangeandblackonline@gmail.com
Jack & Debra Phillips**

