

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

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Editor's Note: PLEASE READ: On ALL O&B publications containing MORE THAN ONE PAGE YOU MAY NEED TO EITHER DOUBLE CLICK ON THE FIRST PAGE, OR DOWNLOAD THE EMAIL IN ORDER TO OPEN AND VIEW ALL ADDITIONAL PAGES. Jack

**ONE NEW PATRON
WELCOME & THANK YOU!**



**John Hisel '57
WHS Senior Photo**

	PATRON	DATE	AMOUNT OF GIFT	INCREASES or DONATION IN THE NAME OF, OR, IN MEMORY OF:
1	Dr. Dale '56 & Camille Larson '61 Peterson Wenatchee, WA	Dec. 27 2019	\$1,000.00	Dec.28, 2020 Dale '56 & Camille '61 donated an additional \$1,000 making their total PATRON contribution \$2,000.. Thank you Dale & Cammy!
2	Terry Bradley '57, Tillamook, Or.	Feb. 2, 2020	\$100.00	Siblings: Linda Bradley Benson '54, deceased, Nita Bradley Bale '49, Olive Bradley Beckett '48 deceased and Bill Bradley '46 deceased
3	Patricia Jorgensen Palagi '56 Seattle, WA	Feb. 3, 2020	\$50.00	
4	Jim '51 and Myrna Irwin '53 Wylie Prospect Heights, IL	March 6, 2020	\$250.00	
5	Patti "Trish" Wilder Swanhorst '59 Sioux Falls, SD	March 10, 2020	\$100.00	
6	Stuart VanMeveren '58 Sun City, AZ	Mar. 11, 2020	\$108.00	On Sept. 18, 2020 Stuart increased his Patron Donation. Thanks Stuart!
7	Jim A Carlson '58 Sioux Falls, SD	March 12, 2020	\$58.00	On July 2, 2020 Jim increased his Patron Donation. Thanks Jim!
8	Kipp Koester '55 Mequon, WI	March 12, 2020	\$100.00	
9	Royce Adams '58 Sioux Falls, SD	March 12, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	On April 25, 2020 Royce increased his Parton Donation. Thanks Royce!
10	Bob Berguin '53 Scottsdale, AZ	March 12, 2020	\$152.00	
11	Pete Hegg '57 Sioux Falls, SD	March 12, 2020	\$200.00	
12	Dr. Elliot Miller, '50 Topsham, ME	March 15, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
13	Gil Gjere '54 Viborg, SD	March 14, 2020	\$250.00	Siblings: Mary Gjere '58, Helen Gjere '56 deceased, Glenn Gjere '56 deceased.
14	Daryl '55 & Lois Bjerk '58 Fritz Mesa, AZ	March 15, 2020	\$100.00	
15	Marcia Blumberg Oleisky '57 Minneapolis, MN	April 6, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
16	James Eastman '59 Placentia, CA	April 6, 2020	\$100.00	
17	Jane "JJ" Anderson Johnson '53 Los Angeles, CA	April 10, 2020	\$100.00	
18	Don Brown '53 Santa Barbara, CA	April 10, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
19	Jerry Savold '56 Edwards, CO	April 11, 2020	\$100.00	Brother, Mike Savold '59 Deceased
20	Chuck Erickson '50 Overland Park, KS	April 13, 2020	\$200.00	
21	Dr. Jim Brown '56 E. Wenatchee, WA	April 11, 2020	\$100.00	Nov. 21, 2020 Dr. Jim Brown donated an additional \$100.00 making their total PATRON contribution \$200.00. Thank you Jim!
22	Darold Gieser '55 Michigan City, IN	April 12, 2020	\$155.00	
23	Barbara Taylor Sampson '62 Sioux Falls, SD	April 13, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
24	Judy Stevens '61 Arlington, TX	April 15, 2020	\$50.00	
25	Ken Eisenbraun '58 Bloomfield, Hills, MI	April 14, 2020	\$158.00	Dec.14, 2020 Ken Eisenbraun '58 donated an additional \$158.00 making his total PATRON contribution \$316.00. Thank you Ken.

	PATRON	DATE	AMOUNT OF GIFT	INCREASES or DONATION IN THE NAME OF, OR, IN MEMORY OF:
26	Mary Taylor Herrick '56 Cleveland, OH	April 15, 2020	\$500.00	
27	Roger '55 & Vonda Fritz '56 Peterson Sioux Falls, SD	April 15, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
28	Dr. Michael '56 & Carla Thaelke '56 Gibson Reno, NV	April 18, 2020	\$50.00	Nov. 21, 2020 Mike and Carla donated an additional \$100.00 making their total PATRON contribution \$150.00.
29	Roger '55 & Permella Bedford '56 Kielman Peoria, AZ	April 20, 2020	\$100.00	
30	Merlyn "Chris" Christensen '54 Hudson, NH	April 21, 2020	\$100.00	
31	Dick Jensen '55 Naperville, IL	April 22, 2020	\$100.00	
32	Betty Holmoe Pfeifle '52 Sioux Falls, SD	April 20, 2020	\$100.00	
33	Walt Leyse '50 Sioux Falls, SD	April 20, 2020	\$100.00	
34	Tom '55 & Marilyn Rush '56 Simmons Gold Canyon, AZ	April 30, 2020	\$50.00	
35	Terry Robinson '57 Peoria, AZ	April 30, 2020	\$57.00	
36	Bob '55 & Peg Ogle '55 Berdahl Portland, OR	May 1, 2020	\$100.00	
37	Sharon Frank Johnson '53 Sioux Falls, SD	May 8, 2020	\$50.00	
38	Gene Bushnell '56 Rapid City, SD	May 8, 2020	\$100.00	
39	Terry Feay '56	May 12, 2020	\$60.00	
40	Dennis York '55 Rapid City, SD	May 12, 2020	\$100.00	
41	WHS Class of '54	May 14, 2020	\$300.00	
42	Dick Sweetman '54 Sioux Falls, SD	May 15, 2020	\$100.00	
43	Warner '54 & Karen Gurley '54 Brown Scottsdale, AZ	May 20, 2020	\$100.00	
44	Ronald Larson '59 Sioux Falls, SD	May 23, 2020	\$100.00	
45	Dr. Glenn Gravelle '58 Centennial, CO	May 26, 2020	\$158.00	
46	Dave '56 & Barbara Lease '55 Quigley Green Valley, AZ	May 13, 2020	\$100.00	
47	Wayne Gustafson '54 Rapid City, SD & Surprise, AZ	May 29, 2020	\$250.00	
48	Sherrill Wilcox Pohl '52 Amarillo, TX	June 9, 2020	\$25.00	
49	Marlene Rance '61 Sioux Falls, SD	June 11, 2020	\$100.00	
50	Lloyd '56 & Bernita Hagen '59 Greiner Loveland, CO	June 12, 2020	\$115.00	

	PATRON	DATE		INCREASES or DONATION IN THE NAME OF , OR IN MEMORY OF:
51	Harold Rudisill '56 Palm Springs, CA	June 15, 2020	\$100.00	On January 27, 2021 Rudy donated an additional \$100.00 making his total PATRON contribution \$200.00
52	Patricia O'Rielly Miller '59 Chicago, IL	June 12, 2020	\$500.00	
53	Dennis Luce '54 Rapid City, SD	June 16, 2020	\$100.00	
54	Jody Syverson Vanderploeg '54 Okoboji, IA	June 18, 2020	\$100.00	
55	Vincent Keenan '59 Sioux Falls, SD	June 18, 2020	\$100.00	
56	Barbara James Bymes '57 Overland Park, KS	June 30, 2020	\$100.00	
57	Hal Erickson '54 Surprise, AZ	July 1, 2020	\$100.00	
58	Dick Wold '53 Sioux Falls, SD	July 1, 2020	\$100.00	
59	Doug Olson '56 Avon, Ohio	July 2, 2020	\$100.00	On March 6., 2021 Doug donated an additional \$100.00 making his total PATRON contribution \$200.00
60	Roger Teigen '56 Norman, OK	July 7, 2020	\$250.00	
61	Tom '58 & Linda McCahren '59 Graham Sioux Falls, SD	July 12, 2020	\$200.00	
62	Dixie Utesch Tilden '58 Montevideo, MN	July 15, 2020	\$200.00	
63	Dean Mann '50 Sioux Falls, SD	July 20, 2020	\$50.00	
64	Andy Weber '52 Houston, TX	July 24, 2020	\$100.00	Sister, Mildred "Millie" Weber Edwards '53 - Deceased
65	Romain Oliver Nelsen '53 Davis, CA	July 24, 2929	\$100.00	
66	Anonymous Patron Sioux Falls, SD	July 30, 2020	\$100.00	
67	Mary Larson Montoya '59 Sioux Falls, SD	August 1, 2020	\$100.00 ++	April 8,2021 Mary increased her Patron contribution significantly. Amount of increase private.
68	Wally Boersma '54 Marshall, TX	August 1, 2020	\$50.00	
69	John Hedland '58 Anchorage, AK	August 4, 2020	\$100.00	
70	Gary '57 & Kathy Rea '58 Conradi Sioux Falls, SD	August 4, 2020	200.00	
71	Mavis Larson Carl '55 Sioux Falls, SD	August 5, 2020	\$120.00	Husband, Ronald Carl '54, deceased; Sister, Shirley Larson Wermers '54; Brothers, Dale Larson '58; & Lyle Larson '61; Dear friend, Mary Lou Jewett '55 deceased.
72	Lorraine Fremming Forslin '54 Bloomington, MN?	August 8, 2020	\$100.00	
73	Deane Grav '58 Sun Lakes, AZ	August 20, 2020	\$25.00	
74	Bob Zimmerman '54 deceased & Connie Hammitt '54 Zimmerman, Mesa, AZ	August 20, 2020	\$100.00	Donated in memory of my dear friend Bob Zimmerman '54, by Jack Phillips '54.
75	Kent Morstad '54 deceased & Judy Morstad. Sioux Falls, SD	August 20, 2020	\$100.00	Donated in memory of my dear friend Kent Morstad '54, by Jack Phillips '54

PATRON	DATE	AMOUNT OF GIFT	INCREASES or DONATION IN THE NAME OF, OR IN MEMORY OF:
76 Robert Miller '57 Sun City West, AZ	August 26, 2020	\$100.00	
77 Joe Floyd '54 Sioux Falls, SD	August 31, 2020	\$50.00	
78 Debra Phillips Las Vegas, NV	Sept. 7, 2020	\$100.00	Donated by Jack Phillips '54, in appreciation of the ever increasing time my wife Debra spends working on the WHS O&B.
79 Sharon Johnson '54 Frank & Bill Frank '52 Wayzata, MN	Sept. 7 2020	\$100.00	Our dear friend, Arthur "Bud" Olson '54 deceased.
80 Gary Robertson '58 Dove Canyon, CA	Sept. 11, 2020	\$102.50	
81 Jane Shingledecker Miller '54 Dillon Beach, CA	Sept. 26, 2020	\$5,000.00	
82 Mike '58 & Bunny Aikens Howes '58 Sioux Falls, SD	Oct. 12, 2020	\$327.00	Also for brothers, Tom Howes '53 and Dick Howes '51 deceased, and their respective wives, Joyce McFarland Howes '54 and Donna Kranz Howes '53. \$327.00 for the total number of their WHS class years.
83 Lee Lane '58 Manchester, MO	Oct 19, 2020	\$300.00	In memory of Lee's deceased sisters, Jane Lane '55 and Janet Lane '56, and Lee's deceased friend, Dick O'Connor '58.
84 Col. (Dr.) Joyce Wait Teters '57 Twentynine Palms, CA	Nov. 4, 2020	\$100.00	
85 Dr. Michael '56 & Carla Thoeke '56 Gibson Reno, NV	Nov. 21, 2020	\$50 + \$100 = \$150.00 Current	Original contribution, PATRON #28, was \$50 on page #2 dated 4-18-20
86 Dr. Jim Brown '56 E. Wenatchee, WA	Nov. 21, 2020	\$100 + \$100 = \$200.00 Current	Original contribution, PATRON #21, was \$100 on page #1 dated 4-11-20
87 Ken Eisenbraun '58 Bloomfield Hills, MI	Dec. 14, 2020	\$158.00 + \$158.00= \$316.00 Current	Original contribution, PATRON #25, was \$158 on page #1 dated 4-14-20
88 Jane Winnett '54 Dallas, TX	Dec. 14, 2020	\$100.00	
89 Dr. Dale '56 & Camille Larson Peterson '61 Wenatchee, WA	Dec. 28, 2020	\$1,000.00	Original contribution, PATRON #1, was \$1,000 on page #1 dated 12-27-19
90 LaDell Swiden '57 Madison, SD	Dec. 30, 2020	\$100.00	
91 Georgia Severson Johnson '56 Sioux Falls, SD	Dec. 30, 2020	\$75.00	
92 Sam '52 & Jenny Boersma Pfeifer '52 Omaha, NE	Jan. 4, 2021	\$100.00	
93 Jim Redfield '50 San Diego, CA & sister, Jean Redfield Kracht '54 Sioux Falls, Sd.	Jan. 8, 2021	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
94 Anita Robinson Bierman '56 Sioux Falls, SD	Jan. 15, 2021	\$100.00	
95 Rudi Rudisill '56 Palm Springs, CA	Jan. 27, 2021	\$100 + \$100 = \$200.00 Current	Original contribution, PATRON #51, was \$100 on page #3 dated 6-15-20
96 Wanda Shelp Chinnery '55 Lees Summit, MO	March 4, 2021	\$100.00	
97 Douglas Olson '56 Avon, OH	March 6, 2021	\$100 + \$100 = \$200.00 Current	Original contribution, PATRON #59, was \$100 on page #3 dated 7-2-20
98 Mary Larson Montoya '59 Sioux Falls, SD	April 8, 2021	2nd amount private	On August 1, 2020 donated \$100. 2nd donation amount private.
99 John Hisel '57 Aberdeen, SD	May 4, 2021	\$100.00	



**John Hisel '57
WHS Senior Photo**

Patron John Hisel '57

BIOGRAPHICAL UPDATE FOR JOHN HISEL...CLASS OF 1957.....MAY 2021

John retired from the United Methodist Church ministry 10 years ago but has kept active in ministry as a part time pastor and Sunday pulpit supply. At 81 he continues to enjoy pretty good health and loves to travel having taken several cruises and visiting family in California

John has his own condo in Aberdeen, SD and enjoys summer gardening with his 11 year old grandson who lives in the city. His daughter Tiffany and husband Tim work in Aberdeen. They are all very much into hockey as Remington plays on a local team plus dedicated fans of the Aberdeen Wings Hockey team.

John bought a 1950 Pontiac Chieftain when the family lived in Sioux Falls over 40 years ago and still tinkers with it and loves driving it around town where its bright yellow color draws lots of attention.

His late wife Wanda Coffield Hisel (1957) passed away 14 years ago last September while they lived in Webster, SD where John was serving a UMC. He keeps her memory very alive and some years ago set up a scholarship in her name at Northern State University where she had taught in the dept. of education for several years.

He also has one son Tim who along with his wife Kathy and daughter Ella live in Sacramento, California.

John



**Wanda Coffield '57
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased**

**right photo:
John Hisel '57
Vacationing in
Cancun,
Mexico
March, 2021**





Royce Adams '58
WHS Senior Photo

On May 5, 2021, **Royce Adams '58** <Litljump@aol.com> wrote:

Not everything you see is what you think you see -----

Many years ago, about 2005, I worked in the Sioux Falls School District as a Behavior Specialist. My job was to maintain a level of respect and good behavior among the kids at Lowell Elementary School. The job was an enjoyable one and I actually had more fun than a person should have at one's work.

One late afternoon the frustrated music teacher came to my office and she was very upset. She told me that her fifth grade music class kids were unruly and disrespectful.

She said she just could not get control of the class and could I please help her to do so.

I told her I would be in her classroom the next morning.

The next day I appeared in the "corner" of the class room and all the kids came in and took their places on the small "stage" of tiers. I was noticed of course and rather suspiciously looked over by the kids.

Class began and I held a clip board up enough so all could see it. As the class progressed I kept writing on my clip board and I saw that I definitely was being noticed by the students. The class went very smoothly and I walked out before it was over.

The next day the music teacher came to my office, after she had her fifth grade music period, and told me that all went great. The kids listened and participated nicely and she thanked me for my assistance. Then she asked "Just what were you writing down on the clipboard, student names and their behavior, or what?"

I told her that through the class period, using the clip board, I was solving the Argus Leader crossword puzzle.

Not everything you see is what you think you see.

Royce Adams '58

Secrets to a long happy marriage



A old woman was sipping on a glass of wine, while sitting on the patio with her husband, and she says, "I love you so much, I don't know how I could ever live without you"... Her husband asks, "Is that you, or the wine talking?"... She replies, "It's me... talking to the wine."



Bob Solem '53
Bridgewater, SD
Señor Photo

On May 5, 2021, at 10:12 PM, **Robert J Solem '53**
<skyking.rjs@gmail.com> wrote:

Good evening, Jack,

While visiting by phone today with longtime friend and **1953 WHS grad, Joan Perrenoud**, I mentioned how much I enjoy reading your O & B issues.

She, too would like to get the O & B.

I hope you able and willing to add Joan to your O & B mailing list

RE the recent O & B

The raccoon **Bill Simpson '53** is holding in the photo **Loren Little '59** sent you was known as "Zip" to the Camp Tepeetonka.staff. He had been found abandoned early in the camping season, possibly during the annual Zip Feeds customer appreciation camp (hence his name), throughout that summer he became increasingly more friendly with staff members. The last "camp" each summer was the "work camp" when a few staff would stay behind to close the camp and make it ready winter. At the end of our work day we would wade into the swimming area to clean up and cool down. On one such occasion we were surprised to see "Zip" swimming out to join us. The last time I saw him, he was standing at the end of the dock and crying after us as we left the island for the mainland and home. (In those days Camp Tepeetonka was on an island in Big Stone Lake) I was told that Zip had later been given to the Sioux Falls zoo.

Thank you again, Jack, for your O & B issues which bring to mind such good memories from the past!

With best wishes,

Bob Solem '53 Bridgewater High School



Bill Simpson '53
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased



Joan Perrenoud '53
WHS Senior Photo



Loren Little '59
WHS Senior Photo



Jeff Herbert '74
WHS Senior Photo

On May 10, 2021, **Jeffrey Herbert '74**
<herbertj@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Dear Jack—

Please add Jeff Tobin, WHS teacher and new boys head basketball coach (his feet are big enough to fit the shoes—he is an outstanding young man). Jeff is very interested in WHS History---and there is no better venue than your **ORANGE AND BLACK** – the way of the 1950's is

so memorable----

Thanks Jack----and enjoy, **Jeff Herbert '74**

See next page for more on Jeff Tobin.



Jeff Tobin
WHS New Basketball
Coach

Jeff Tobin, New WHS Men's Basketball Coach.

Jeff Tobin, who has spent time as an assistant coach with both of the Warrior basketball teams, has been tabbed to replace Craig Nelson as boys head basketball coach.

Tobin, a Langford High and Northern State alum, was an assistant coach with the WHS girls basketball team last season, helping the Warriors to their first Class AA state championship since 2015. He is currently in his seventh year at Washington High.

"Jeff is an outstanding young coach," Washington girls basketball coach Jamie Parish said. "He has been a huge part of the success that we've had the last few years. I'm sad to see him move on, but could not be more excited for this opportunity that he has in front of him. He's going to do awesome things for Warrior basketball."



Walt Leyse '50
WHS Senior Photo

Thanks to Walt Leyse '50 waltleyse@hotmail.com

for sharing the 18 page dossier he wrote for his descendants covering his growing up years in Sioux Falls and attending WHS. I think this is such a thoughtful and valuable gift for all of us to leave to our children, grandchildren, etc..

I would have appreciated and valued it so much if my grandparents would have left more detailed stories on their early lives. Once a person dies so much history and valuable accounts of their life sadly dies with them. I would give anything to know more about my Grandfather Browning riding a bicycle in the great Oklahoma Indiana Territory Land Rush of 1889 to claim land for the first of his 16 banks throughout the State of Oklahoma. And to know more about my Grandpa Phillips being elected the first Sheriff of Coal County Okla. when Oklahoma became a state in 1907.

I hope Walt's thoughtfulness to preserve a record of his early life for his descendants will motivate many of you to do the same for yours. **AND then of course share your memoirs with the O&B.**

Of course 18 pages was considerably more than the O&B can handle, so I have hand picked the paragraphs I thought would be the most interesting to the O&B readers. Jack

FOR MY KIDS OR GROWING UP IN SIOUX FALLS

FORWARD

This whole thing was written for my kids and grandkids. It covers a period from 1932 (the days of the Great depression) to 1956. I stopped there because you began to arrive and to establish your own memories. Perhaps you may even write about those memories for your generation. Most of the material is correct but in some instances I have taken poetic license of how things probably happened because my memory is hazy. You may also notice the many uses of the pronouns I and me. The reason for this is that it was written by me and is mostly about me. There may be some grammatical errors or misspelled words. If you notice any of these just correct your copy and don't bother the rest of us. It has not been copyrighted so that you readers can quote any of the scintillating copy without my permission. Enjoy! Walt Leyse



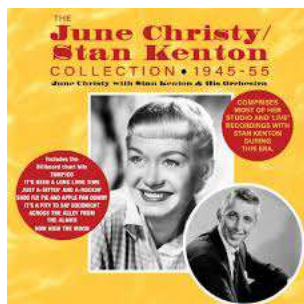
Fibber McGee & Molly

It was 1940 and the war in Europe was raging with the German forces marching on 2 fronts. After the U.S. entered the war in 1941, things really changed even for us grade school kids. Many things were rationed (such as butter, sugar, meat, rubber tires, gasoline, shoes, flour, etc.) and no new civilian passenger cars or trucks were manufactured. At school, we bought 10 cent defense stamps, pasted them in a book and traded them for a \$25.00 war bond when they reached \$18.75. Patriotism was at its finest and nearly everyone did their best to help in the war effort.

Radio broadcast was really in its hay day in those years. We regularly listened to Jack Benny, George Burns & Gracie Allen, The Great Gildersleeve, Fibber McGee and Molly, and Bob Hope. Sunday afternoons offered long hair music all day so I didn't often hang around for that. The big thing on radio however was Jack Armstrong the All American boy. He came on about 5 every week day afternoon. No matter what was happening outside, we all raced into our living rooms to listen to his adventures. His sponsor was the All American breakfast, Wheaties. We took advantage of special offers such as three boxtops and a dime could buy you a special decoder ring. Actually, with those German spies all around a guy needed to decode stuff.

After the start of World War II, the government purchased a large plot of land in the north part of town. They constructed many buildings for an Army Training school for radio operators of bomber crews. Besides class room type buildings they erected barracks, utility buildings, Officer and NCO clubs, Post exchanges (PXs), commissaries and mobile transportation garages. They also built recreational areas such as tennis courts and a swimming pool. During peak periods, there were about 30,000 G. I. s on the base. When the war ended, the city took the land back and proceeded to dismantle it. Some buildings were destroyed, some moved into the city (Augustana moved a class room onto it's campus, the Officers Club became the pro shop for the nearby Elmwood golf course, etc.). Also, because there were no building materials available during that period, housing for families had become critical. Many of the barracks buildings were converted to family housing. They were ill fitted for this purpose. Cold in winter with only a stove in the middle for heat and hot in the summer because there was no insulation. Bathrooms and showers were in separate buildings. The city did however retain the swimming pool and it has been an asset to the people on the north side ever since.

As an aside to the air base (the part that affected me) was that because Aunt Helen was a dependent of an active serviceman she was entitled to the use of the facilities there. She and Gramma would make occasional trips to the commissary or PX and buy things that we could not get in the local stores. The thing I enjoyed most was the box of Mars candy bars (24 in a box). Since there was no one home when I got home from school and because I knew where they were stored I felt like a real lucky kid.



End of War In Europe Celebrated In Sioux Falls “Wildest Night of My Life” Stan Kenton



Don Modica '57
WHS Senior Photo

While on the subject of the air base, the end of the war in Europe caused a huge celebration in SF. We were let out of school early so Don and I decided to ride our bikes downtown to see what was going on. We discovered that all the classes for airmen were cancelled and many of them also came downtown to celebrate. You can imagine how they felt knowing they would not be in harm's way but would get to go home. We found our way to the roof of the Palace of Sweets (now known as Minervas) to watch the fun. Somehow a car was overturned and appeared to be leaking gas. Someone called the fire dept. Bad idea. When they arrived the Army took over the fire hose and delighted in dousing everything and everybody. I happened to notice my Dad walking from his office to the bank. As I watched, a GI walked up to him and with a swift movement cut off his tie. He was quite surprised but enjoyed the excitement of the moment.

I'm not sure if we went home for supper or just stayed but we did hear that Stan Kenton and his orchestra were playing at the Arkota that evening. Being only 12 we knew they wouldn't let us in so we went around to the back and sneaked in when the band arrived. The music was loud and the place looked like a disaster area. It was wall to wall hard drinking military. Several years later the band returned for a concert gig. During a break I visited with Stan and asked him if he remembered his last trip to SF. He looked at me and without a pause he said "Son, that was the wildest night of my life!"

It was 1946. I was 13 and the war was over. My Dad passed away from a heart attack at the age of 58.

My Mom really enjoyed listening to a morning radio broadcast from Chicago called The Breakfast Club. The emcee was a man named Don McNeill. So when we arrived we arrived at our hotel we were able to get tickets to attend the show. I need to digress here because of a 4th of July event. Helen and her soon to be husband were parked in front of our house after dark on the 4th. I thought it would be very funny if I lit a firecracker and rolled it under the car. The guy in the Police car driving by didn't agree and caught me racing through our back yard. He lectured me and gave me a warning ticket. Back to Chicago. As we entered the studio for the broadcast, we were given a piece of paper and asked us to write down where we were from and an interesting happening in our life. I didn't tell my companions but I wrote that I was supposed to be in jail that day. During the live broadcast, Don McNeill gave me the mic and asked me to explain. He finished with me by saying that "to a teen being here is probably just like being in Jail."



During my senior year I discovered that a person doesn't have to play ball to be involved. Especially for a skinny 5'8 guy who wore glasses in a school of 2400 students. Mr. Chaussee, the faculty advisor for the Warrior (the school year book) asked me to be the sports editor. It was fun being on the scene of all the contests and to direct my assigned photographer as to what pictures would look good in print. Although nobody called me to tell me what a great job I had done I was quite pleased with my efforts.

Boys State. Right at the end of my Junior year about 20 guys jumped on a bus to Aberdeen and to Northern State University. We lived in dorms and met guys from virtually every school in SD. We learned about all phases of government and elected mayors, members of the state legislature, Governor, Congressional delegates and even a President. It was a great experience and I remember a great deal of what we learned. I don't remember, however, what office I held. I probably won in a close race for deputy dog catcher.

That same summer I was allowed to drive the family car by myself. (Even at night). One particular evening I was heading east on 10th street to meet a girl friend who was car hopping at Cutler's Drive in. As I passed the deaf school I was aware of a flashing light coming up behind me. You're right, I was had. By a motor cycle cop. He didn't ask for my license (right again, SD didn't have drivers licenses then) but he did cite me for breaking the listed speed limit. I asked him what I was to do and he suggested rather brutally that I show up at police headquarters the next Saturday. Somehow I totally forgot to tell my Mom about it. Anyway, Saturday morning I showed up at the station. There was a very tough looking Sgt. Behind the counter who asked me what I wanted. I thought about telling him I didn't want to be here but I just showed him the ticket. He said 3rd door on the left down the hall. I looked into the 3rd door on the left and saw Emmett Robertson the coach of the FOP boys baseball team. He said "Hi Walt, come on in. He knew me because I had tried out for his team and was about the last to be cut. But that's a story for another time. We talked baseball for several minutes and he finally said what brings you here? I showed him the ticket, he looked at it and as he tore it up he asked "you won't do that again will you? Needless to say, I walked out of the police station with a huge grin on my face.

Back in those days while the country was still recovering from the Great Depression, most kids had jobs in the summer. I had an Argus carrier route for about 2 years when I was 12. My route was 37 C and I got my papers at 26th and Phillips. It included Phillips, 1st Ave, 2nd Ave, (across from McKennan Park) 26th St, and the area in between. Back then it was an afternoon edition. I remember that most of the time it was really tough to break away from a ball game to deliver papers. On Sunday mornings I had to ride my bike downtown to the newspaper office to pick up my papers. Not too easy as the Sunday edition usually had the most pages. After a couple of months I guess I proved my reliability and they began to bring mine out to me on 26th St.

During the summers when I was 14 & 15 I had a job at the Terrace Park swimming pool concession stand. Mrs. Johnson, who had the concession contract knew my Mom. You know the old saying "It's not what you know, etc.". Anyway, it was me and several of those pretty Irish colleens from Cathedral HS. It was a fun job. Adding to that was the fact that Mrs. Johnson would hand me the keys to her car to run for additional inventory. (you see, I wasn't really old enough to drive in SF so it added to my resume with my fellow workers). It was an old 4 on the floor Ford and fun to drive.

Since I realized that HS athletics were beyond my capabilities, it seemed that I should get an after school job. When I mentioned this to Mom she suggested (here we go again) that I check with the Horwitzs. I did. Mr. Horwitz conceded that it might be nice to have an extra hand in the late afternoon. (I kinda suspected that he also thought it nice to help the widow next door). Anyway, I got paid for sweeping the floor, putting all the jewelry in the vault at closing time and washing the display windows at the front of the store. I particularly liked this part of the job because I could be out on Phillips Avenue where the coeds could see that I was gainfully employed. I heard it mentioned by one of the clerks that we probably had the most often washed windows in town.

When sweet 16 rolled around I decided I needed a better paying job. This time I went to see a longtime friend of the family (yes, it's not what you know, etc.) His name was Ole Mickelson and he owned the Crescent Creamery. He told me he could use summer help in the fudgesickle, popsickle department and he hired me on the spot. The building was at the bottom of the hill on north Main Avenue. It was built in the early 1900s as the Sioux Falls Brewery. It was 4 stories high and when exploring during a break one day I found piles of hops on the top floor. Anyway, I worked with a couple of older ladies (probably in their 40s). The demand for the product was huge and we produced hundreds of sickles and ice cream bars each day. A few years later Foremost Dairy bought and maintained the Company.

I also worked at the dairy the summer after we were married. An unforgettable event occurred. The foreman came to me and asked if I would drive one of the refrigerated trucks to the store in Canton. The truck was all loaded with ice cream and ready. So I jumped in and headed south on Minnesota Avenue. I noticed that the fuel gauge registered empty. I couldn't buy gas because my billfold was in my locker at the plant. I decided it best to turn around and head back. As I made a U turn south of town a car came over the hill and sideswiped me. I got out of the truck and saw the car upside down in the ditch. I raced over to the car and watched 4 people climb out of the car without a scratch but very upset. The Lincoln County Sheriff came out and cited me for careless driving. I went to court and was fined \$75. I never heard another word about the accident but for many years I thought how fortunate I was that no one was hurt or I could have been accused of vehicular homicide and spent many years at hard time.

Then came high school. Washington High school was like a whole new world. Especially when I came in as a freshman in January. The upper class folks would usually haze the newbys by sending them to Phillips Ave to beg for pennies. However we missed that because it was January in SD and you know what that means to any outdoor activities. The school experience was like jumping on a moving train. The other students had been in classes since fall and the extra curriculums were up and running. I did manage to join a Hi Y group and got to meet a fun group of other freshmen. (about 25 of us) The club was sponsored by the YMCA. We met for lunch once a week in a club room at the Y. (as you may know was just across the street from WHS) The club stayed together all through high school and even had several reunions after graduation. Because our adult advisor was a biology teacher, he invited us to lunch in the lab on those days we didn't meet at the Y. (most of us were brown baggers so we passed on the melee in the school cafeteria). We had intermural sports against other Hi-Ys and sponsored some extracurricular events. In our Junior year we were in charge of the concessions at the Varsity basketball games and with our earnings we bought flashy letter jackets. We were the first group to become jacket guys and it caused quite a stir among the student body the first time we showed up for classes wearing them. Not sure what the faculty/administration thought!

During the war years the Red Cross, several churches and the Masons hosted canteens for the military folk stationed in SF. There was juke box music, cokes, dancing and fun and were well attended. After the peace returned, the Y set up an every Saturday night Teen Canteen. Those attending could use the facilities such as the swimming pool, the bowling alleys, the music and dancing to juke boxes, or just sipping on a Coke and chatting. It was kind of the place to be seen on Saturday night.

Formal dances were also in vogue during those days. They were generally held at the Arkota Ballroom (now the Shrine building on Phillips Ave). The girls were beautifully dressed in long formals and the guys all wore sport jackets and ties. We actually had dance cards. Each guy would check with his buddies and trade dances. We always saved the first and last of the 12 dances to dance with our date. (If your date was pretty special, you didn't trade as many). There was the Homecoming dance. The Christmas formal, The Letterman's dance. (sponsored by the Jocks) The Sweetheart Dance (near Valentines Day, The Spinster Dance, (where the gals did the asking). The Spring Formal (sponsored by the Drama Club, and the Senior Prom. You will have to talk to a girl about how they managed all those formal dresses.

Orange Letter Day was homecoming. We elected the dignitaries and had a large parade downtown. The organizations would build floats and enter the competition. Most of my energy went to the Hi-Y float. Our senior year we got really ambitious and built a ferris wheel that rode on a flatbed truck. We managed a bit of midnight requisitioning for the lumber and engineered it to actually turn around. We built 3 passenger seats which caused great consternation. Which 3 girlfriends would ride? Powering the wheel was our next problem. We finally settled on having 2 guys hidden and laying on their backs turning the wheel by hand. It actually worked and we won the trophy for the most original float.



1. "Most Beautiful," Jorgenson Hi-Y wins first prize.



2. & 3. Attractive N.F.L. and Orchestra floats tie for second prize in "Most Beautiful" class.



3

My junior year Don and I decided to get into costume and walk in the parade. We found some really long shirts, made some jeans that went from our shoes to our knees, tied our knees together, put a little padding behind our calves, covered our heads with a full face mask and went walking. The next edition of the Orange and Black (student newspaper) had a picture and a cut line saying "who are these guys?"



"Every parade needs a clown (or two!) Don Modica and Walt Leyse saved the day!!



**Doris Benson Leyse '50
WHS Senior Photo
Deceased**

So long to high school. But before leaving, I should mention transportation. My senior class had 435 students so there were many occasions when rides were needed. Early on we mostly walked or caught a ride with someone who owned a Cushman motor scooter. Only one of the buds that was in our group had his own car during the senior year. Jerry had a 4 door 1940 Ford V-8. It held 5 or 6 guys and was often seen at a drive-in where cute and popular car-hops served the public. It was also great for double (or even triple) dating because you didn't have to beg for the family chariot. We did stupid things like stopping in the middle of the intersection of 10th and Phillips and all getting out, opening the hood and checking the problem. We also carried a couple of dunce caps to put at each corner of the Ford.

All of a sudden school days were over and the real world appeared. It was 1954. I graduated on June 6th and was married on June 12th. I received my diploma, my army commission as a 2nd lieutenant and Orders to report NLT to Ft Sam Houston in San Antonio TX. On Sept.15. I do need to digress a bit here as your Mom played a very important role from here on. I got to know Doris Benson when she came to Longfellow from Mark Twain while in 3rd grade. As mentioned before she was from a different neighborhood and in a different class. While we were in high school she was friends of girls who dated some of my friends. We double dated some but never each other. After graduation I went off to college and she started a job to earn money for her college education. In those days, it was kind of a custom for the college freshmen to return home during Christmas break and attend the HS Christmas formal dance. Jack Hamilton asked Doris and I asked a senior girl named Mary Ann Davis to this dance. However, a few days before the dance Rudi and Don Buxton were having a little party type occasion and told me to get a date. Jack had a date with Judy so he suggested that I call Doris. We really enjoyed each others company and I decided I wanted to see more of this sweet lady. Neither one of us ever dated someone else after the formal. She came to USD that fall and after 3 semesters she decided my marriage proposal was serious and began wedding preparations. We were just 4 months short of our 55th anniversary when we lost her.

**End of Excerpts From Walt Leyse '50 Memoirs.
Thanks you Walt.**

What's the difference between a guitar and a fish?

You can tune a guitar but you can't tunafish.



**The funniest
thing I heard an
elder says, "My
generation had
Wonder Woman,
your generation
has to wonder if
it's a woman" 🤣**

