

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

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

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Gary Roddel '59
WHS Senior Photo

On Jun 29, 2021, Gary Roddel '59 <mgrod@charter.net> wrote:
[Jack, here is another story from my South Sioux Falls life.](#)

The Boy Scout Pony

Gary Roddel '59

As a youngster growing up in South Sioux Falls our community was a suburb of the greater Sioux Falls. The East/West thirty third street was the dividing line between the two cities. We lived on Lake Avenue at thirty fifth street just 2 blocks south of the line. Because of its size there was only one grade school in South Sioux which included kindergarten through eighth grade.

We had moved from the former Army Airbase to our first home in South Sioux and the property covered one square block. The house was located on the North East corner of the lot. Dad loved growing things so the west half of the lot and the south quarter were all plowed for garden. I recall we planted either sweet corn or potatoes, we had a large strawberry patch and 3 different fruit trees.

It must have been when I was about 9 or 10 that Dad had a friend who wanted to start a Boy Scout Troup. That friend was Harold Hornbeck, a retired Master Sargent in the Army who wanted to get involved with the boys in the community. Because there was only one grade school in South Sioux it was easy to spread the word to boys and families that this new group was forming. Several who joined were my classmates.

Besides the weekly meetings we also had the typical pancake breakfasts and other things to raise money for our expenses. That was easy because several of the families were always eager to help. Dad was a cook so he took care of making the pancakes on his own large electric griddle while the boys and others helped serve and clean up the small hall where we met.

We must have been quite successful at raising money as before long our leaders decided to sponsor a small carnival on an empty lot on South Minnesota Ave., the main north south street which was also Hiway 77. Part of the money raising included a contest to win a Shetland pony during the carnival. Apparently, someone donated the pony as a prize to be given away to some lucky kid.

So, guess what, we had the privilege of keeping that pony at our home for a couple days until the Carnival started. It was summertime so I was given the responsibility of taking care of that pony as Dad had

to work every day. I thought I was in heaven and thrilled to have been given the responsibility to do the job as I could then call it my horse while it lasted.

I was shown how to put the saddle and bridle on him and was told that this pony "hadn't been ridden very much lately". Dad said I should take him out on our plowed field and give him a workout each day. I was also told that if he attempted to do anything other than what I wanted, with me on his back, I should run him around that plowed field until he was worn out just to teach him a lesson. Dad had great confidence in me that I would do this job even though I hadn't really done much riding on my own at this point in my life.

Well, don't you know, the first time I had him saddled and inserted my left foot into the stirrup that pony bolted. As I recall I had a good grip on the reins and the saddle horn but I never did get up on his back. I also don't recall if he dragged me for a time or what happened but I must have somehow removed my foot from the stirrup, dug my heels into the soft earth and jerked hard enough on the reins causing him to come to a stop. I certainly didn't want him to get away from me as I didn't know how far he might run.

I am also not sure what I told Dad about this episode but I sure didn't try to ride that pony again. Come time to bring him to the carnival the next day, I saddled him up and walked beside him for the 1 ½ miles to the Minnesota Ave. location. The winner of the pony was drawn during the carnival and he was out of my life. I pity the kid who was the next one to attempt to ride him.

That was certainly the highlight of my Boy Scout life. I did win many pieces of carnival glass by throwing nickels from behind the designated line until I was told by the carnival man that I was no longer allowed to play that game. I still have my boy scout books and probably some merit badges but will never forget that pony from another planet.



Peggy Servold '57
WHS Senior Photo

On Jul 9, 2021, **Peggy Servold Teslow '57** pwolset@sio.midco.net wrote:
Vietnam Wall Facts!

A little history most people will never know. Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall. There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall. Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest . And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam . In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Myron Lee Wachendorf '59 of “Myron Lee and the Caddies” myronwach@aol.com

All through the 1980s the band business was great for us but things started to change again by 1992. It



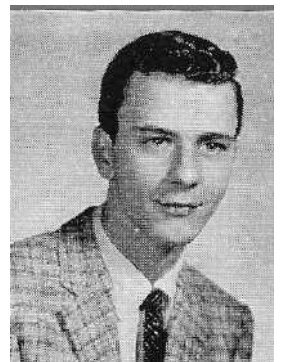
was time to get out after 34 years and I didn't do any music for a year. My good friend DAVE ROWE who was in the DJ mobile business talked me into getting involved in music that way. I already had most of the equipment needed and Dave built a control console for me.

I had a trailer built and hired Duane Krumbach to help me with the set up and tear down. We had a great time entertaining people for another 10 years. In this 2005 picture I'm doing a sound check before doing a party at a hotel in Chamberlain, South Dakota.

The fulfillment I got from playing the songs that will make the party a success was not quite the high you get with the live band but pretty close.

It kept me in the music business a few more years.

Myron Lee '59



**Myron Lee
Wachendorf '59
WHS Senior Photo**

“SmartMouth Mouthwash”

Below is a repeat of a story I first ran on Sept. 4, 2013 in *WHS O&B, issue #7-13*, regarding the embarrassing subject of bad breath, and/or halitosis. It is the only commercial product the O&B has ever recommended, but I did so for many health and social reasons. I continue to use the product daily and I continue to recommend the, “Advanced Formula of SmartMouth”.

Teenagers may fret about bad breath, but older people are the ones who should worry. Not only are they more likely to develop halitosis caused by dry mouth, gum disease and other age-related problems, they are also more vulnerable to the bacteria that cause it and contributes to heart disease and other problems.

For some time doctors have suspected that gum disease can contribute to heart disease and now there is growing suspicion that gum disease may also contribute to Alzheimer's. Because these are both major devastating health issues facing all of us, I am, for the first time recommending a product for you to consider trying. It is called “**Smart Mouth**”!

I first discovered Smart Mouth a year ago. I have always strived to have clean fresh breath and I am totally pleased with how well it works in stopping bad breath 24 hours a day (even ugly morning breath). The directions simply suggest using Smart Mouth every morning and every evening.

I am so pleased to tell you it really does insure 24 hour fresh breath, but I now believe that insuring fresh breath is only one, and maybe the most insignificant, benefit of this wonderful product. I always buy the “Advanced Formula”, which costs about \$2.00 more than the “Regular Formula”, and after using it for only about 6 months, my dentist asked me what I was doing different in taking care of my mouth and gums. I told him I was using Smart Mouth and he said it was definitely working wonders.



**SmartMouth Mouthwash -
Don't just get fresh breath...
KEEP IT!**

Now with all the growing evidence and suspicions that gum disease is associated with **heart disease AND Alzheimer's**, I felt I had to recommend it to each of you. For just bad breath I think either the “Regular” or the “Advanced” will do the job. But I strongly recommend the Advanced Formula for the other health benefits. The directions recommend 5 pumps of each of the two ingredients, but for economic reasons I only use one pump from each of the two enclosed bottles and I feel it still does a great job. If you would like more information you are welcome to call me at 702-735-4111.

SMART MOUTH WILL DEFINITELY MAKE YOU MORE KISSABLE!

Jack

P.S. I have no ties, or financial interest in Smart Mouth.

1935

Can a woman make you a millionaire? Yes. But only if you are a billionaire.



Carl Turco '58
WHS Senior Photo

Thanks to Carl Turco '58 mmparadise@suddenlink.net

ASleeping Around with Class:

Those were the good old days when cars and trailers had distinctive looks!



1935 Pontiac with Turquoise Canned Ham



1936 Pierce Arrow with Travelodge



1947 Custom Buick Sedanet with Matching Trailer



1949 Studebaker Pickup with Purple Trailer to Match



1951 Hudson Commodore with matching Trailer



1955 Ford Customline Wagon with Shasta Trailer



1952 Buick Riviera Hardtop with Matching Trailer



1956 Ford Ranch Wagon with Teardrop Trailer



1959 Chevrolet Impala Hardtop with Shasta Travel Trailer



1959 Chevrolet El Camino with Shasta Travel Trailer



Pretty Pink Pair 1959 Cadillac Sixty with Shasta Trailer



1962 Ford Cortina with Custom Travel Trailer

THE O&B NEEDS

A STORY FROM YOU!

**ON YOUR CAREER? SPECIAL TRIPS?
HOBBIES? RETIREMENT?
THINGS YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR?
HOW YOU NOW SPEND MOST OF YOUR
TIME? YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES?**

Friends

One day, all of us will get separated from each other. We will miss our conversations. Days, months and years will pass until our contact becomes rare.

One day, our children will see our photos and ask: "Who are these people?"

And we will smile with invisible tears and say...

"It was with them that I had the best days of my life."