

THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK NEWSLETTER

7-19-23 Issue #7-23

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

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

Published by Jack M. Phillips '54. jackmp@me.com

2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134 Cell 702-496-3667



Charles 'Chuck' Erickson '50
WHS Senior Photo
Overland Park, KS



**A MOST SINCERE
THANK YOU TO
CHARLES 'CHUCK'
ERICKSON '50
FOR HIS SUPER GENEROUS
\$1,000.00 PATRON DONATION**

When asked to send a resume of my life after WHS, I am a bit reluctant to do this since a great part of my life was the result of what happened at WHS.

First, I was not happy to leave Huron SD in 1948 where I had many friends and a coach that said I would be starting in 2 sports there. Second, I was scared to be going to enroll in the state's largest High School. I found the transition pretty easy and made a lot of new friends. I was assigned to Miss Kunkle's home room which was very pleasant. I even made the basketball team but played very little.

Bob Crampton '50 talked me into joining the Naval Reserve, which met at the old Air Force base on December 7, 1949. After graduating from Augustana in 1954, I entered active duty with the NAVY until August of 1956. I stayed in the reserves for 30 years and



Bob Crampton '50
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased

retired as a Captain. While in Japan , **Bob Crampton** and I got together and toured Nagasaki. I had many interesting adventures including helping to implement President Carter's amnesty program. Initially. most of us were not happy with the program but now see it as necessary and important for the healing it gave our country.

Our WHS 1949 football team got off to a shaky start with new coach Bob Burns but by the end of the year had jellied into the best in the state beating No 1 Rapid City on Orange Letter Day and No. 2 Watertown the next week. Some of the stars on that team were **Pete Beckman, Mickey McDowell, Emery Fillmore , Clinton Clark and Dick Spear**. Let us not forget the Polio epidemic that cancelled much of the 1948 schedule. Our Basketball team was great until we lost our mid-year graduate Center, **Bob Minick**, who later set scoring records at Augustana. We did win the ESD title but not totally surviving a snow storm in March helped cause us to miss the State Tournament. **Kenny Anderson and Dean Hutton** were our go to guys.



Pete Beckman, Mickey McDowell, Emery Fillmore , Clinton Clark, Dick Spear, Bob Minick, Kenny Anderson, Dean Hutton. All members of WHS 1950 Class except Kenny Anderson who was in 1951 Class.

I worked for John Morrell and as a District sales Manager for NCR. I later was involved in Sales for Kronos. I did receive several awards from NCR and Kronos. After retiring, I worked as a volunteer for 25 hours a week until age 80 primarily for the City Union Mission and my church.

I had 4 siblings that graduated from WHS. **Darold [51]** Who started on a West Point football team, **Joan Bakke [52]** who was a RN at the VA and had **son David** who had many WHS track records, **Don [54]** who coached probably the best ever WHS basketball team, and **Bill [55]** who held several track records at the U of Minnesota. All except Don and I are deceased.



Darold Erickson '51
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased



Joan Erickson Bakke '52
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased



Don Erickson '54
WHS Senior Photo



Bill Erickson '55
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased

Bill Russell, the great basketball player, was asked once what was his greatest accomplishment in life. He quickly answered raising 3 tax payers. That is mine too. Kristi, Shari and Jon. My first wife, Sally passed away in 2009. I am now in excellent health and can thank Rita to whom I am now married.

Chuck Erickson '50



Rita and Chuck Erickson at a WHS Class Reunion.



Chuck with first wife Sally and children Kristi, Shari, and Jon.



Michael and Kristi (daughter) Clark, Jon Erickson (son), Chuck Erickson and Rita (wife)



Chuck and Daughter Shari Bollman, Son Jon Erickson, and Daughter Kristi

Chuck,

Thank you again for your extremely generous financial support of the WHS O&B!

I must also thank you for sharing your wonderful memories of some of your really outstanding WHS athletic teammates. I still remember all of those great names and I admired and looked up to all of them so much. Here we are over 70 years later and even though I didn't know any of them personally, including yourself, I still remember so vividly every one of the names and how much I admired and looked up to all of you.

Jack





Jim Carlson '58
WHS Senior Photo
Sioux Falls, SD

Jim A. Carlson '58 Shared This Minnehaha County Historical Society's Post. May, 2023

Over history the falls have been revered by many different Native American cultures. No formal archaeological digs have been performed at the falls area, but stone tools have been found throughout the region. The area surrounding the falls was likely used as a camp or living area by nomadic hunters, perhaps as long as 10,000 years ago. Mound builders lived in the Big Sioux River Valley from about 500 A.D. to 800 A.D. The mounds of this area were traditionally for ritual burials. The Oneota moved into this area after 800 A.D. They lived an agricultural lifestyle, traveling less frequently than other people. By the 1600s, contact between Europeans and Native people revolved mainly around trade. In the 1700s, the Lakota people moved into this area from the east. Native people reportedly used the falls of the Big Sioux River as a seasonal rendezvous. This area was first indicated on maps in the early 1700s. In 1856, Dr. George Staples read explorer Philander Prescott's description of the falls in Jacob Ferris's *The States and Territories of the Great West*. Staples and five partners formed the Western Town Company. Together, they left Dubuque, Iowa, with aspirations for founding a town near the falls. In the spring of 1857, the members of the Western Town Company were joined by members of the Dakota Land Company. The Dakota Land Company was based in St. Paul, Minnesota, and had founded several towns along their journey from St. Paul to the falls. Together they established what was to become Sioux Falls City. By 1865, the military had established Fort Dakota along the Big Sioux River, just above the falls, near present-day Eighth Street. Fort Dakota eventually consisted of 18 buildings, some of which were reuses of earlier buildings from the land companies. Most of the buildings were located on the west side of the river. The stable was built into the west bank, was 160 feet long, and had room for 50 horses. The ice house was directly across the river from the stable on the east bank. This historical plaque is located on the East Bank of the Big Sioux River underneath the Arc Of Dreams in Downtown Sioux Falls.



[#siouxfallshistory](#) [#siouxfalls](#) [#siouxfallssd](#) [#minnehahahistory](#) [#dtsf](#) [#localloupodcast](#) [#history](#) [#hifromsd](#)
[#siouxlandheritagemuseums](#)

Jim, You are able to cram more really wonderfully interesting stories on Sioux Falls and South Dakota in one email than I can in a year. I hope my readers will open the nine attachments at the end of your email. As always I thank you so much for your continual really great contributions to the O&B. As I told you in our last phone conversation how surprised and disappointed I was to learn that you receive no pay for the seemingly endless work you do as a member of the Minnehaha County Historical Society. Your efforts are truly appreciated by so many! I just wish every South Dakotan knew of your never ending work so to that end I do hope you will submit a story to the O&B as I have requested on your self and the work you do on behalf of all of us. I would at least like to better inform all of my readers so they can more fully appreciate you and your efforts as I do. Jack Phillips

“Boys of ’57 Weekend”

Thanks to Pete Hegg ’57, Pete’s Executive Assistant, Megan Ronglien and John Simko ’57 for filing this annual report on this years, “Boys of ’57” retreat. The free weekend is hosted each year by Pete on his beautiful central South Dakota hunting / guest ranch.

On Jun 14, 2023, Megan Ronglien
<mronglien@heggcompanies.com>
wrote:

Hello Jack,
Pete asked me to share photos from the
dinner before the big Boys of ’57
weekend! Enjoy!

<[image001.jpg](#)>
Thank you,

Megan Ronglien
HEGG COMPANIES, INC
Executive Assistant to Peter Hegg
Phone: 605-731-5036
Email: mronglien@heggcompanies.com
1300 W 57th Street
Sioux Falls, SD
8
www.heggcompanies.com



Pete Hegg ’57
WHS Senior Photo

Below: Pete Hegg ’57
Enjoying The 2023
Boys of ’57 Weekend.







**The always most
congenial and
generous host,
Pete Hegg '57**

From: **John Simko '57** <jmsimko@sio.midco.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Jack Phillips <jackmp+me.com@ccsend.com>; Megan Ronglien <mronglien@heggcompanies.com>; Peter Hegg <peterhegg@heggcompanies.com>
Subject: Boys of 57



John Simko '57
WHS Senior Photo

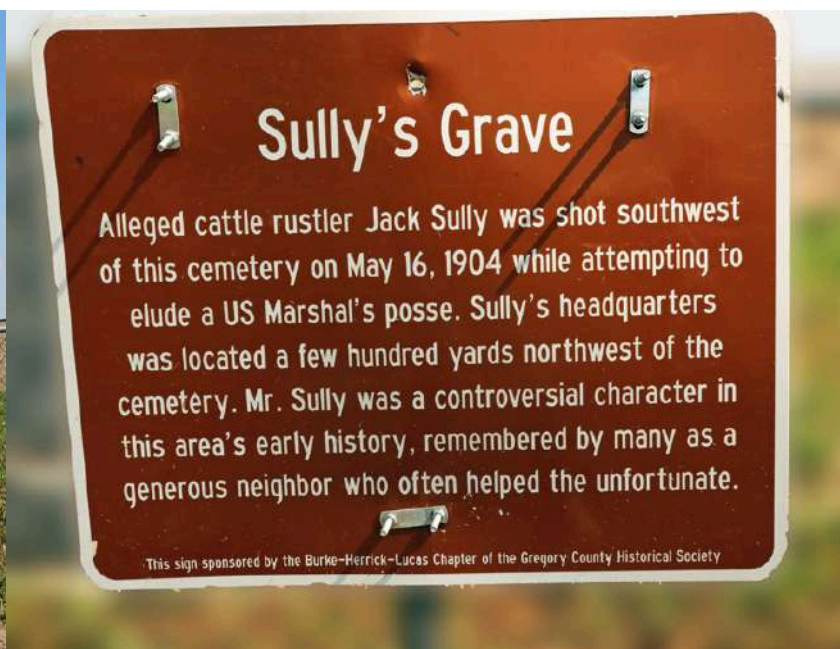
Jack,

Here are images from the Boys of 57 get together on June 2 -3, 2023. They have been reduced in size for use on the internet. The two images that include me and the one of Jack Sully's grave stone were taken by **Gary Conradi '57**. The others were taken by me. There are two group images, one which includes the names. I'm hoping you can match the individual portraits to the group image with names. Please ask if you have questions. I'll be happy to match names to portraits and answer any other questions you might have.

Thanks for inviting the Boys of 57 to send photos to you. We appreciate you and your efforts to keep the 1950's WHS decade informed.

John Simko '57

Dear John, As always thank you for the great quality photographic coverage of the annual "Boys of '57" gathering. I know from the many past complimentary responses on your photo coverage of the past event how much my readers enjoy and appreciate your work. Your photos truly make the story! Jack





It's that time again!

Friday, October 20, 2023

**THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME BANQUET**

Please RSVP by September 19, 2023



WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

501 NORTH SYCAMORE AVE.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. 57110

(605) 367-7968



6-12-23

WHS ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME

CLASS OF 2023 INDUCTEES

ATHLETES

Nate Gerry
Emma (Hanson) Farritor
Kari Heck
Jonah Warrick
Alex Waddell

ADMINISTRATOR

Jamie Nold

COACH

LaDawn Nesje

CONTRIBUTOR

Walker Family

In 1995 Washington High School initiated an Athletic Hall-of-Fame with the expressed purpose to recognize athletes, coaches, administrators, and contributors who have made an impact on the tradition of Washington High School Athletics. Washington High School has had a long and rich athletic tradition and the WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame is giving us an opportunity to recognize deserving individuals and their accomplishments. *The 2023 Hall-of-Fame Banquet will be held at the Washington Pavilion on Friday, October 20, 2023.* Please complete RSVP and make reservations by September 19, 2023.

We have had outstanding attendance at all of our banquets. The warm response of the inductees and their families has been inspiring to all of us in attendance. An impressive display of past honorees adorns the wall in the Washington High School Commons.

We will continue to have annual expenses of approximately \$6000 to continue this excellent program. *Plaque and pin costs have risen dramatically over the past few years, and this is an area we can use financial assistance.* For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to contribute, we are asking you along with many former athletes, coaches, and friends of Washington High School to consider contributing to the Washington High School Athletic Hall-of-Fame. For those of you who have so generously contributed in the past, we, on behalf of the WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame Committee, would like to send a special thank you for your financial contribution. We would hope that you would consider contributing again to this outstanding project. We can continue this program only through the contributions of individuals such as you who are interested in recognizing Washington High School's great athletic tradition.

Please make your contributions payable to the WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame and mail to:

Nate Malchow, Activities Director
Washington High School
501 North Sycamore Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

On behalf of the entire WHS Athletic Hall-of-Fame Committee, we thank you for your support.

Jeff Kayl
Chairman

Jim Trett
Vice-Chairman

Nate Malchow
Activities Director

Dear Jeff, Jim, Nate and all other committee members,

Just a note to thank each of you for your continuous hard work on behalf of all WHS alumni and friends. I know that each year the wonderful inductee banquet becomes more financially challenging for you. So to help in that area I will send Nate my check for \$50.00.

I strongly suggest and encourage all WHS Alumni to try and attend this wonderful evening. It is a most enjoyable and interesting evening. If it is not possible for you to attend please try to at least make a financial contribution to help cover the ever increasing cost.
Jack Phillips

**Washington High School Athletic Hall-of-Fame
RSVP**

Name _____

Please make the following banquet reservation:

Number planning to attend at \$50.00 per person _____

Name on ticket(s) _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME

Mail to:

**Nate Malchow, Activities Director
Washington High School
501 N. Sycamore Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57110**

Your name tags will be placed on a table and may be picked up at the banquet hall the evening of the induction ceremony. Please circle the inductee that you are honoring with your presence.

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME CLASS OF 2023

WHS ATHLETIC HALL-of-FAME

CLASS OF 2023 INDUCTEES

ATHLETES

Nate Gerry

Emma (Hanson) Farritor

Kari Heck

Jonah Warrick

Alex Waddell

COACHES

LaDawn Nesje

CONTRIBUTORS

Walker Family

ADMINISTRATORS

Jamie Nold

BACK NINE AND THEN IT IS WINTER:

You know ... Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But, here it is... The back nine of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting gray...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the back nine yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY Remember "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver." LIVE HAPPY IN 2023!

LASTLY, CONSIDER THIS:

- ~Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!*
- ~Going out is good.. Coming home is better!*
- ~You forget names... But it's OK because some people forgot they even knew you!!!*
- ~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything like golf.*
- ~The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore, but you really do care that you aren't as interested.*
- ~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV 'ON' than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".*
- ~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch..*
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?" ... "when?" ... ???*
- ~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!*
- ~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.*
- ~Everybody whispers.*
- ~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.*
- ~~~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!*

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in AGREEMENT!!! It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived.

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN; YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS...

“Do Not Regret Growing Older. It is a Privilege Denied to Many.”

*Now, Give Thanks
These Were Our Times -
The Greatest Times!*





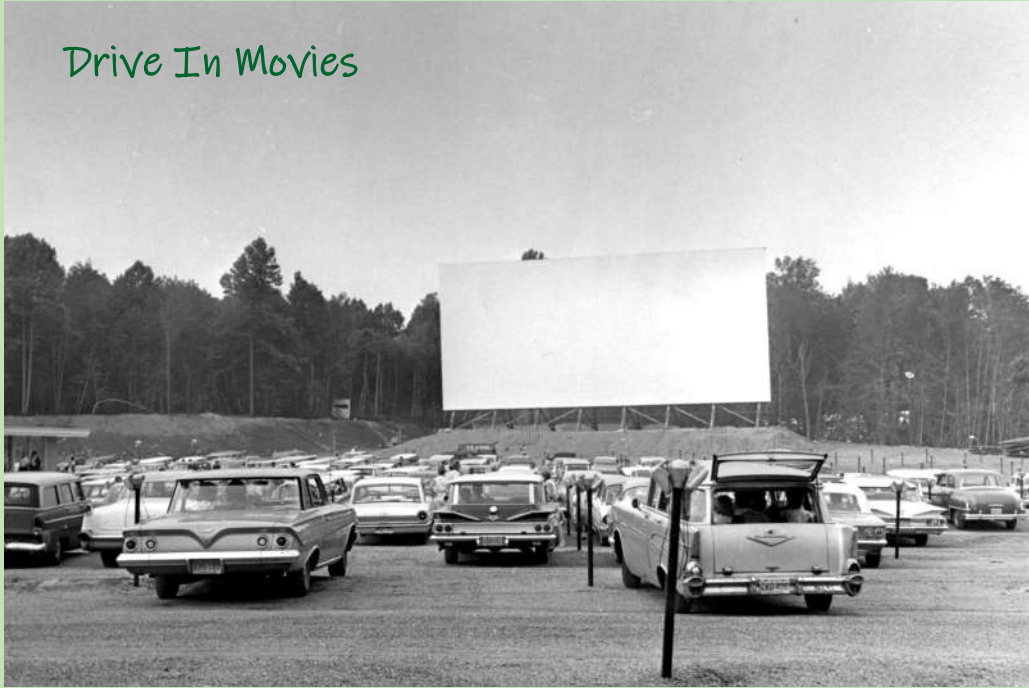
Double Dating



Makin' Out



Drive In Movies



Oops! No Birth Control







Hula Hoops



Stock Car Races Raced Stock Cars

America's Sports Car



Gas Station Giveaway Gimicks



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Milk Delivery

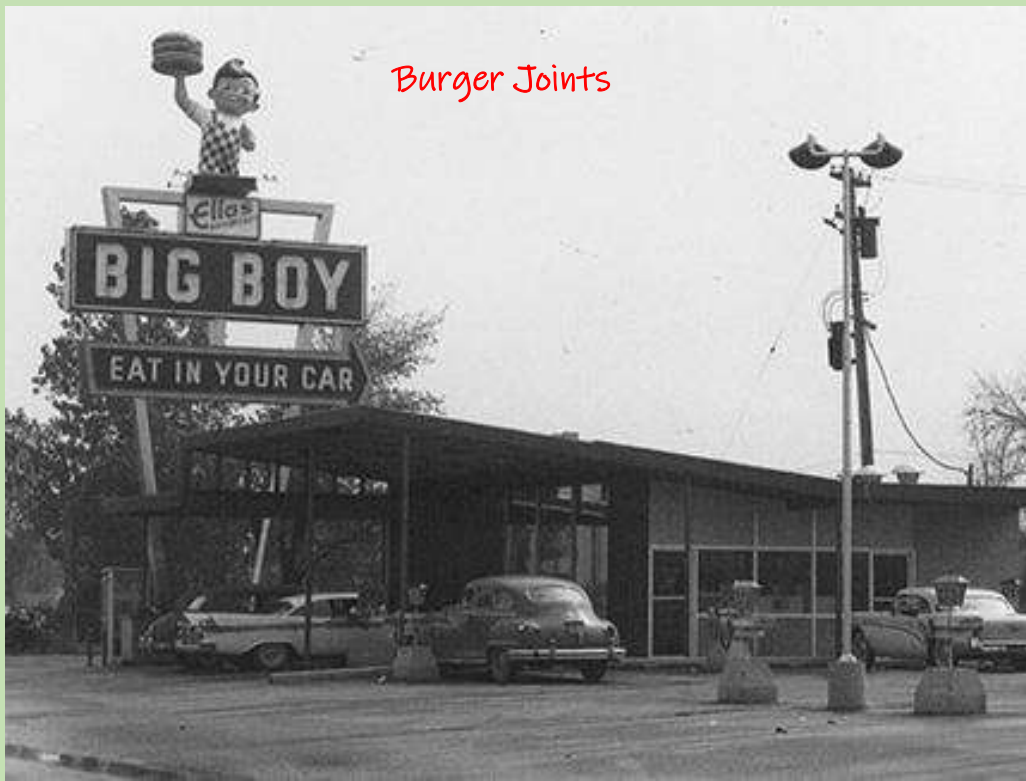


Ice Cream Trucks





Burger Joints



The Li'l Rascals



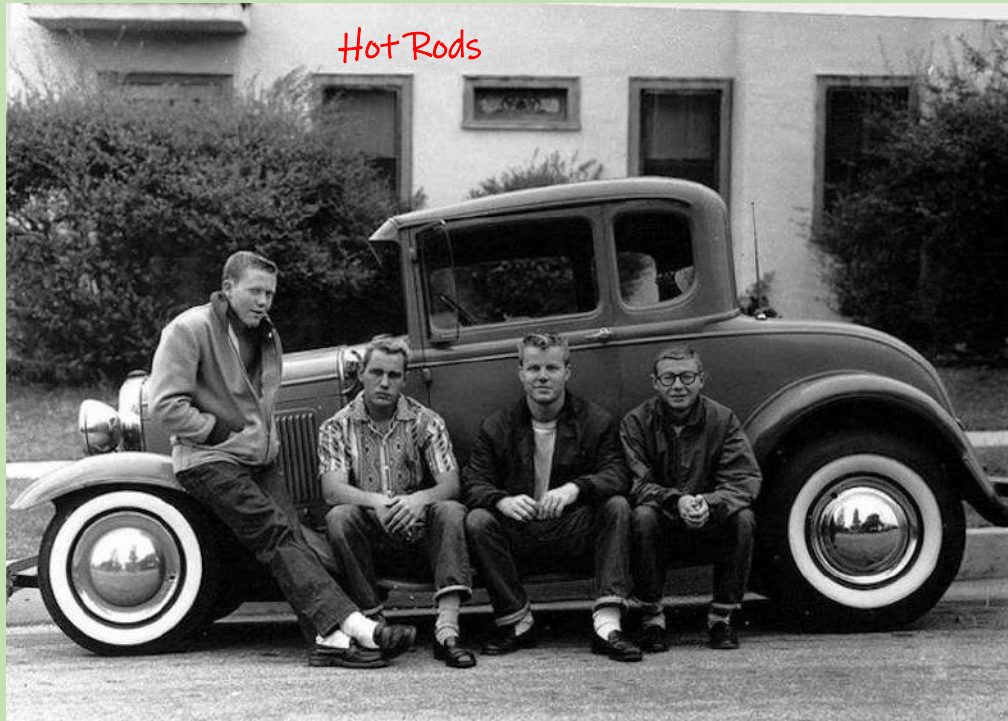
Family Picnics



Service Stations with SERVICE



Hot Rods



Cruisin' the Drag Saturday Night



New Car Showrooms



Travel by Bus





Glamorous Rail Travel



BEEP! BEEP!



I'M OUTTA HERE!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Jun 13, 2023, **MYRON WACHENDORF '59** <myronwach@aol.com> wrote:

What a precious service you have done all this time for us. Classmates of WHS. I hope you're proud of yourself because I and many others are certainly proud of you.

MYRON Lee



Myron Lee Wachendorf '59
WHS Senior Photo

On Jun 14, 2023, at 10:39 PM, **Joan Thornburg Moller '59** / <jmmoller1@gmail.com> wrote:

HEY JACK.....THIS IS **JOAN THORNBURG '59** MOLLER FROM WHS CLASS OF 1959.....JUST A QUICK NOTE TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH MY SPOUSE (**DENNY '59**) AND I APPRECIATE YOUR YOUR NOTES RE DEATHS IN OUR CLASS. YOUR LAST GROUP OF DEATHS FOR SEVERAL YEARS WAS QUITE THE INFORMATION....

AS YOU KNOW OUR OWN LIVES TEND TO BECOME QUITE PERSONAL THROUGH THE YEARS SO....NOW WE HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO WONDER WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR CLASSMATES..... THANKS SO MUCH FOR SHARING ALL THIS INFORMATION!! AND KNOW THAT LOTS OF OTHER CLASSMATES ALSO APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO....KEEP IT UP!!!! GREAT JOB!!!!

Joan moller '59
jmmoller1@gmail.com



Joan Thornburg '59
WHS Senior Photo



Dennis Moller '59
WHS Senior Photo

AFTER READING THIS EDITION OF THE O&B I AM SURE IT IS OBVIOUS TO YOU THAT I NEED MORE STORIES FROM MY READERS. PLEASE SEND SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR CLASSMATES! THEY WILL ENJOY AND APPRECIATE IT AND I WILL GET MORE SLEEP. PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE PHOTOS. JACK

We were all definitely cool in the '50s.

Hope you are still staying cool in July of '23!

Two days ago it was 117 degrees here in Las Vegas but it is only 109 here today. Poor Phoenix is still at 117!