

# THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK NEWSLETTER

Issue #9-13 November 28, 2013

**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](mailto:jack@jackmphilips.com)



## Story from Don Brown '53

[don@chubrown.com](mailto:don@chubrown.com)

Don Brown '53  
WHS Sophomore Photo November 10, 2013

Dear Jack,

Sorry to be so slow about this, but the 5-12 issue of the O&B Newsletter jogged a lot of my memories. Gary Norbraten's ('54) story about his and Ron Arneson's ('55) spiffing up by washing their shoelaces gave me a good laugh. I didn't know Gary but did pal around with Ron and his older brother Leroy ('53), my classmate at Hawthorne. The story sounded exactly like something Ron might have done. He was a fun guy to know.

Catching my attention for different reasons was the lead story, about Harry Hoiland ('54) and the Wings of Heroes Gala. The story mentions the X-15 and the Apollo Program, both of which involved me, though in much smaller ways than people like Harry Hoiland.

My involvement was connected to why I dropped out of WHS in the middle of my senior year, the summer of '52.

Mr. Bubbers and others had encouraged me to go to college, so I thought I should earn tuition money over the summer. Needing something more than my Argus Leader carrier job, I applied at John Morrell. Nothing came of that. Glen Bethke ('53) and I did a few days of cement work for his uncle, but that was not a steady job. My elder brother suggested I come to California to apply for work at North American Aviation (NAA), where he worked and where, he said, I could make the grand sum of \$1.25 an hour. After I kissed my girlfriend goodbye at a party in Terrace Park, Merle Reppert ('53) and I caught a bus and headed west. Merle only wanted to visit custom-car shops, so he returned shortly to Sioux Falls.

I lied my age and landed a job at NAA. It began with a class that would train me to run a turret lathe. There was nothing special about the job but it paid even more than I expected. So that seemed OK.

Toward the end of the class the boss came to ask if I would be interested in a quite special job. I



Don Brown '53, now enjoying his retirement in Santa Barbara, CA

went for an interview and was impressed. It was in the Engineering Flight Test Instrumentation Lab.

The job required operating whatever machinery or other equipment was required to produce, modify, install, or maintain special instruments. Since I had taken shop classes at WHS, I had some familiarity with the machines required. The man interviewing me thought that a young person training on the job would probably

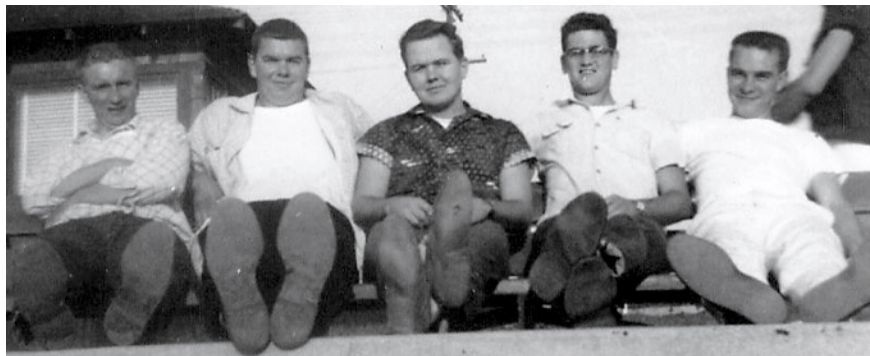
work out better than hiring more experienced men (all males at that time) who would typically be more specialized than was desirable.

I told the man that I was available for the summer only, which would not do.

When I came home in the evening to my brother's house he said I was making a big mistake. It was too good a job to pass up. I should just take it. It really did seem to me like a good job. And I didn't know what college was about anyway. So the next day I inquired if I could still be



**Peter (Dale) Page '54, Jim McAlear '54, Don Brown '53, Carl Dickey '54 strolling along the beach in Manhattan Beach, CA**

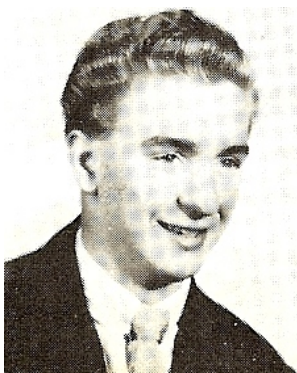


**Pete (Dale) Page '54, Carl Dickey '54, Merle Reppert '53, Jim McAlear**

during WWII.

The Lab was divided into 3 parts, one handling the electrical side, one the mechanical side, and one calibrating instruments. All collaborated with a dozen or so engineers, who worked on the other side of a hangar given over solely to NAA's flight-test aircraft, mostly the F86 Sabre at the time.

When there was work to do we worked hard on exacting jobs. But there were times when work was slack and we did as we wished. We built things for ourselves to keep us looking busy. In that context I made parts for a rotary-engined WWI Sopwith



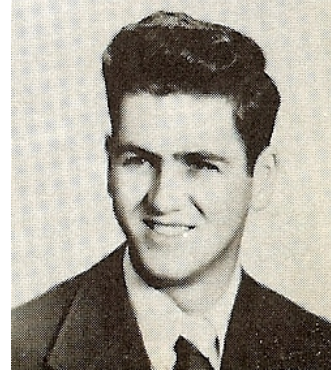
**Dale Page '54  
WHS Senior Photo**



**Carl Dickey '54  
WHS Senior Photo**



**Merlyn Reppert '53  
WHS Senior Photo**



**Jim McAlear '54  
WHS Senior Photo**



**Don Brown '53  
WHS Sophomore Photo**

considered for the job.

I agreed to take it as a permanent job and was accepted.

It was a great job. I never regretted taking it and am certain that if I had stayed with it until retirement I would have been content. My co-workers were very highly qualified blue-collar types.

One, for example, had built the first body of the 1936 Chevy sedan by hand. One had been working with radio since 1923. One had worked on crop-dusting airplanes for years before WWII swept him into NAA. He had also worked on Amelia Earhardt's airplane. Two others had been bomber pilots in Europe

Camel, a bronze flywheel for a Triumph motorcycle that set a world speed record, my own Hi-Fi set, a waterproof camera case for underwater photography, and much more.

The test pilots had their changing room in the middle of the



lab, so we all knew George (“Wheaties”) Welch, one of the two AAF pilots to get off the ground at Pearl Harbor. In a dive in the F86 he may have been the first to, unofficially, break the sound barrier. The famous Bob Hoover was the chattiest of the test pilots.

We were on the second floor of our hangar, which provided an uninterrupted view from near the west end of Los Angeles International Airport toward the east. Smog nearly always prevented us seeing the mountains, but we had a good view of the runways and the occasional accidents that flight-testing brought about. Douglas Aircraft and lesser airplane manufacturers also flight-tested there.



**In 1961, Don Brown '53, on right with two UCLA medical students ready to enter simulated space capsule for a two week test and observation.**

During most of my years at NAA I worked the night shift. Only a single engineer worked that shift, and he spent much of his time in our lab passing on the rumors and news about flight test in general. He kept us up to date, for example, on the testing of the

X-15's rocket engine and, especially, on any mishaps in flight-testing by NAA and the other aircraft



**Merle Reppert '53, with a small plane he put together.**

manufacturers. Although I recall no specific part I worked on, I do recall doing considerable work on the X-15, though I never actually saw it.

I more definitely remember the large two-barreled telescope I made for that engineer, along with help he provided with my own projects.

Whereas my brother thought I should not pass up that job, a number of my co-workers urged me not to pass up college. Shortly after taking the job I compromised by starting college part-time. But I was living directly on the beach then (in Manhattan Beach), so that the hours of my day barely sufficed to work, play, and study. It was not an ideal situation for study.

After five years, the army called me away, breaking me out of

the routines and mindset I was in. With that service out of the way I returned to my job at NAA, but in

the following autumn (1959) I quit to attend college full time for a year. It was much more relaxed than when I was a part-time student.

The following summer I was back in the lab again, but only for the summer. In the fall I was back to college, and planning to continue. In the summer of '61 NAA contacted me to ask if I would take part in a simulated space capsule experiment. NAA and other aircraft companies were submitting proposals for the prime contract on the Apollo Program. NAA was apparently the only company to think of a simulated capsule experiment as part of their proposal.

Two other men, both medical students at UCLA, and I (as a technician) would stay in a capsule for 2 weeks, performing a mindless task that nonetheless required continuous attention. We were observed/monitored through a one-way glass window. How well



**Harley Newman '52, with recent toy, an MG**

we performed that mindless task determined how much money we earned. NAA got the prime contract on the Apollo Project and I earned enough money in two weeks to put me through another year of college.

Although I never regretted taking that job at NAA, I do regret not graduating from WHS with my classmates. Happily, several of them soon joined me at NAA. After Merle Reppert graduated (mid-year in the class of '53) he came out to L.A. again and got a job right along side me at NAA. His extraordinary mechanical skills—in the lower grades he could take a watch apart and put it together again—made him far more qualified than I had been, so it was no surprise he was hired. Merle and I roomed together. However, he had been courting **Rae (Yvonne) Hunt ('55)** and shortly returned to Sioux Falls to further that endeavor.

When Reppert next returned to L.A., his bride Rae along with him, there was no opening in the lab, so he took a different job at NAA. In the long run he took a part-time job disassembling automobile rims at a chrome shop, finally went into that and later

businesses of his own. He is now retired in Paradise, CA. He is an avid builder and flyer of small airplanes and even a helicopter. He has a machine shop in his back yard that has just about everything that was available to us at NAA so many years ago.

In 1954 several more of my WHS classmates also came out to join me at NAA, though none were hired in the instrumentation lab. They included **Gary Hartenhoff ('53)**, **Jim McAlear ('54)**, **Pete (Dale) Page ('54)**, and **Carl Dickey ('54)**. The lot of us had a few memorable years of hanging out together in Manhattan Beach before Hartenhoff, Page, and Dickey returned to Sioux Falls.

Among other businesses, Hartenhoff established Hart Signs in Sioux Falls but later retired to take up his main passion—painting (see [www.garyhartenhoff.com](http://www.garyhartenhoff.com)). Page and **Pierre Forrette (CHS)** established Flame Service Station on East 8<sup>th</sup> St. Later, Page opened



**Don Brown '53 saw a resemblance of this show pattern on a tree to Gordon Tweedt '55'. Don says, Gordon replied that it was him.**

Oak Leaf Salvage near Hartford. Having long lived on Wall Lake, he is now retired but helps his son with the business. The whole family is much involved in automobile rallies, driving the beautiful cars that Pete restored. Carl Dickey went to work for Greenlee Packing Company and is also retired, living in Fremont, Nebraska

McAlear stayed on at NAA but in the long run moved over to Hughes. By the time he retired he was a final assembler of the satellites Hughes has been putting into orbit. He has retained an interest in race cars throughout his life. For 50-some years he has lived in Hermosa Beach, CA. Insofar as health allows, he is still the wild and crazy guy he always was. Never married. But who knows whether he is childless...

In the summer of '55 my WHS buddy and fellow motorcycle enthusiast **Harley Newman ('52)** married my sister **Floy ('54)**. Reppert was best man. Shortly



**Facade on building at the University of Sioux Falls created by Gordon Tweedt**

thereafter Harley and Floy moved to L.A. and Harley too took a job alongside me in the Instrumentation Lab. He stuck with the job pretty much continuously until retirement, but along the way NAA was



swallowed by Rockwell, which in turn was swallowed by Boeing. In the meantime Harley moved out of the machine shop into engineering. After retirement he was recalled twice to assist with problems with the Space Shuttles.

During my first two years of full-time college my sister and Harley put me up. My tuition at one of California's two-year colleges was \$2 per semester! Those were the days.

At about that time **Gordy Tweedt ('55)**, who had worked with McAlear at the Starlight Drive-In in West Sioux also joined us in California.

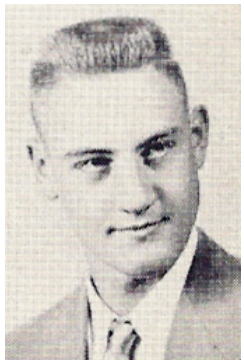
He wanted to learn to work with fiberglass, so he volunteered his labor at a top race-car shop. In '64 he and McAlear put me up in their beach-side apartment while I took summer work with Gordy at a small boat-building shop. Gordy and I made ourselves a sailboat while we were at it.

Gordy returned to Sioux Falls in the late sixties. Facades built from fiberglass molds he made are prominent at the University of Sioux Falls and elsewhere in the region. Gordy now lives in White Bear Lake, MN.

I attached some photos. One (taken by Hartenhoff) shows Pete Page, Jim McAlear, me, and Carl Dickey strolling on the Strand in Manhattan Beach, where I lived at the time. Another shows the same four (seated) in the same location, but with Merle Reppert in the middle. One shows me (on the right) and the two med students who joined me in the simulated space capsule for NAA. One shows Harley Newman with a recent acquisition. One shows Merle Reppert with a small airplane he put together a few years ago. One shows a façade by

Gordy Tweedt at the University of Sioux Falls. One, that I downloaded from the internet, looks like snow on a tree. However, it looked so much like Gordy Tweedt nowadays that I forwarded it to him and he said it actually is him!

End of Don Brown '53 story.



**Gary Hartenhoff '53**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Gordy Tweedt '55**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Harley Newman '52**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Floy Brown Newman '54**  
WHS Senior Photo



It was later reported that his wife  
got out safely,  
and that he did indeed par the  
hole ...  
He says the divorce isn't going to  
be that bad,  
now that there's no house  
involved.....





**Super Reunion  
Story from  
Harry  
Hoiland  
'54**

Harry Hoiland '54  
WHS Senior Photo

reunion. It was held in Orlando, FL at the Westgate

Now I am going to try and attach some photos of a 60th  
Miami (FL) Class Reunion that I  
attended this Sept. with Gloria Olson.

This may give you some ideas for our  
classmates,  
David Siegal,



Alright, I got Jack's message so here is some input.

1. Yes, I will be coming to the reunion with my lady friend, Gloria Olson.
2. I would be interested in coming to the 50's class reunion vs. the All Class Reunion.



Harry Hoiland WHS '54 & his date, Gloria Olson with their generous host David Siegal.



Harry

Gloria

happens to own (along with 28 other complexes in 11 states). David was slightly more successful than I was!! So David footed the bill for a great part of the 3 day gala event.

Day 1 Informal buffet dinner and renewing old friendships. David had





prepared individual tote bags with 2 beautiful coffee mugs + coffee + some other souvenirs

Day 2 A "Beach Party" by the pool side of one of the several pools. Dinner was 1/2 a lobster with all the trimmings. It seems like David had something to do with the Original Beach Boys when they first got started so he sent his private jet to California to fly THE ORIGINAL BEACH BOYS in for entertainment. It was '50s



Entertainment by the Original Beach Boys



Lobster Dinner



Personalized gifts and deserts.

Day 3. There was a semi-formal dinner that was better than a lot of cruise ships I have been on. He rolled a RED CARPET to go the ballroom and to our tables. He also provided some first class entertainment in the name of WOLFMAN JACK and a MARILYN MONROE LOOK-ALIKE. David had all the glasses engraved with the diamond logo for the 60th reunion.





All 3 days, David had a fleet of 6 passenger golf carts to shuttle anywhere we wanted to go. All 3 days during the day was "free time" to whatever we wished to do. David and his wife, Jackie, had personally signed a welcome card "60th DIAMOND REUNION" WITH A SILVER DIAMOND ENGRAVED ON THE FRONT.

Now I understand that we can't get that elaborate but we can sure try!! We did pay \$150. per person but that in no way covered everything!!! TO SAY THAT THIS WAS A FANTASTIC CLASS REUNION WOULD BE

PUTTING IT MILDLY!! EVERYTHING WAS ABSOLUTELY "OVER THE TOP"!! About the only thing we had to do was push the elevator button and open our own door. We had a king size bed plus a jetted hot-tube in the room. It was a regular, deluxe suite with living & dining room and a veranda.

I am going to try to attach some photos of the event using SKYDRIVE. My computer does not always want to cooperate. After this, Gloria and I flew to Boston. We went up the Cog Train at Mt. Washington, NH and saw Newport, RI. SO NOW I HAVE BEEN IN ALL 50 OF THESE GREAT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK ON THE O&B, JACK!

Harry Hoiland WHS '54

## 2015 ALL SCHOOL REUNION? Yea! Lets do it!

In the last O&B I requested a show of interest from you, my readers, in having a 2015 All School Reunion. I am most happy to say the results were sufficiently positive to convince Marlys Ahrendt Hohman '57 and I to proceed with plans to make it happen. As most of you know, Marlys has pretty much been credited with being the catalyst behind organizing the very first All School Reunion in 1992. She served as chairman of not only that first ASR in '92, but also chaired the 1995, 2000 and the 2005 ASR. After the 2005 ASR Marlys retired and The Washington Pavilion sponsored the 2010 reunion.

Marlys and I actually began discussing a 2015 All School Reunion before the 2010 Reunion had even concluded. We now feel that the next step should be to form a committee to develop the idea further. Both Marlys and I have always felt that the majority of the reunion attendees will come from the classes of the 1950's and 1960's, but that all classes will be invited and welcome.

If you would like to serve on this formulating committee for the 2015 All School Reunion you are encouraged to contact Marlys at 605-271-9084. Of course you may also send your thoughts and opinions to the O&B and they will be passed along to the committee.

Jack Phillips '54



# Memories of Jorgensen Hi-Y



**Pat Jorgensen '56**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

Jack, My father, Donald K. Jorgensen, taught biology at WHS with Mr. Thurston and Mr. Lemohn from 1941 to 1976. All though the 1940's in addition to teaching he sponsored Hi-Y groups. His last group of boys graduated in either 1950 or 1951. This group he particularly enjoyed. My mother, Mary, cooked supper for them at least once and they may have been at our house a second time. The Hi-Y group had matching heavy jackets with a felt basketball

stitched to the back. Around the basketball was printed Jorgensen Hi-Y.

The group met once a week in the Biology Lab just off the cafeteria on the ground floor of WHS. One evening after a HI-Y lunch meeting, my mother cleaned out my dad's lunch box for that day. She said to my dad, "Why didn't you eat your lunch?" My dad replied, "I did eat my lunch." "Well, your sandwich is still here". She took the waxed paper off the sandwich and found a hamburger bun with a dead frog inside with its head and legs hanging out. We laugh about that for years and I'm still laughing about it. I wonder if my dad said anything to the group the next week. I imagine he did. The boys probably thought this was hysterical and we did too. If any of the fellows who belonged to that group remember that lunch, I would enjoy hearing from them.

Jim Wylie sent me the photo of the group taken in 2010.

Pat Jorgensen Palagi Class of 1956 > [gppalagi@aol.com](mailto:gppalagi@aol.com) > 206-320-8358



**Mr. Donald Jorgensen**  
**WHS Biology Teacher**  
**From 1956 Yearbook**



**Above photo taken at the class of 1950's class luncheon during the 2010 All School Reunion. l to r; Elliot Miller '50, Jim Johnson '50, Roger Schaiger '50, Jack Hamilton '50, Walt Leyse '50, Jim Redfield '50 and Keith Hill '50.**





**Donald Jorgensen**  
**WHS Biology Teacher**  
**Warrior Photo from 1942**  
**His 2nd Yr. Teaching**

# Mr. Donald Jorgensen

**WHS 1941 - 1976**

**1911 - 1986**

Mr. Donald Jorgensen, was a highly respected and popular teacher and counselor at WHS from 1941 to 1976. That was 35 years of dedicated and devoted service to us all. On the occasion of printing his daughter, Pat Jorgensen Palagi's, '56, letter on her Dad's most popular Hi-Y (see page 9), your editor felt it most appropriate to write a small tribute to this exemplary educator. The following are excerpts of my multiple Internet interviews with Pat.

*My dad, Donald Jorgensen, began teaching biology at WHS in January of 1941. He was in graduate school at the University of*

*South Dakota when the opportunity opened up. Because he taught a science he was "excused" from the draft of WW II. Science teachers were not conscripted. He always felt a bit guilty about this.*

*Eventually Dad taught some Family Life and ended his career in the Guidance and Counseling Department. He retired in 1976 and died in 1986. Sometime in the late '40's or early '50's he voted with the teacher's association or some voting body to make women's teachers' salaries the same as men's salaries. Until that time the women were not paid on the same salary scale as the men.*

*Some of you may have had Len Tabor for business or geometry. He seemed to have the most jokes in the male teachers' lounge. My dad came home with some. I even remember one but it is not appropriate for the newsletter.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Jack, I appreciate your questions. No one else in the world is interested in my dad and it's my legacy to him.*

*Dad was born in 1911 at Irene, South Dakota, but grew up in Viborg, SD. He studied for two years at South Dakota State College from September 1929 to June of 1931 when he had to quit to find work around Viborg. In 1934 he started working his way through Yankton College graduating in 1936. Dad taught in Wagner and Meckling before he started graduate school at SDU in the fall of 1940. My parents married in 1937. I was born in 1938 and am an only child. He is buried at Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Jack, I have forgotten where you live but if you live in South Dakota you may be interested in the following.*

*I have made up two large three ring binders of Jorgensen family history from our origins in Denmark beginning in the early 19th century to about the time my dad died. Dad wrote up his personal history and kept old family letters back to 1906 and forward. All of which are included. I have given a set of the binders to the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre, the Minnehaha Country Courthouse Museum (not what it is called now) and the Daneville Heritage Museum in Viborg, SD. There was so much in there about farm life in eastern SD in the 1920's and 1930's. On Don's 16th birthday in 1927 he spent the day disking fields. No mention of birthday cake or gifts.*

*Pat Jorgensen Palagi, '56 gppalagi@aol.com*

*Pat and her husband, George (not WHS), currently live in Seattle, WA.*



**Mr. Jorgensen**  
**Photo from 1960 Warrior**  
**He appears to have survived the**  
**first 18 years of dealing with us.**



# WHS's First AFS Exchange Student

## Another Story From Pat Jorgensen Palagi '56

On Nov 21, 2013, at 4:29 PM, **Pat Jorgensen Palagi '56** [gppalagi@aol.com](mailto:gppalagi@aol.com) wrote:

Washington High School's first American Field Service (AFS) exchange student, Lena Sollbe, came from Sweden during 1954-1955 school year. She stayed with my parents, Donald and Mary Jorgensen, and me. In 1960 I visited her and her family in Sweden. She was studying pharmacology in Goteborg. In the mid 1960's she married. She had two young daughter, 4 and 2 years, when her husband was tragically killed. A load of logs fell off a logging truck striking his car. Later Lena's father visited my parents and he may have been the one to tell us of the unfortunate incident. I have not heard from Lena since probably 1970 but have tried to find her with the internet. No luck. I have even searched for her brother, Eric, and her sister, Barbara. No luck with their names either. I am very sorry to have lost contact. Anyone skilled at finding people on the internet who would like to help, I will appreciate it. Lena's married name was Odstrom and she lived in Soderhamn, Sweden at my last contact.

In our 1955 annual Lena is pictured twice. Both times it listed her as the AFS exchange student but not by her name. I gave my 1953-1955 annuals to the Minnehaha County Museum in the old courthouse so I can not check that information but that is as I remember it.

Pat Jorgensen Palagi    Class of 1956    [gppalagi@aol.com](mailto:gppalagi@aol.com)    206-320-8358

Front row, center, Lena Sollbe. Row two, l. to r.: Miss Flint, Merrey Skarda, Gloria Berg, Carolyn Sonichsen, Georgianna Johnson, Bev Semmens, Marie Erickson, Miss Johnson. Row three: Lois Fredrickson, Pat Jorgensen, Joyce Pease, Caroline Vader, Leigh Ann Perrenoud, Elaine Ellis, Miss Kunkle, Mr. Jorgensen. Row four: Bill Erickson, Curt Olsen, Steve Rogness, John Beardsley, Phil Rysdon, Jim Lease.







**Wally Boersma '54**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

# Wally Boersma '54

Submitted Two Stories.

## Wally's First Story:

Jack's request has prompted me to write. You may not relate to this, but in my advanced age I have developed stories that bear some resemblance to the truth.

Some time ago I had an unpleasant encounter with the TSA, a typical government agency that would best be disbanded. When I got home I looked up the TSA on the internet. Lo and behold there was a reference to Joe Foss. To my local listeners here in Texas it is necessary to explain that he shot down more enemy planes than any other American pilot. After the war he returned to Sioux Falls and started a flying service. He later became Governor of South Dakota, the first and only president of the American Football League and then executive director of the NRA. Being an obviously smart ambitious guy, he noticed that South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska all required a different body part for a coyote bounty. He aggressively started to hunt coyotes. It was very profitable. There were six sources of revenue. Four bounties, the hide and then the carcass was sold to the mink ranchers. I'm aware of this since my dad was a regular male Annie Oakley and one of the shooters for Joe.

Anyway, after retirement, He moved to the Phoenix area. In his old age he was invited to speak to the cadets at West Point. At the airport he went through the ever watchful TSA search. Unfortunately for him he had placed his Congressional Medal Of Honor in his overcoat. Well, it was discovered and the group gathered around to figure out what it was. The bright one figured it out. It was one of those star shaped things the ninjas throw. The result was; an old man, a retired general, Congressional Medal Of Honor winner, ex director of the NRA and Governor was strip searched. Obviously, a potential terrorist.

I got to thinking. This is a classic example of not only governmental intrusion but also of messing with nature. When I was in school, the rabbit population was phenomenal. The obvious reason, there were no predators.

## Wally's Second Story:

My father was not only an excellent shot but an avid hunter. He was also a binge drinker. I started going to hunt with him at a young age. He would sip sprits to keep warm and I would drive home as he slept in the back seat. He also owned a brake shop down by the Falls and I would 'chase' parts for him. We had a Dodge that I had to look between the dash board and the steering wheel while sitting on a pillow. One day when I was eleven the sheriff stopped what he at first thought was a runaway car. He had me follow him down to Dad's shop and informed him that if he caught me driving again it would cost \$50. Three days later he passed me driving an open jeep. He turned around in hot pursuit. All I could see was that \$50 bill. Realizing he could not be out run, I started turning at each corner. Eventually we went in different directions. He to the shop, me to our home.

A warrant was issued and Dad went to court. Old Judge Conway had the sheriff explain what had happened. When he finished, the Judge asked; 'you mean he ditched you'. The sheriff answered, 'yes'. The Judge then said, 'well if he can drive better than you maybe you should just leave him alone'. And he did.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO Don Brown '53, Harry Hoiland '54, Pat Jorgensen Palagi '56 and Wally Boersma '54 for contributing their stories. They responded to my plea in the last O&B Newsletter for more stories and I appreciate their efforts so much. Now I hope you will now follow their lead and send me your story to share with everyone. The O&B's success hinges on contributions from readers! That is YOU! The more stories submitted by O&B readers, the more frequently newsletters will be published.**

**Jack Phillips '54**

# CLASS OF '54 - 60th REUNION IN 2014

NOTE: Nothing new has been received from the committee on the hotel room rates, the reunion schedule, nor the cost of the Reunion ticket. The O&B will make that information available to you as soon as it is received.

To repeat the previous story on the 60th Reunion, a committee has been formed for the 60th reunion of the WHS class of 1954. It is planned for September 19-21, 2014. A Friday reception is planned at the Washington Pavilion. Saturday and Sunday activities will be at the Holiday Inn in downtown Sioux Falls. The hotel's top floor rooms, (concierge rooms) are being reserved. Hotel reservations can not be made until the rates are announced by the committee.

The committee has said that a really fun weekend is planned, and since this is a special reunion they are striving for a large attendance.

**JUST BE SURE TO RESERVE THE DATES - SEPT. 19, 20 & 21, 2014 ON YOUR CALENDAR!  
YOU WILL RECEIVE MORE INFO AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

## THE O&B NEEDS MORE WARRIOR YEARBOOKS

The scope of coverage by the O&B is continually increasing and the need for more editions of the WHS Warrior increases along with it. At this time the O&B has the following Warrior Yearbook editions: 1940, 1942, 1945, 1946 and 1950 thru 1960.

All other Warrior editions from 1908 through 1970 would be greatly appreciated and most assuredly be put to good use. If you should have any of those editions that you feel you can part with, please send them to Jack M. Phillips, 2261 Lauren Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89134. Thank you.

## Letters to the O&B

On Nov 5, 2013, at 7:44 AM, **James Wylie '51** <[jimwylie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimwylie@sbcglobal.net)> wrote:

Thank you Jack.

I will presume to send you some "news notes" as to what I and others are up to here in "the far country."

In todays addition we answered my question thru the years--"What ever happened to Bently Jaco?" He was in my class at Lincoln grade school, we played basketball together etc, but as I came to realize later (he being the only black kid in my school (read class), he conditioned me for experiences I would later have in interactions living in Minneapolis, Chicago, New York. Blessings are sometimes only experienced in the rear-view mirror.

This is the kind of experience I value so much with the O&B initiative. When we see the stories pass by I am always reminded of what a blessed experience it was for my folks to move to Sioux Falls, for my Dad to change jobs so I could stay at WHS and to move on to Augustana. I often ask myself why I didn't stay in SF--continue with KSOO Ray Loftesness et al, and although I know the answer, in the cool of the evening the question arises over and over. It puts me in mind of the comment General MacAuthor made upon his return to West Point.....having been here and there in the world....."at the end of the day my mindand thoughts return to The Point...always the Point". So say I re. S.F. and you all. Carry on ! Jim Wylie '51



**Jim Wylie '51  
WHS Senior**

On Nov 9, 2013, at 4:49 PM, **Shirley Ahnberg Widmann '54**

<[sawcalltom@aol.com](mailto:sawcalltom@aol.com)> wrote:

Dear Jack: I would like to purchase the Warrior Yearbooks for the years 1951 and 1952 if anyone happens to have extra books for those years. Please e mail me at [SAWCALLTOM@aol.com](mailto:SAWCALLTOM@aol.com) if you would be interested in selling them. Thank you. Shirley



**Shirley Ahnberg '54  
WHS Junior Photo**



On Nov 5, 2013, at 9:06 AM, **Richard McGaughey '56** <[rmcgx1@hotmail.com](mailto:rmcgx1@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Jack, I'm again blown away by your work!...this issue was incredible!

My wife passed away last month after a 12-year struggle with Alzheimer's disease, so I am in the midst of preparing for her memorial service to be held in Omaha the day before Thanksgiving. I live in Arvada, CO and our six kids are scattered all over the country, so our memorial service is being put together in cyberspace. But at some point, hopefully not too far into the future, I plan to come up with some kind of story to share in the O&B.

In the meantime, though, I'd certainly vote for an All-50's Reunion in 2015!

Thanks again, Jack



**Dick McGaughey '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

**Dick McGaughey '56**    [rmcgx1@hotmail.com](mailto:rmcgx1@hotmail.com)

**Dick, our most sincere and heart felt condolences to you and your family for the loss of your wife.**

On Nov 5, 2013, at 9:20 AM, **Paul Anderson '56** Karslop <[karslop@cox.net](mailto:karslop@cox.net)> wrote:

Jack As always I enjoyed the latest issue of the O & B. Of particular interest was the story on Chuck Mandsager. Chuck was a teacher at the NEW Jefferson school when it opened.. I had known Mr. Mandsager before as he had worked for my dad at the Standard Oil pipe line terminal just off 41st street. At the time I had a morning paper route and because there were a couple of ornery dogs along the route I carried a water pistol with ammonia in it. One day I shot a couple of kids with it I guess and some how Mr. Mandsager heard about it. Luckily I had gone home for lunch and left it there. That afternoon he frisked me and asked to see my coat which was hung outside the class room. He also had a couple of discouraging words and threatened to tell my dad which would have gotten me in real trouble. I never did confess.

In the 11-5 issue you mentioned you would put the word out on locating "lost souls". I've been looking for Dick Sorenson for years. He went to Emerson and then to WHS. He would have been in the "56" class, but somewhere along the way he quit. He did marry Mary Bang who graduated from WHS in 1956. The latest "56" class Buzz book lists a Mary Bang but is for another Mary Bang. If anyone has any information about Dick or Mary I'd

appreciate hearing about them. I can be reached at [karslop@cox.net](mailto:karslop@cox.net) or 623-544-2327. Keep up the good work Jack. Paul Anderson "56"

On Nov 5, 2013, at 11:18 AM, **Don Noordsy '58** <[heytheremac@comcast.net](mailto:heytheremac@comcast.net)> wrote:

Hi Permella..... (Permella Bedford Kielman '56)

I just finished reading Jack Phillips' most recent O&B and saw your note to him regarding a reunion of WHS classmates you had in Seattle. In particular, my eye caught the comment that Gene Ross was particularly impressive because he could remember a large number of his Emerson Grade School teachers. If you can recall any of Gene's list, I would be interested in knowing names, because I can only recall a couple of them.....Marian Holst and Ms. Folchow (sp). The principal was Anna May Linter as I recall, and I know she was a close friend of Joy Hamrin, a WHS math teacher I always tried to get.

I graduated from Emerson in 1954 and WHS in 1958, and lived across the street from the Emerson playground at 537 S. West Avenue. I included Jack in this email, even knowing his memory is faulty, since he also graduated from Emerson, but it was years before us! Appreciate any names you can offer,

Don Noordsy '58



**Don Noordsy '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

Grantham, New Hampshire

On Nov 5, 2013, at 9:15 AM, **Bill Rathburn '58** [BRCOLORADO@aol.com](mailto:BRCOLORADO@aol.com) wrote:

Jack -- thank you for another always great addition of the Orange & Black. With all the tears being shed over the demise of Mark Twain it seems someone should note the passing of Longfellow as well. Although not a very worthy representative of its alumni I can say it was a great school with a wonderful staff. It provided me a solid academic foundation that helped compensate for shortcomings in a few of the institutions that followed. Sorry I don't remember the drubbings by Mark Twain teams others have noted. My unpromising track career at Longfellow ended abruptly during an afternoon practice when my dad showed up with my shotgun and our springer spaniel in the car and an offer to go road hunting for pheasants. I didn't look back then but looking back now it's easy to see what a privileged youth some of us had. The hunting and fishing in South Dakota was good (with even better fishing close by in Minnesota) while the admirable Sioux Falls Park System offered free access to swimming, ice skating and tennis unhindered by demands to set time and resources aside for competitive teams to practice and compete. The old Drake Springs pool and ice skating rink and McKennan's tennis courts were the lodestones of my Longfellow years while the Washington High years added The Barrel, Cutler's, stop light drag racing on Phillips and Main, water skiing on Wall Lake and a brief fling at racing outboard hydroplanes. Unfortunately a camera was very rarely the companion then that it became later on but a couple of the photos that survived are below and attached as jpeg files. Thanks again, Bill Rathburn '58



**Minnesota fishin' in the '50's. I'm the skinny little runt with my dad on the left and cousin Ed on the right -- and those are walleyes on the**



**Bill and Ronnie (Veronica) Smyrak with a Swift A and B Class Hydroplane with a 1954 Martin 200 outboard on Buggalo Lake, south of Madison, SD**

PS: on the All School or 50's reunion proposals why not compromise and do a 50's and 60's reunion? Sad to say I doubt an All School reunion would be attended by many who graduated before 1950 but I suspect there may be more than one or two of us from the classes of the later 50's who had ties (younger siblings, girlfriends -- maybe even a boyfriend or two) with grads from the early

On Nov 11, 2013, at 8:59 AM, **Robert A. Miller '57** [<ramiller27@pie.midco.net>](mailto:ramiller27@pie.midco.net) wrote:

Jack, As Bob (Amundson '56), mentioned in his email message to your last O&B Alumni newsletter, he and I did serve together on the SD Supreme Court.....it was a genuine pleasure and he was an excellent member of our Court. Out of modesty I'm sure, he neglected to mention that he also had a most distinguished legal career as a SD Assistant Attorney General, a private lawyer as well as house counsel for Homestake Mining Company in Lead, and as a Circuit Judge in Sioux Falls. Subsequent to retirement he served some time as Sioux Falls City Attorney and has done some teaching at the University of Sioux Falls. The "Idle Hour guys" and all WHS alumni can be most proud of him. Bob Miller '57



**Bob Miller '57**  
WHS Senior Photo

**Bob Miller '57**



**Bob Amundson '56**  
WHS Senior Photo



On Nov 14, 2013, at 11:59 AM, Sara Hart Blizzard '58 <[sara.j.blizzard@att.net](mailto:sara.j.blizzard@att.net)> wrote:



Hi Jack, Don't know if you wish to tackle this or not but I have had two e-mails telling me that it was on FOX News that Sioux Falls has decided they do not have enough time in the day to have students say the Pledge of Allegiance. I know I am going to tell everyone I know and suggest a letter to the editor deluge protesting such a stupid action. I know a lot of people will think this concern frivolous but I take my Citizenship seriously and I learned to take it seriously not only at home but at school. So, if you are interested in putting thins in the O&B fine with me. Sara Hart Blizzard, WHS '58

Sara Hart Blizzard '58  
WHS Senior Photo

On Nov 17, 2013, at 4:52 PM, **Deane Grav '58** [deanejay@sio.midco.net](mailto:deanejay@sio.midco.net) wrote:



Deane Grav '58  
WHS Senior Photo

Jack again you have made connection with an old classmate possible as a result of this issue of O&B. Today I had a great conversation with Stuart VanMeveren 1958. Neither one of us had any contact since graduation. THANK YOU for all the work that you put into putting out the O&B. **Deane Grav 1958**

As a side note I now work pat-time for Miller Funeral Home here in Sioux Falls. This past Friday we had over 500 people in attendance of Robert "Bob" Bakers funeral service. It was a wonderful tribute to a former classmate.

Deane '58 & Liz (Hubbard '64) Grav [deanejay@sio.midco.net](mailto:deanejay@sio.midco.net)

On Nov 24, 2013, at 7:25 AM, **Sue Muilenburg French '59** <[c21french@aol.com](mailto:c21french@aol.com)> wrote:

Jack, My name is Sue French sister of Tom Muilenburg. Steve Eggers sent your article on Tom to me and I want to thank you for your kind words. It will be our first Thanksgiving without Tom and we all miss him terribly.

Also I want to add my name to the list to receive Orange & Black. I graduated in 1959 and went to USD and followed Tom to DC and worked for Ben Reifel for 5 years. Returned to Vermillion for my husband, Rollie Winston French, to get his MBA. We never left Vermillion and I guess you could say we are South Dakotans through and through. However we hate the cold and we have a home in Sun City West where we spend Jan.-April.

Thank you again and also for all your efforts in publishing the O&B. Tom used to forward it to me and we would go over it together.

Sue Muilenburg French '59 [c21french@aol.com](mailto:c21french@aol.com)

**PLEASE,,,,,,  
Keep your stories & photos coming.  
They are the life blood of the O&B!**



On Nov 21, 2013, at 9:55 AM, **Percy Tornow '53** <[pft372@sio.midco.net](mailto:pft372@sio.midco.net)> wrote:



**Percy Tornow '53**  
WHS Senior Photo

Good Evening, Jack: Just a short note to let you know I really appreciate your Orange and Black. I do recall that I contacted you to see if you had any information on a Deloris Kish (sp). You did some research but could not seem to find any info. Then you turned my request over to **Glenn Gulbranson '54** and lo and behold, he was able to come up with some information after doing some extensive research.

Just wanted you to know that I sincerely appreciated that and I am now in the process of trying to contact Glenn and express my gratitude to him for his work. All of this would not have been possible without your help, as well as, Glenn's and then the publication of the information in the Orange and Black.

It is my understanding that Deloris is now in the South Ridge Nursing Home. Hopefully, we will be able to become reacquainted.

Thanks again for following through on this.

Percy Tornow, Class of '53 Phone: 605-941-4417

**Editors Response:** Percy, thanks for the nice note. I am so glad you wrote to thank **Glenn Gulbranson '54** for his work in helping you find your friend, (Her correct spelling is:), "**Del Loris Kich**" '53.

Glenn and I were in the same WHS class of '54 and he has volunteered to help me find lost people so many times and he is exceptionally good at it. I have thanked him many times over the last 5 years, but I know he will appreciate your kind comments.

On many occasions when I either didn't have time to search further for someone or I was just not having any success, I would call Glenn "into the case". He has almost always been successful and it is frequently because he just goes above and beyond what would normally be expected.

An example is, recently I was trying to find the correct address for Gary McFarlane, class of '54. The last address I had for Gary was on Lake Madison, in Madison, SD. He had evidently moved and I was having no luck in locating him. Since I knew that Glenn also lived on Lake Madison I called him. Glenn told me Gary had moved to Sioux Falls a couple of years ago, but we couldn't obtain a phone number to confirm the new SF address we had for him. So Glenn just got in his car and drove to the address in Sioux Falls and personally accomplished the confirmation. What a guy! I owe him so much for all the help he has given me. So Glenn, one more time, THANK YOU!  
Jack



**Glenn Gulbranson '54**  
WHS Senior Photo

