

THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK NEWSLETTER

Issue #4-14

May 3, 2014

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD
Serving The Classes of the Great '50's Decade. Photos & Stories Welcome!
Published by Jack M. Phillips, Class of '54: jack@jackmphilips.com

Myron Lee and The Caddies Part II of Myron's Great Story.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

By Myron Lee



Carole Fredrickson
WHS Junior Photo
In 1956 Warrior.
Myron Lee's wife.



Myron Lee Wachendorf '59
WHS Senior Photo

In the winter of my Senior year in 1959, my band would play the Cabana Club every Wednesday night until 1:00 a.m., and then my girlfriend Carole and I would usually head to Kirk's Drive-In on West 12th Street for a pizza burger. Yes, it's the same Carole that I have been married to for 50 years. Many times it would be 3:00 am. by

the time I got home to sleep and that led to some sleepy days at school the next day. The weekends were all booked too, so I would start the week already tired. The story goes that one day when I fell asleep in Barney Kramer's class, he told the rest of the class to let me sleep. He said "Myron makes more money than I do!" I probably did too because I remember my net income my Senior year was around \$10,000 – not too bad for a 17-year-old.

During the summer of 1959, our Booking Agent Jimmy Thomas had the band booked five or six nights a week all throughout the five-state area. Jimmy, having been a musician for many years, knew all the ballroom operators and all the best places to play. He also knew the business part very well and most of our dates were booked with a small guarantee or 50% of the gate receipts, whichever was

greater. We played a lot of the places like Hatfield, Minnesota every six weeks and as our crowds kept getting bigger, so did the money we received at the end of the night. On many dates, Jimmy would stand right by the ticket booth with a counter in his pocket just to help keep some people honest.



The Midwest was beginning to get a reputation as the place to work because we were the only area in the world loaded with ballrooms every few miles. During this time period, I began to meet recording artists as we traveled to the different ballrooms. I had seen many of them on television and had bought some of their hit recordings. Jimmy booked us in a beautiful ballroom in Montivideo, Minnesota with Jack Scott and Danny and Juniors. When we were in the Fargo area, I became friends with Bobby Vee, who was just starting out like I was. We also worked with Conway Twitty. Some of these people were instrumental in how my music career grew as time went on.

I met Buddy Knox of *Party Doll* fame in 1960 and he liked my band enough to hire us for a three-month coast-to-coast Canadian tour in 1961. It was the first time an American band had done this. We drove my 1960 Olds station wagon to St. Johns, New Brunswick and opened the Tour on January 16th. I was working with some of my music heroes. Knox had recorded several big hits and was well known in Canada and the crowds were BIG. I had watched him on all the big television shows like Steve Allen, Ed Sullivan and American Bandstand. We played five to six nights a week traveling 200 to 300 miles between cities, doing most of the driving at night after the show. Many times Buddy would invite me to ride with him on these long trips to help him stay awake while the band followed in the station wagon. He had a brand new 1961 Cadillac Coup Deville and I was like a kid in a candy store listening to all his road stories and the famous people he knew, including Elvis Presley. Buddy had been in the same Army Tank Division as Elvis. We played Prince Edward Island and to get there we had to be ferried on an ice cutter across the Bay. Many times the nighttime temps would drop to 50 below zero and there were no wind chill factors back then.

Promoter George Nellis would add more artists to the show when we played the larger cities, like Montreal and Toronto. The crowds would grow to over 10,000 people for shows like that. Dion and the Belmonts, the Ventures and Bobby Vee joined us. I got to know Bobby Vee a little better each time we ran into each other, which really gave my music career a boost a couple years down the road.

We were booked into a town called Flin Flon, Manitoba, where we traveled the last 100 miles by gravel road and when we finally got there, that's where the road ended. We had a crowd of 400-500 people and a few in the audience were Eskimos.

Buddy would often be paid in cash and the briefcase he carried in the trunk of his Caddy often carried \$20,000-\$30,000 until he could deposit it in a bank somewhere along the Tour. I had never seen cash like that in my young lifetime.

After three months of travel, we ended the Tour in Vancouver, British Columbia in mid-April, joining a show with Johnny Cash. It had been quite an eye opening experience for a group of young guys barely out of high school. We said our good-byes and Buddy headed south to Los Angeles to a recording session at Liberty Records and we

headed east to South Dakota where we continued playing; our Midwest dates. There were a lot of great things ahead of us in the music business but of course we didn't know that at the time.

On the evening we arrived back in Sioux Falls, I called Carole and we went to the StarLite Drive-In Theater. It had just opened for the season.

End of Part II of Myron Lee Story.



Ersel Hickey, Dion, Myron Lee, Buddy Knox, Bobby Vee on 1961 Canadian tour.



Myron Lee Surrounded By Adoring Fans.

Looking Back: Arkota was venue for big bands.

Reprinted from The Sioux Falls Argus, April 25, 2014

The Arkota Ballroom opened on Nov. 11, 1925, at the corner of 13th Street and Phillips Avenue. It was Armistice Day, and Sioux Falls residents still were celebrating the end of World War I seven years before.

There were dances at such venues as The Coliseum, Electric Palace and K.C. Hall the same night, but residents were eager to check out the new Arkota Ballroom. Owner Thomas H. Archer was still putting the finishing touches on the ballroom, its name derived from Archer's and that of our state.

The Arkota had a 1,500-square-foot dance floor, and its opening act, Vernon McDonald and his Harmony Kings, was presented on a platform before a background of mulberry plush velour. The interior walls were not yet painted because of the freshness of the plaster, but there were plenty of wicker chairs for the comfort of the patrons placed along the side wall.



Early Photo of The Arkota Courtesy
Siouxland Heritage Museums



Photo of Arkota Band Stand and Dance Floor
During All School Reunion in 2005.

Through the years, the Arkota served as host to amazing acts from the big band and swing era as well as rock 'n' roll acts. Performers of note include Count Basie, Gene Krupa, Artie Shaw, Duke Ellington, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Frank Sinatra, Lawrence Welk and Guy Lombardo and Dion and the Belmonts, as well as local music legends Myron Lee and the Caddies.

The popularity of the Arkota facilitated two expansions of the building through the years, bringing the size of the dance floor to 6,600 square feet.

The dance floor was replaced once in the 1950s, and its replacement stands to this day. The Arkota's last manager, Magnus "Mag" Hansen, had a special means of caring for the fabled dance floor, using a combination of Parawax and corn meal. Hansen ran the Arkota from 1945 till its end more than three decades later.

Tom Archer, however, did not stop with the Arkota. He opened many more ballrooms in the area, including the Chermot Ballroom in Omaha, the Tromar in Des Moines and the Tomba in Sioux City, Iowa, among others. Archer died in 1963 and is buried in a family plot in Des Moines. His wife, Frances, took over the family ballroom business for many years after his death.

The Arkota still was keeping busy when it closed. Local dance groups that gathered at the Arkota to the end included The Arkota Polka Club and the Mr. and Mrs. Club, which had rented the floor since 1945.

The level of business wasn't the only consideration; Frances Archer had been living in Des Moines for years,



Photo of Arkota Seating Area & Dance Floor
During Class of '54's 40th Reunion in 1994.

and the distance made things difficult to maintain.

The Arkota Ballroom entertained with Sammy Jonsen and Mearl Lake on Sept. 27-28, 1980, then handed the keys over to the El Riad Shrine. El Riad still maintains the building and plays host to performances and wedding dances.

The memories of the Arkota run deep in Sioux Falls. Many couples met and formed the foundations of their relationships on its dance floor through the years.

The Arkota Ballroom entertained with Sammy Jonsen and Mearl Lake on Sept. 27-28, 1980, then handed the keys over to the El Riad Shrine. El Riad still maintains the building and plays host to performances and wedding dances.

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Eric Renshaw of Sioux Falls has written the book "Forgotten Sioux Falls" and gives a historical perspective on his website GreetingsFromSiouxFalls.com.

End of Argus Arkota Ballroom Story.

THE GRAND MARCH AT THE ARKOTA

Editorial: The Arkota Ballroom story above brought back so many wonderful memories of our super cool and sophisticated WHS dances that were held there. I feel certain that most of you believe as I do that we grew up in such a perfect place and at such a perfect time. One memory that stands out for me from all of our dances at the Arkota was the "Grand March". Remember the Grand March? Below are some yearbook photos of those great growing up moments. Interestingly I found evidence of the Grand March at every Homecoming dance from 1939/40 to 1954/55. But no sign of it after 1954/55. I am hoping that the grand and fun tradition of the Grand March has not been lost somewhere along the way.

**Homecoming
Royalty leading the
Grand March in
1939/40.**

**Queen Elaine
Wangsness &
Marshall Len Huck
couple on the left.**

Queen Attendants:

R Archer

B Henderson

M Boardman

M Iseman.

Marshall Candidates:

J Dunham

J Faragher

C Fusfield

T Steensland



**Homecoming Royalty
leading the Grand March
in 1949/50.**

**Queen Marian Strain &
Marshall Roy Jurgensen
2nd couple from right.**

Queen Attendants:

**Georgina Bailey
Joanne Livingston**

Barbara Boyce

Mary Sampson

Marshall Candidates:

Don Buxton

Bob Bissell

Wally Krohn

Rudi Brewster



**Homecoming Royalty
leading the Grand
March in 1950/51.**

**Queen Patty Masters
Marshall Paul Kolb
Couple on left.**

Queen Attendants:

Mary Ann Davis

Bonnie Beck

Pat Rustad

Veloy Hawkey

Marshall Candidates:

Jim Wylie

Courtney Anderson

Jack Hoffman

Kenny Anderson



**No Grand March photo with '51/'52 Homecoming, but there was with the Sweetheart Dance for class of '51.
Sweetheart, Francis Line '51, Candidates were Donna McNamara '52, Roxie Davis, '53 & Marilyn Hill '54**



Homecoming Royalty leading the Grand March in 1952/53.

Queen, June Smith, Marshall, Marv Rimerman in front.

Queen Candidates: l. to r. Connie Roth, Sharon Roggen, Ester Sunderman, Jill Wear.

Marshall Candidates: l. to r. Bruce Bringgold, Jim Ward, Ben and Bob Newcomb.



**Homecoming Royalty
leading the Grand March
in 1954/55.**

**Queen Kay Severson
& Marshall Jim Parker,
Couple on right.**

Queen Candidates:

Judy Allan

Carolyn Sonichsen

Lois Fredrickson

Judy Sorensen

Marshall Candidates:

Roger Axlund

Bob Berdahl

Dave Kruger

Curt Olsen

All School Reunion In 2015?

I am so pleased to report that an All School Reunion for 2015 moved one step closer to reality last Wednesday, April 30th. 15 people attended an exploratory meeting that was held at, "The District", located at The Empire Mall in Sioux Falls. In attendance were; Sharon Frank Johnson 1953, Joanie Keuser 1953, Jack Marshman 1951, Ellie Marshman (not a WHS grad), Bev Nyhus Mork 1953, Dick Viehweg 1953, Marilyn Hill Viehweg 1954, Carol Hewlett 1953, Frank Owens 1953, Wayne L. Hansen 1953, Mavis Larsen Carl 1955, Joan Sercl 1953, Phyllis Kirschman 1953, Jim Kirschman 1949, Marlys Ahrendt Hohman 1957. If you would like to get involved in making it happen just call Marlys Ahrendt Hohman '57 at 605-271-9084



**Merlyn "Chris"
Christensen '54
WHS Junior Photo**

Editor's note: Chris, has been on the class of '54's lost list for years, but he was just found and we are so happy to have him back on our rolls. Right after I first contacted Chris he wrote and asked for the following help. I was unable to help him but hopefully one of you can.

Jack, A couple favors if you can help. I have been trying to find the obituary on Paul Lindberg with no success and wonder if you have access to it. Also, I have a letter my step brother (Ralph Olsen Sr.) wrote when in Germany in WWII and would like to get it to his family. He had two sons, Ralph Jr. and Greg who I believe graduated WHS late 50's or early 60's. I lost track of the Olsen family and have not been able to find them. They had a cousin, Janet Lorenzen, WHS Class of '56, I don't know her married name, who may know Ralph or Greg's whereabouts. I was hoping the maybe Janet is on your O&B list so that I could contact her. Any help you can provide will be appreciated. Chris

Hi Jack. Received the copy of WHS O&B 3-14 and thank you for sending it. You do a fantastic job of putting this to print. Don't know how many 'helpers' you have but you all deserve a "Well Done"!

I attended Bancroft, Irving and Lowell grade schools, 'graduating' from Lowell in 1950. I still have a copy of the Lowell Eighth Grade Class History and Class Will of 1950. The Class History had news of students from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade; interesting to recall.

After graduation I worked for L&L Motor Supply in Sioux Falls until joining the Air Force in January 1955. I was a member of the 147th Field Artillery Battalion, So. Dak. National Guard from November 1953 to January 1955.

My Air Force career took me to assignments in California, Illinois, New Mexico, Massachusetts and Korea. I retired from the Air Force in November 1976 and moved to New Hampshire. My first assignment in the Air Force was as a Personnel/Classification Clerk until cross training into the Flight Simulator field in 1959. Duties in this field included Flight Simulator Technician, Bomb/Nav Trainer Technician and Superintendent, Aircrew Training Devices Maintenance.

While stationed in Massachusetts I met my wife Beverly (Johnson) who was a 1956 graduate of Ashland (MA) High School. We married in September 1958 and she became my strong support. I guess a person has to have a military career to realize how important it is to have a spouse that is able to take over and run the family while one is on extended temporary duties and unaccompanied tours overseas as well as putting up with the many times of packing up and relocating. We have one son, Mark, married to Holly, who live in Massachusetts. They have a married daughter, Sarah, married to Kyle, who have two children; Ethan, born June 1, 2012, and Autumn, born April 7, 2014. Our daughter Susan (Sue) lives in Nashua, NH, just across the river from Hudson. She has a daughter Ashley married to Aaron who also live in Nashua.

After retiring from the Air Force we moved to Hudson, NH, where we currently live. We are in a 55+ community of detached houses and love it here. I worked for Data General Corporation, NEC Computers and Wang Laboratories before retiring to the 'good life'. My duties included Material Planner, Repair Center Supervisor, Senior Business Management Analyst and International Software Distribution coordinator. I did continue my education while in the Air Force and after retiring from the Air Force. I have a BA degree from American International College, a BA from Eastern Illinois University and a BSBA from Nathaniel Hawthorne College, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

We enjoy our retirement and spend as much time as possible with family and friends. Our travels are limited due to Bev's health situation so we don't take our winter getaways to Florida anymore. We turn up the heat and pretend! During the nicer months in NH we take day trips to the ocean, about an hour drive, as much as possible and also to the White Mountain/Lakes Region.

I want to thank you again for helping to research information on the Olsen family and volunteering to run that information in the next O&B Newsletter. Thanks also for researching the other folks I had inquired about. I am so happy we have connected with you and the WHS O&B.

Thanks and regards, Merlyn (Chris) Christensen '54



Front, Chris Christensen '54, wife Bev, Great Grandson Ethan, Granddaughter Sarah (Mark's daughter) and son Mark in the back.

October 11, 2014

WHS Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction

This years Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony will be held Saturday evening, October 11, 2014 in Sioux Falls at the Washington Pavilion. More information will be forthcoming. The 2014 inductees from our decade of the fifties are Mike Gibson '56, in the, "Athlete" category, and Jack Phillips '54, in the, "Contributor" category. This is a most prestigious event. Make plans now to attend.



Mike Gibson '56
WHS Senior Photo
"Athlete"



Jack Phillips '54
WHS Senior Photo
"Contributor"

STORY ON MIKE GIBSON '56

I was born July 4th 1938 in Sioux Falls—Lived until college on 28th



Carla & Mike at Warner and Karen Gurley Brown's '54 house party in Mesa, AZ on Feb. 15, 2014.

and 5th Ave and went to Longfellow Grade school. Along with Fred Hecker and a couple of other hot shot kids we managed to win the

1952 City grade school basketball championship. I may have a picture of that team. I will look. It was great fun! Bob Amundson was a school mate of mine at Longfellow in sixth grade but later defected to Mark Twain. We never got a chance to play together but would talk on the phone about our weekly games at the two grade schools. Who won or lost and how many points we scored. Bob always had more than me. I look forward to seeing Bob in Sioux Falls.

We all played stick ball, baseball and football at McKennan Park, caddied at Minnehaha CC and played junior golf there. We went to the Sioux Falls Coliseum and Howard Wood field to watch sports and WHS teams play ball every chance we got, and hoped that one day we might play ball for Sioux Falls Washington. Paul Clare and his cousin, Warner Brown, lived on our street and were my constant companions. They were a little

older than me and I looked up to them. I always benefited from watching the older kids and was the better for it. In the winter we



Mike Gibson '56 & Carla Thaelke Gibson '56
Their Homecoming Royalty Photos
From the 1956 Warrior.

played hours of mini-basketball with coffee can hoops we constructed in our basements attached to the rafters and usually a tennis ball for a ball. Man, what a life, and what a way to grow up. No video games and not much T.V. in those days but hours and hours of fun and friendship. In the winter we went to the skating rink for socializing and fun every chance we had. Amundson broke his arm there his sophomore year of High school that shortened his basketball



Mike loves to fish.

career. Gave me chance to play more my sophomore in high school since Bob was a starter then and I was sixth man.



Carla & Mike's photo in the 1954 Warrior as "Typical Sophomores"

In the fall of 1952 we headed for the uncharted waters of WHS. It was to become some of the best times of our lives. I had met Carla Thaelke in sixth grade at a skating rink. We became friends and buddies and had many of the same friends that all hung out together. That went on all through High school and early college. In the end that evolved into such a bond that we decided to make it a life time deal. 55 years later through the ups

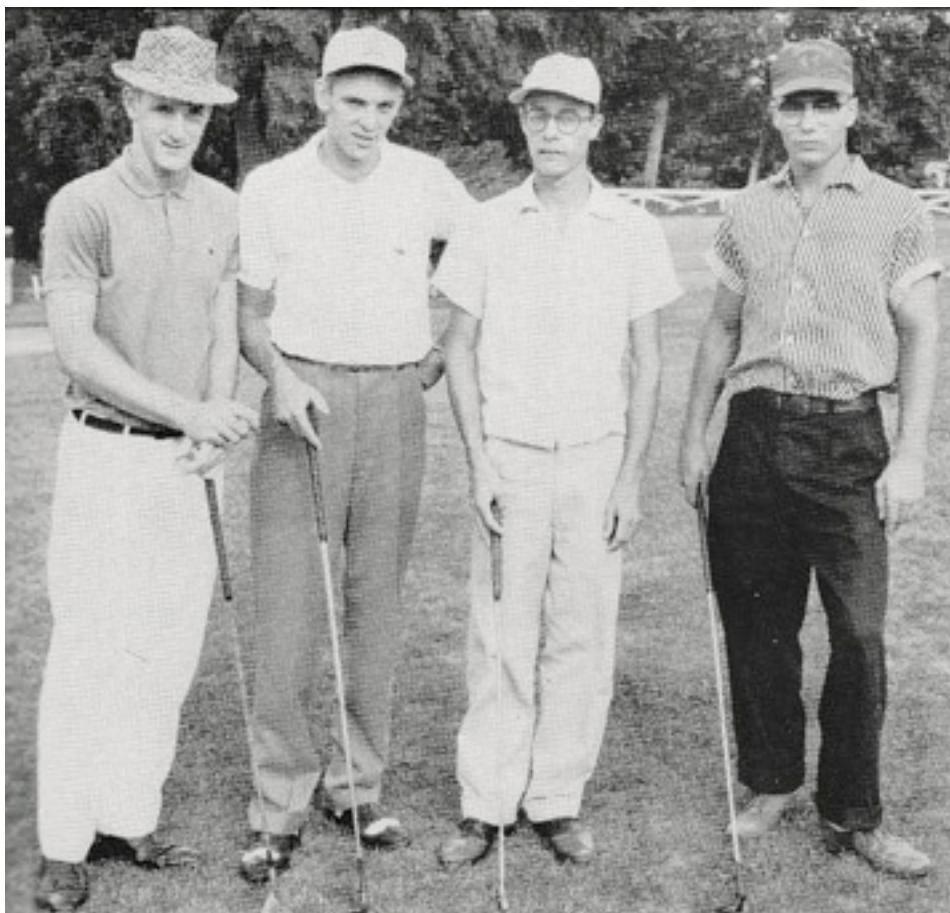
and downs that friendship and respect was the glue. There is a picture in the maybe 1954 WHS yearbook of Carla and I AS "TYPICAL SOPHOMORES" Such a deal! What a time! Carla is pretty special—a perpetual cheerleader—at Jefferson Grade school for two years—At Washington High for 4 years and head cheerleader—and finally at the U of So. Dakota for 4 years and again head cheerleader. Was one of them cheering on USD as they won the 1958 NCAA small college championship. She was always a team player and supporter and lucky for me my head cheer leader for life.

I was in my second year of dental school at Minnesota and she was about to graduate from The U. of So. Dakota when we decided to throw in for keeps. We got married in Minneapolis the summer of 1960. Carla helped me finish school and taught art in the St Paul schools. At the end of my final year at Minnesota I received a commission as a Navy lieutenant in the Dental section and received orders to active duty at Camp Pendleton, California. In June of 1962 I graduated from Minnesota Dental School, first in my class of 100 with DDS and BS degrees. Carla was pregnant with our first as we started out for a new life in California.



Life was good in California and the Navy. Geoffrey was born in fall of 1962 and all was well. We spent three years in Oceanside Calif. taking care of the U.S. Marines when I got an acceptance into the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program at the U of Southern Calif. Medical and Dental Center in Los Angeles. In the summer of 1965 we moved to Los Angeles We would spend the next three years there, me in the Oral facial surgery residency program and Carla holding down the fort at home with a new youngster and as usual, always all in, all the way, all the time. She was the perpetual cheerleader. That has never changed. In 1966 We adopted our beautiful daughter, Kristin, at 6 weeks old, from the Children's Home Society, Geoff had a little sister, and life was as good as it gets.

By the summer of 1968 the school thing was wearing a little thin and



THE 1956 WHS CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF TEAM

Fred Hecker '57, Mike Gibson '56, Wes Plummer '56, Marv Boegler '56

fortunately coming to a close and with training behind us a good friend and former classmate of mine at Minnesota and I opened an Oral Surgery practice in Sunnyvale Calif. At that time we almost returned to Sioux Falls to Practice but I guess the great climate and the excitement of a growing San Jose California and the new Silicon Valley wouldn't let us go. There were times when we thought that might have been a mistake. Sioux Falls is a quality for living place, relaxed and less stressful compared to California. Budding Silicon Valley or "Silly Valley" as we sometimes called it, was a fast track. Nonetheless we worked

hard, played hard, raised two kids, and built a successful Oral Surgery practice far beyond our expectations. Next thing I knew it was 27 years later. We visited Sioux Falls many summers and are still my kid's favorite place in the world and I guess ours too but as the years passed and the folks with them we returned less and less. Sioux Falls is a special place and we always missed it.

Along the way I managed to pass the American Board of Oral Surgery exams and became a Board certified Oral and maxillofacial surgeon. I guess the goals were over-- we were across the finish

line. I guess. Was it worth it? I'm not sure yet. Maybe? I became active in the Northern and Southern California Associations of Oral Surgery and following 4 years on the Board of directors was elected president of the Northern group. I did some committee work with the American society of Oral Surgery on a national level which seemed rewarding at the time, but took a lot of time maybe better spent. By the early 1990's we had a pretty good run and an active life and talked about retirement. Carla had become quite successful as a local artist and looked forward to a quieter life to pursue what was becoming more of a career in art rather than a hobby. In 1994 we left the Bay Area and moved to our favorite summer vacation place in the Sierra Mountains of Northern California, north of Lake Tahoe in Graeagle Calif. My partner continued to run our practice and I worked occasionally for a short while. We were 57 years old and a little young to quit but it was our time. We have never been sorry. The mountains and lakes of Northern California are beautiful and the golf and fishing works good too. We later found a place in Arizona to get away in the winter and have enjoyed that also as many South Dakota friends are close by. We have been blessed in many ways and are thankful for all those blessings.

Regards to all:-----Mike

Coming To A Computer Near You Soon! Two Memorial Day O&B Editions! Military Tribute & Updated Deceased Lists.

The next two issues of the Orange & Black will be Memorial Day editions. Thanks to William "Bill" Lobe '59, the O&B has become aware of a new WHS hero from the Vietnam War, Dr. Loren Little '59. I will be honored to bring you Loren's moving & heroic story in that edition. Also on each Memorial Day and Christmas I publish the ten updated deceased lists for each WHS class from 1950 though 1959.

Then in the following issue I will be bringing you the saga of the majestic and time honored WHS Homecoming Coronation Chairs thanks to Pat Jorgensen Palagi '56. Yes, the chairs Kay Severson '55 and Jim Parker '55 were sitting in when they were crowned 1955 Homecoming Queen and Marshall. You definitely won't want to miss that story!

Photo to right: "THE Chairs!"



55th Reunion for Class of '59

WHEN: September 5, 6, and 7, 2014

WHAT: **Friday, September 5th**, Informal gathering in the Lounge at Holiday Inn City Center, downtown, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 6th, Cash bar and hors d'oeuvres gathering, 3RD floor, Cherapa Building, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., downtown at 300 Cherapa Place. (Screen and projector available for viewing your DVD's)

Sunday, September 7th, Informal breakfast at downtown Hilton Garden Inn starting at 7:30 a.m.

WHAT ELSE: September 6th is also the Sidewalk Arts Festival downtown from 9:00 to 5:00 and the German Fest at Falls Park starting at 1:00 p.m. for those interested.

HOTELS IN BEST LOCATION: Hilton Garden Inn Downtown, Holiday Inn City Centre or Country Inn and Suites. (Make own reservation!)

Cost: \$20.00 per person..includes Saturday night event only! (Can be paid at the event)

Registration is required by July 1st, 2014!!

Include name, number of guests, email address and which reunion events attending by calling, mailing or emailing Shirley Kittelson Bock

6615 S. Tomar Rd., Sioux Falls, 57108
605-290-3345 shirleybock0@gmail.com

60th Reunion for Class of '54

Sept. 19, 20 & 21, 2014

1. Reunion Headquarters: Holiday Inn, 8th & Phillips Ave, Sioux Falls, SD (Register at Holiday Inn 2 - 4 pm or Washington Pavilion 4 – 6 pm)

2. Activities:

- Friday: 4pm Washington Pavilion tour (Don Erickson)
5pm Washington Pavilion 3rd floor reception bar
Champagne & hor d'oeuvres
Dinner: everyone on their own.
- Saturday: Breakfast at Holiday Inn Rest Terrace 8 – 10 am (no host)
Lunch & Dinner at Holiday Inn Falls West Room
11:30 lunch with a trip back to the early 1950s in Sioux Falls
2:00 – 4:00 Tour of Joe Floyds large collection of 1936 cars
5:30 Reception & Dinner with special entertainment
- Sunday: Brunch at Holiday Inn Falls West Room
9:30-11:00 Bonnie Assam Luke Memorial Brunch

3. Costs:

- Meal package: \$90 per person
- Meals bought separately:
Friday reception: \$20 Saturday lunch: \$25 Saturday dinner: \$40 Sunday Brunch: \$25

Mail your response and check (made out to: WHS Class of 1954) to: J. Kittelson, 3201 West 33rd St, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Rooms: We have reserved 32 rooms and the Presidential Suite on the Concierge floor of the Holiday Inn. All rooms have King size beds with appropriate amenities such as coffee maker, hair dryer, iron & board, etc. The floor has Secure entry and reserved for nights of Sept 19 & 20, 2014. \$104 Concierge level Kings (32 rooms)...normally \$130 to \$140. Rooms other than 9th floor....\$104

For early arrivals & late departures: Nights of Sept 17, 18 and 21: 10 rooms are reserved on Concierge Level King \$129 per night

Reservations: **Your responsibility:** Reservations number 605-339-2000. Identify yourself as Washington High School Class of 1954 and you want a room on the Concierge (9th) floor.

The Presidential Suite and reception area on Concierge Floor will be available for socializing.



WHS Class of 1954

60TH Year Reunion Registration

September 19 (Fri), 20 (Sat), 21 (Sun), 2014

Name: _____

Spouse or Guest: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ **Email:** _____

Subject: Our 60th Class Reunion: September 19(Fri), 20(Sat), 21(Sun) 2014

1. Reunion Headquarters: Holiday Inn, 8th & Phillips Ave, Sioux Falls, SD (Register at Holiday Inn 2 - 4 pm or Washington Pavilion 4 – 6 pm)

2. Activities: **Attending:** **Yes** **No**

- Friday: 4pm Washington Pavilion tour _____
5pm Washington Pavilion Reception _____

- Saturday: Lunch & Dinner Holiday Inn Falls West Room
11:30 lunch _____
2-4pm: Joe Floyd's collection of classic cars _____
2-4pm: Bus tour of Sioux Falls (cost to be det.) _____
5:30pm: Reception & Dinner _____

- Sunday: Brunch at Holiday Inn Falls West Room
9:30-11am: Bonnie Assam Luke Memorial Brunch _____

3. Costs:

- **Reunion package: \$90 per person** x _____ persons = \$ _____

- **Meals bought separately:**

- Friday reception: \$20 x _____ persons = \$ _____
- Saturday lunch: \$25 x _____ persons = \$ _____
- Saturday dinner: \$40 x _____ persons = \$ _____
- Sunday Brunch: \$25 x _____ persons = \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

Mail your response and check (made out to: **WHS Class of 1954**) to:

John Kittelson, 3201 West 33rd St, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

Letters to the O & B

On Apr 14, 2014, at 3:22 PM, **Sheldon R. Songstad**

'56 <SRSongstad@msn.com> wrote:
Went to dinner with my friends, Jack & Debra Phillips last night. "They left their good car at home"

On Apr 21, 2014, **Sheldon R. Songstad '56**

<SRSongstad@msn.com> wrote:
Gracious Jack, I am still out of country. Will fly back to Vegas in May on way home.
Hi to Debra
Sheldon

PS: I show your car picture to most everyone.

Editor's Note: Sheldon was in Las Vegas for the Country Music Awards Show and graciously invited Debra and I out for dinner. He loved my car and paid me the highest compliment on it by offering to buy it. Sheldon is a most interesting man. It was an evening that Debra and I thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks Sheldon. Jack



Sheldon Songstad '56 with my wife, Debra and my Excalibur.

On Apr 16, 2014, **Mavis Larson Carl '55**

<MCarl47071@aol.com

wrote:

Hope this picture is good enough..its the actual posc from argus.

Mavis Larson Carl '55



Mavis Larson Carl '55
WHS Senior Photo

Editors Note: This Argus photo was taken at the 10 reunion for the class of '54.



Here for WHS Class Reunion

Here are a few of the members of the 1954 Washington High School graduating class, here for a class reunion. Shown from the left are Rollie Lickness, Bismarck, N.D.; Timmy

Hovland, Minneapolis; Sally Howard, Minneapolis; Hal Erickson, Butte, Mont.; Kent Morstad, Kalamazoo, Mich., and Shirley Wermers, Chicago.
—Photo by Ray News

The Orange & Black Needs The Following WHS Yearbooks!

1941 1947

1943 1948

1944 1949

And ALL YEARBOOKS FROM 1961 & LATER.

On Apr 17, 2014, at 10:11 AM, **Paul Andy Weber '52** <paulmargweb@comcast.net> wrote:
Hi Jack,



Paul Andy Weber '52
WHS Senior Photo



Wally Klawiter '52
WHS Senior Photo

I am forwarding you a couple of Obits separately that I got from **Lolita Larson** - these are old enough that I figured you didn't have them. They are **Janis Stone Cooper** and **Sondra Hohweiler Searls**. Both were in my class of 1952.

I know Janis lived in Hendersonville, NC. Not sure where Sandy lived - it isn't stated in the obit.

Wally Klawiter for years kept a roster of the Class of 52 on his website - he was on the faculty of the U. of Sioux Falls, formerly Sioux Falls College. I recently tried to access it, but it is gone. Lolita tells me she talked to Wally and that he said he still has the database but it is no longer online and he hasn't been updating it recently. I emailed Wally and asked him for a copy but haven't heard back. Will see how plays out.

BTW, Lolita is a good friend of mine from away back - we were born on the same day.

Anyhow, look for the two forwarded emails.

Andy Weber '52

Editor's Note: Both Janis & Sondra's names have been added to class of '52 Master Deceased List.



Lolita Johnson Larson '52
WHS Senior Photo



Janis Stone Cooper '52
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased



Sondra Hohweiler Searls '52
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased

that

On Apr 18, 2014, **Don Noordsy '58** <heythere63@comcast.net> wrote:

Not a 50's grad, but his father was Ray Beck.....principal of WHS. Thought you would be interested.

Don Noordsy '58

<http://www.millerfh.com/sitemaker/sites/Miller4/obit.cgi?user=1290214Beck>

Ed. Note" Thanks Don for advising the O&B of Billy Beck's passing. Billy was the son our beloved, stern and fair principal, R. A. Beck. And yes, Mr. Beck was principal of WHS in 1946 when Billy was a senior. Boy, would that be pressure to be good! Click on the above link to see entire obituary.



Don Noordsy '58
WHS Senior



Billy R. Beck '46
WHS Senior Photo

Billy R. Beck
8-18-28 - 4-18-14



**Two Much Beloved
& Respected Men**
left: **R. A. Beck**
WHS Principal from either '43 or '44 through '58
right: **Ben Rossow**
Mr. Rossow became WHS principal in 1959.
We were so lucky to have had them both in our lives.



On Apr 22, 2014, **Sharon Frank Johnson '53**



**Sharon Frank '53
WHS Senior Photo**

<shrnfaye@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Hi Jack,

Talked with Marlys today and we are going to try to get a group together to discuss the possible 2015 All School Reunion. I was looking for the latest Deceased list for 1953 and can't seem to find it. Would you have it available? Need to make a few calls to see if we can get some interest in helping and want to be sure they are still "with us". Know that we have lost a lot.

Also, we spent a couple of days with Sharon Roggen Batten and her husband, Howard, in Florida.....it was non stop "talk". Wonderful to catch up with them. Have a couple of pictures that I will send on as soon as I figure out how to get them off my phone and onto the computer.

Thanks for your help, and, as always, for your efforts in keeping us all up to date via the O & B.

Sharon (Frank) Johnson '53



**Sharon Roggen '53
WHS Senior Photo**



Sharon Roggen Batten '53 & Her Husband Howard

On Apr 26, 2014, at 10:00 AM, Sharon Frank Johnson '53 <shrnfaye@sio.midco.net> wrote:
Hi Jack,

Just sent you 2 pics from Fla. trip. Let me know if you don't get them.

Sharon and Howard have moved back to Vero Beach where her daughter, Kathy, lives. They lived many years in Jacksonville where she owned Sharon Batten's Designer Boutique Shop. She did weddings, style shows etc. She is doing designer trunk shows in Vero Beach, Florida and Howard is in Real Estate. We had a wonderful time of "catching up" the last many years of not seeing each other. They missed the 50 year reunion because of the blackout in Toronto (where they were flying from) and New York, but came for a short visit the next year. I'm hoping that they will be able to make the All School Reunion in 2015.

Sharon Frank Johnson '53



**Sharon Roggen Batten '53 & Howard Batten,
Sharon Frank Johnson '53 & Merle Johnson.**



On Apr 30, 2014, **Laurel Pierce Hampel '55** <laufred@att.net> wrote:

Subject: This is good- Lost in the Fifties- Another Time, Another Place ...

Jack, Lots of good memories here! Laurel

AAAAH THE MEMORIES !!

[? Lost in the Fifties- Another Time, Another Place - YouTube](#)

On May 1, 2014, at 8:15 PM, **Richard Norbraten '54** <rnorbraten@att.net> wrote:



Richard Norbraten '54
WHS Senior Photo

Seeing the yearbook photo in your last O&B of the late Clarence Quigley triggered some silly memories I had of him. Studying his photo, you see a self-assured, self-confident young man with an almost impish expression on his face, as if he were ready to pull a practical joke on someone. His handsome looks probably made him quite a ladies man, too. None of those attributes applied to me back then, and certainly not now. Anyway, Clarence and I used to create crossword puzzles for each other during tedious lectures (probably in math since I've never done well in that subject my entire life!). The puzzles were not terribly challenging to our young intellects, with entries such as "Color of the sky," answer "Blue," or "Opposite of dog," answer "Cat." But one question had me absolutely, categorically stumped, baffled, at a



Clarence Quigley '54
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased

total loss for the answer. Clarence's question was "Something you wear to a dance," with the answer in three letters. I just couldn't come up with anything and finally had to ask him. His short answer: "Tie." I know I would have never thought of that answer since I probably didn't even own any ties back then. If I did, it was probably a clip-on version that I wore to church. ... I told you this was a silly memory, and I wonder why I still have it. I had written earlier of another memory I had of our late classmate, Ron Arneson. He and I used to launder and iron our shoelaces so we would be more fashionable dressers. Anyway, Jack, thanks for letting me reminisce. I find I'm doing that a lot as I see current (and yearbook) photos of our wonderful WHS classmates of '54.

Richard Norbraten '54

Editor's Reply:

Dear Richard,

I didn't find your memory of Clarence to be a "silly memory" at all. It is a beautiful memory, and having know Clarence it brought tears to my eyes. But I so dearly cherish the memories that awaken and stir our emotions. Thank you for sharing your wonderful memories with us. I feel that stirring memories is what the O&B is all about.

Jack

On May 1, 2014, **Sandy & Chester Thompson '65** <csfarm@alliancecom.net> wrote:

Sorry, no photo for
Sandy.

Need More Yearbooks!
PLEASE HELP!
See page 14

I would love to see more articles on Myron Lee and the Caddies. They were very much a part of my growing up! I remember when they play at the Marshmellow Lounge in Sioux Falls. Do you remember that?

Sandy Brown (Thompson) Class of 1965.

Thanks Sandy. I am also really enjoying the stories on Myron Lee and The Caddies. I hope you also enjoy Part II in this issue. Jack Phillips '54

"Constant Contact" - O&B's New Mail Delivery Company

Note from Editor: For the past several months the O&B has experienced an ever increasing number of problems regarding issues not being delivered to your computer mail boxes. I have spent literally hundreds of hours trying to identify and solve the problems that just kept occurring. I felt GoDaddy.com was the problem, but I dreaded making a change to a new company, because of the time the new learning curve would take. But when the problems just continued to worsen I realized I had no choice.

Then Dixie Utesch Tilden '58 suggested, "**Constant Contact**". See her letter on next page. I investigated Constant Contact further and it seemed to be all that Dixie had said it was, so I immediately made the change. The change-over was much less painful than I feared and the first edition went out through Constant Contact on May 1st. So a huge thank you Dixie. I have had nothing but outstanding results and feedback since the first CC mailing went out. Thank you again, Dixie. Jack

On Apr 27, 2014, at 1:28 PM, **Dixie Utesch Tilden '58** <dlt3971@yahoo.com> wrote:

Jack - good to hear from you. I had noticed that I had not received anything from you since January and wondered if you had a mishap of some kind. Glad to hear it is only an electronic mishap! I do have a 2nd e-mail address, actually have 3 of them, so will give you the other two and will contact Yahoo myself and complain. Change my address to dixie@cureriver.org and if you can add two, add jtilden@centurylink.net also. The last one is my husband's so I do not access it often, but the cureriver one is my business office and that is also a g-mail account which I access every day.



Dixie Utesch '58
WHS Senior Photo

Have you ever investigated Constant Contact? That is an e-mail program that my business uses and sends out some 2500 personalized e-mails on a bi-weekly basis. We have been very pleased with them, although it is not cheap. We are a non-profit and our annual rate is about \$450, but it has been flawless so far and we have been using it for about 18 months now.

I would love to get the pieces I have missed, but certainly understand if that is not possible. Look forward to hearing from you on a regular basis from now forward. You are providing a wonderful service to all of us "old timers". Went back to Sioux Falls a couple of weeks ago to an OTA Conference held at the old schoolhouse and was amazed at what they have done with the place. Had taken a tour a couple of years ago, but this was my first time at experiencing the conference center actually in use. GREAT!

Good to hear from you,

Dixie Utesch Tilden, Class of 1958

Montevideo, MN 56265

On Apr 30, 2014, at 5:48 PM, **Peggy Servold Teslow '57** <pwolset@sio.midco.net> wrote:

I guess I was one of those unfortunates that didn't get the O & B. Always look forward to receiving it and the info. Thanks to Barb Byrnes for the info on Jane Bates.

Peggy Servold Teslow '57



Peggy Servold '57, WHS Senior Photo

On Apr 30, 2014, at 6:23 PM, **Alan Olson '57** <aeojso@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Jack,

It works in google but not explorer.

Al Olson '57

Al, thanks for the tip. Jack

Alan Olson '57, WHS Senior Photo.



On Apr 30, 2014, at 8:33 PM, **Jim Redfield '50**, jimwred@cox.net wrote:

Thanx Jack: Everything came thru fine as before. Nice response from Chuck Houck. I went to Emerson Grade School with him

and his then claim to fame was tap dancing. Nice guy!

Jim Redfield "'50



Jim Redfield '50, WHS Senior Photo



Gary Conradi '57
WHS Senior Photo

On May 1, 2014, **Gary Conradi '57** <conradi@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Good Morning Jack,

We were not aware that we were no longer receiving the "Orange and Black". It is great to having it coming again. What is the CD that a number of subscribers referred to?

Gary '57 and Kathy Rea '58 Conradi

Hi Gary and Kathy, I published a Valentines Day issue and asked subscribers to send the O&B a Valentine to their loved one. I offered to make a CD of great '50s love songs for the best Valentine. Well I received more entries than I anticipated and they were all beautiful. There was no way I was going to be able to decide on "a best", so I just made a personal "Love CD" for all of the entries. I am so glad you are receiving the O&B again. I am sure sleeping better at night now believing that everyone is receiving it again. Jack



Kathy Rea '58
WHS Senior Photo



Jim Wylie '51
WHS Senior Photo

On May 1, 2014, **James Wylie '51** <jimwylie@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

So good to hear from you and get the O&B news et al. I had begun to wonder why I had not heard. You certainly made up for lost time with a 21-pager. Another Gold Star for J P and the power behind the throne.

I agree with keeping the get-together "culture" of OLD WHS alive for as long as we are indeed able to do so. From a clinical perspective it is of health and spiritual value over and above the friendly fun and recall aspects.

Further, I vote for the M.O. suggested--50s classes with any and all others on either side welcome. I am willing to help from here and make a reasonable # of eyeball meetings tho we could do most of it thru the several media instermentations now available.

Carry on Big Guy! Blessings! **Jim Wylie '51,**



Ramona Evans '56
WHS Senior Photo

On May 1, 2014, **Ramona Evans '56** ramonadesignz@suddenlink.net wrote:

Jack, yes I did receive "this" newsletter, but had not received it prior but I had back surgery the 29th of Jan. '14 and wasn't on F.B. or e-mail much if at all around that time and it was possible it did come, but don't think so. Anyway I have now. Regarding the reunion: I think a "50's" reunion is a splendid idea and like you would love to help on a committee but living in Branson,MO makes it difficult. However, if I could be of some help in the later months/ weeks/day before I might be able to. It is about a 10-11 hr. drive from here ?? My talents lie in art, design and floral arranging.

Again, thanks for your admirable efforts in keeping all the WHS grads up to date on our comings and goings. By the way I tried sending an e-mail response from your site posting and there was an error so went back to the e-mail direct to send this. Keep up

the good work. **Ramona Evans Wanger '56** Ramona, thanks for your thoughts on the All School Reunion. Jack



On May 1, 2014, glenn gravelle '58 <glenngravellepsy@gmail.com> wrote:

Jack,

Thanks for your efforts to share the information about the passing of Colleen Gravelle, my sister in law.

You make a real contribution.

Glenn Gravelle '58

Thanks Glenn. Jack

Glenn Gravelle '58, WHS Senior Photo



Glenn Gulbranson '54
WHS Senior Photo

On May 1, 2014, **glenn gulbranson '54** <g.gulbranson@juno.com> wrote: Jack,

Just a quick response. Go Daddy worked perfectly for me. The Constant Contact O&B failed to open. The "View in your browser" did not work either. My Juno e-mail defaults to the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser for opening the O&B Newsletter and will not allow me to change the default browser.

But, I copied and pasted your URL in the Google browser and everything worked perfectly. The Google browser will probably work for everybody. Thanks for everything. No response necessary.

Glenn Gulbranson '54

Thanks for the tip. Glenn. Jack



**The O&B
Wants
and
Needs
YOUR
STORY AND PICS!
PLEASE SEND
SOMETHING.**

The O&B can't survive without your help.