

# THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK

## WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

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

Published in memory of our Founder Jack M. Phillips '54. Issue #02-24

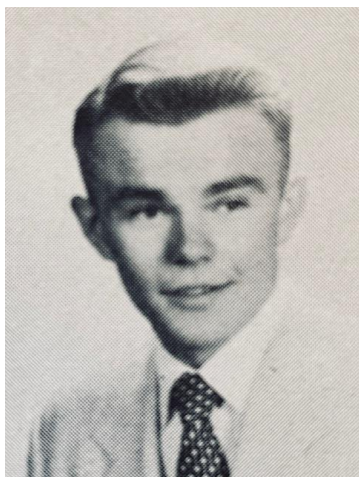
[orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com) 2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134

### Dear O & B Subscribers

Many thanks to all of you that sent an email about our first Newsletter of 2024 & your support of other news.

Keep the stories & photos coming!

## Letters to the & B



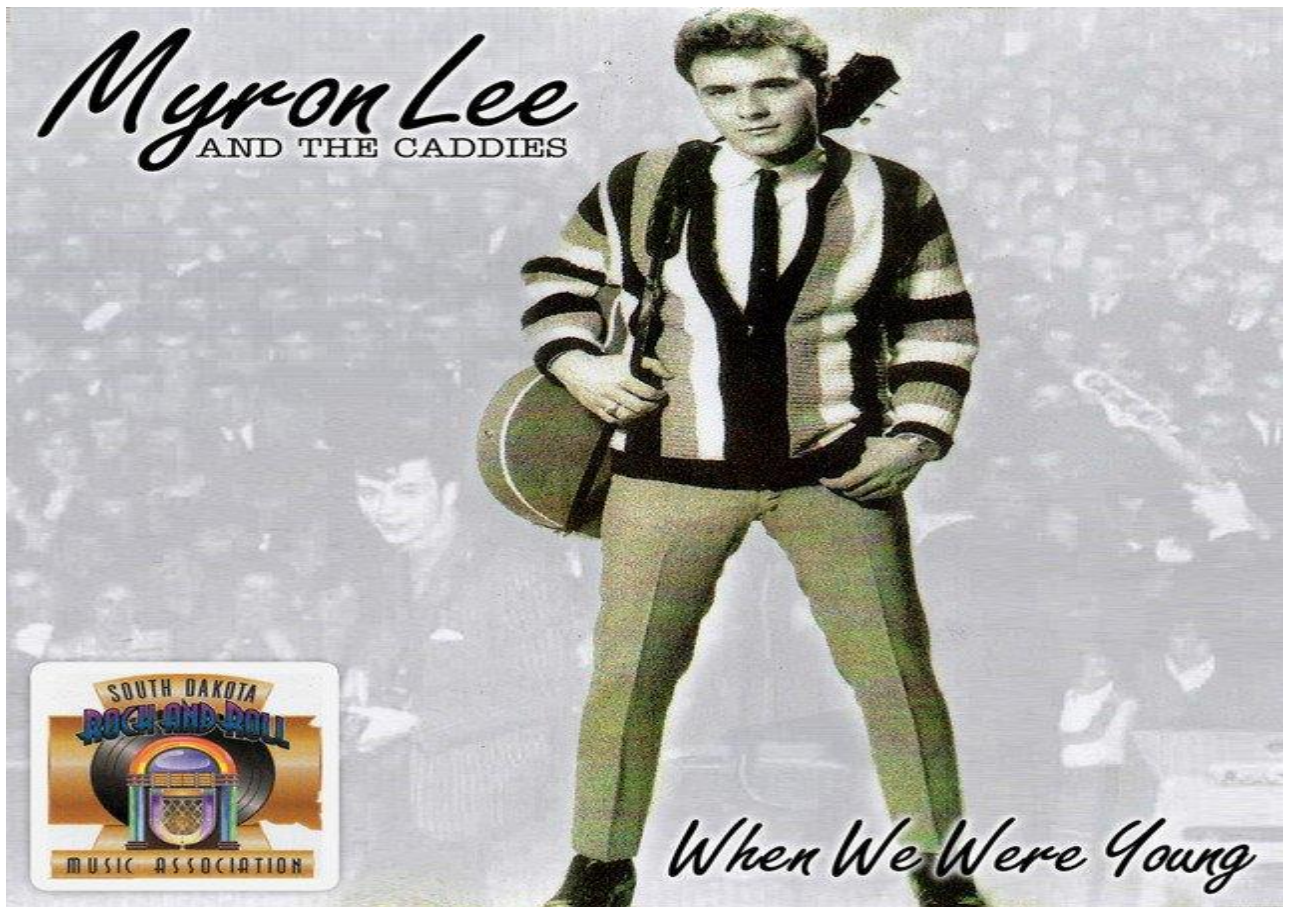
James Wylie '51  
WHS Senior Photo

Jim Wylie '51 <jimwylie@sbcglobal.net> wrote on May 11, 2024 :

Dear O & B

So Good to get this info.... **"We Are The '50's"!!!** ....Did this pattern out for other decades or schools in SD or other states??? I had conversations with Jack about the practical value that the O & B provides in the social and mental health potential! It is much needed these days----and in every time.

Jim Wylie'51



## Remembering Myron Lee 1941- 2024

Myron Wachendorf of "Myron Lee & The Caddies" fame passed away just days shy of his 83rd birthday. Myron was known as South Dakota's King of Rock & Roll. He and his band, performed with some of the biggest names in the industry back in the late 1950's and early 60's. That included the likes of Bobby Vee, Roy Orbison and Ronnie Spector, of Ronnie and the Ronettes. The band toured US and Canada with reviews hosted by Dick Clark, backing up nationally recognized vocalists who could not troupe their usual backup musicians with them. Much can be said about Myron and his musical achievements, and we will go indepth in an edition of the Alumni O&B soon. But if you see this in time, please know that his Celebration of Life will take place THIS SATURDAY, July 13, at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. The church will livestream the services at their website [www.flcsf.org](http://www.flcsf.org) at 11 a.m. CDT, Noon EDT, 2 p.m. PDT. At this writing we do not know if the church will archive the video for on-demand viewing in the future.

A few years back, Jack published a three-part serial on the history of Myron and his bands. Without question, he was one of the top WHS graduates in terms of public recognition and awareness. He was another of our alumni who helped put Sioux Falls on the map for people in other states. We will be referring to that and other sources in our upcoming tribute.

## **Greetings to the 1959 Class of Washington Senior High School**

From “The Committee”

The decision has been made to end our usual 5-year gathering of fellow classmates. Our last reunion was in 2019 with plans to meet informally from that point on. With that in mind, we closed our checking account and donated the remaining \$300 to Washington High School’s scholarship program.

Some have wondered why this decision was made. We began our reunions in 1969 at our ten-year anniversary. We then had eight more reunions - each one a two-night event at locations that held special meaning to us (The Arkota, Washington Pavilion, Cactus Heights). As you can imagine, this involved many hours of meeting, planning, decorating, and then hosting the event. Each one was memorable and we, the “committee”, had a lot of fun making it happen. But now we’re tired!

I have attempted to keep the database current but as you can imagine things have changed dramatically for many of us since our last gathering in 2014. I’m sure many of the addresses are outdated. The same is true for a list of our deceased classmates. However, I am more than happy to share any information I have if you ask.

So — to our friends and classmates of the best class ever to roam the halls of Washington High –

**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES**

**Connie Henline Nelson**  
**connienelson59@gmail.com**







**Karen Brown <[wkbrowniw2@msn.com](mailto:wkbrowniw2@msn.com)> wrote on June 22,2024**

**Debra:**

**Thank you for continuing to send us a copy of the Alumni Orange and Black - Jack would be thrilled! We especially enjoyed the article from Laurie Phillips Ciglar with memories of her Dad. I believe when we were visiting Las Vegas many years ago, we had the privilege of riding in that Ex!**



**Karen Gurley Brown '54  
WHS Senior Photo**





Stephen Veenker '59  
& Mocha L to R

Growing up in Sioux Falls, brother Ron '54 and I always read the Argus-Leader every afternoon. It was part of our lives, as was hearing network radio programs and when it finally arrived, local TV.

Naturally, when I got to WHS I jumped into Lorraine Norman's Journalism class. She told us about the history of journalists shaping our country and described some of the best U.S. newspapers. One of those was the Chicago Tribune, which the Milwaukee Arrow brought to Sioux Falls every day. I started reading it frequently.

Then when I was eligible to serve on the Orange and Black staff, I jumped at the chance. Then when I was eligible to serve on the Orange and Black staff, I jumped at the chance. I wrote and edited some stories, but soon preferred to be on the production side. Sheldon Zabel '59 and I had taken Touch Typing at Nettleton Commercial College, taught by WHS' Bertha Ellison, and we had started an official newspaper at Mark Twain. He was editor, I typed the Ditto Masters, and we did a real monthly paper for two years.

The O&B staff set its own type, with a professional compositor by Addressograph, which would make all columns flush left and right. We also used an IBM electric with proportional spacing. Later I owned one of those! Few staffers were proficient typists, so I enjoyed setting the O&B type.

The Orange and Black won national awards for excellence every year. Some of us took those for granted. What we did not realize was that only a handful of high school papers in the US produced all their type, headlines, photos, cartoons, and page masters on their own, all by students. We just did it. And we did a six to eight page, tabloid size edition every week of the school year! The paper also owned a 4x5 inch Speed Graphic camera, as you see in vintage movies, and we took our own pics. Michael Claseman souped (developed) the film in his Dad's darkroom--Gene's Studio, still in business in its 85th year. We pasted up our whole pages and sent the originals to Shopping News, who printed them faithfully. (They closed a few years ago)



Donna Cook and I shared editor's job in the 1959 school year. The Argus nominated me for a McCormick Scholarship, and I was accepted to NU. Now I was reading the Chicago Tribune hot off the presses as delivered to my dorm room. Having worked at KSOO radio and TV, I got to be proctor of the Freshman Television Workshop. I was the only one in the department who had hands on experience with camera, audio, film chain, lighting, and video directing. All the others were from union towns: No touchie Nothing! That's Union job!

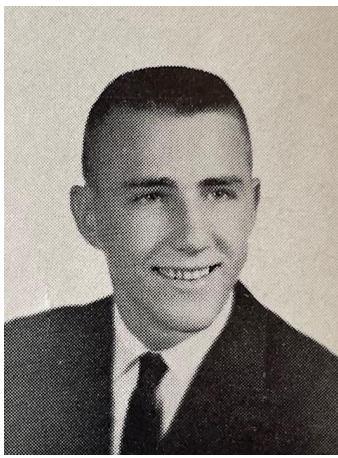
When my student deferment ended, I got building up. Miss Nor the notice to report for a Pre-Induction Physical. Vietnam was building up. Miss Norman showed me a letter from a previous editor, who said the Army offered work in one's own professional field if they enlisted for a third year. I took the deal. The Army assigned me to two jobs destined for VN, but I invoked my guarantee. In Basic Training my Spanish learned from Eudora Stegner at WHS qualified me as bilingual, and I got orders for an AFRTS station in the (Panama) Canal Zone.

In those days people who dreamed of larger audiences looked for work in the Twin Cities or Chicago. My dad's friend, Walt Simmons, was Sunday (Features) editor at the Tribune, so I called and met him for a few visits. I knew his brother, Wilmer, who was photo editor at the Argus. Dick Dozer, another Argus vet, was covering the Cubs and White Sox for the Tribune.

Leaving the army, I called the Tribune to say I was available. At lunch, they said, "Can you start tomorrow?" So, I was a Promotion (Marketing) specialist. Soon I took over Plant Tours, and given my understanding of hot lead printing, soon became the 'expert' who would tour publishers from other papers and nations through our printing plant. When the Tribune launched a group of three suburban inserts, they assigned me to be the promotion specialist; I asked, "Why me?" The answer: It was offset, like the O&B, and I was the only one in Marketing who knew about offset printing. Thanks, Miss Norman!

Stephen Veenker '59





**William Lobe '59**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

## **Acts of Kindness in the Big City**

Prior to moving to Sioux Falls in the mid 1940's, I grew up as an only child on my grandparents' farm outside of Parkson, SD in Hutchinson County. My first year of formal education was in a one-room schoolhouse on property donated by my grandfather adjacent to the front 40 acres of the farm. So, I didn't have far to walk. I don't remember the teacher's name nor that of any of the other students. Class levels ranged from kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Those students in the upper grade levels were essential in assisting the teacher with those in younger grades. They didn't have to be asked to help.

Reflecting back today, I know the value of helping others was not limited to the school- house. It permeated throughout the rural farming community as it was then; a two-way street of families helping each other working hard to grow crops, manage livestock, meeting cultivation deadlines, raising children and trusting that Mother Nature will not let them down.

After moving to Sioux Falls with my mother to live with my grandmother at age 6, about 1947, I was naturally a little frightened about being around "big city" people; population at that time of less than 50,000. Running water, electricity, furnace and telephone were all new to me. No more outhouse, no more kerosene lanterns, no more bathing in the livestock water tank and no more crowding around the kitchen cob-burning stove on those very cold South Dakota winter nights.

My first year of school in Sioux Falls, kindergarten/first grade, was at Lincoln Elementary Grade School, now an empty lot. It was there that, as a child, I experienced my first act of kindness by another in the Big City. Sitting on the street curb of the school playground after school trying to tie an undone shoestring and, apparently, had not yet taught how to do so, an older student noticed and sat down beside me. After about five minutes of hands-one instruction, I had the task mastered. I don't know his name but, if you're still out there and reading this, I want to thank you again.

Reflecting on random acts of kindness in my early youth in Sioux Falls, the western double features at the Orpheum Theater on Saturdays was always something to look forward to. My mother would give me a quarter; 9¢ paid for admission, 10¢ for popcorn, 5¢ for a candy bar and 1¢ left for bubble gum. After the movies, our small group of new-found friends would head straight across the street to the leather/saddle shop. The elderly owner displayed his saddles on saw horses inside the front of his shop. He allowed us to climb onto them and play cowboys for as long as we liked. He did not, however, allow us to touch his custom-made bullwhips!

To earn money, before being old enough to have a newspaper route, I'd comb the neighborhood for customers to mow grass and shovel walks. More times than not, I was told, after completing the work, that I should have quoted more money than I did and was then gifted with what the homeowner considered to be fair.

Random acts of kindness followed me as we moved residence from the west end to the south Phillips Ave area. McKennan Park became my new playground. In the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Mark Twain Elementary, I was gifted a previously owned tennis racket. I didn't know anyone my age who played tennis but I loved hitting that ball against the backboard at the McKennan tennis courts. It was there that, on numerous occasions, a more experienced adult player would take notice of my lack of skills and offer instruction eventually to the point of competing on the court with each other. It's funny that we don't take notice until later in life of the spontaneous generosity of others in sharing their precious time and talent, particularly with youth.

As time passed, I graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Mark Twain Elementary, only two blocks from my home, and now was standing on the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> & Phillips going to my first year at WHS with scores of other students waiting at the corner for the bus. On more occasions than not, we rarely used our bus tokens as those adults driving to work downtown would pull over to the curb and load students to capacity in their vehicles. Cars were lined up at times until no more students were standing on the corner. No need for a hitchhiking thumb!

I left the Big City of 50K plus population only a few years later which has now grown to 4X that size. I can only hope that random acts of kindness still prevail in my hometown. I encourage others to share their own moments.

Bill Lobe, Class of '59 [bill@wclobe.com](mailto:bill@wclobe.com) [www.wclobe.com](http://www.wclobe.com)





			IN	MEMORIAM IN CLASS ORDER	
FIRST NAME	NEE	LAST	CLASS	OBIT LINK	DOD
Audrey	Lutz	Rinder	50	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/audrey-rinder">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/audrey-rinder</a>	
Roger Allen		Schiager	50		
Robert		Huhn	50		24/04/24
Sally Lee	Haas	Kocon	51		
William		Frank	52		24/06/24
Roger Dean		Gravelle	53	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/roger-gravelle">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/roger-gravelle</a>	24/03/09
Donald		Brown	53		
Lorraine	Beryl	forslin	54	<a href="https://washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries">https://washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries</a>	24/05/07
James "Dean"		Hayes	54	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/james-dean-hayes">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/james-dean-hayes</a>	
Raymond		Geiger	54	<a href="https://www.lifeandlegacyservice.com/obituary/Raymond-Geiger">https://www.lifeandlegacyservice.com/obituary/Raymond-Geiger</a>	
Donald		Amundson	54		
Mary Kathleen	Houston	Moen	54	<a href="https://argusleader-sd.newsmemory.com/?publink=24dae2b18_134d31a">https://argusleader-sd.newsmemory.com/?publink=24dae2b18_134d31a</a>	24/04/09
Jack		Phillips	54		23/03/11
Wayne		Gustafson	54		23/27/11
Ronald Dean		Nelson	55	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-nelson">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-nelson</a>	
Darlene	Timmons	Hodge	55	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/darlene-hodge">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/darlene-hodge</a>	
Marilyn	Rush	Simmons	55	<a href="https://www.azcentral.com/obituaries/par073286">https://www.azcentral.com/obituaries/par073286</a>	
Judy	Allen	Portice	55		
Joann	Plucker	Redenius	56	<a href="https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd0870109">https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd0870109</a>	24/06/30
Michael	Mack	Gibson	56		24/04/20
Jeanette	Snelling	Foster	56 57	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/jeanette-foster">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/jeanette-foster</a>	
Larry		Broesder	56 57	<a href="https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000490328/">https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000490328/</a>	24/06/01
Karlyn	Hendricks	Painter	57		
Thomas		Maples	57		
Susan	Manderschei	Beck	59	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/susan-beck">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/susan-beck</a>	24/02/21
Myron		Wachendorf	59	<a href="https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd0869785">https://www.argusleader.com/obituaries/pabd0869785</a>	24/06/22
Marilynn	Jacobson	Parham	59	<a href="http://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/mariynn-Parham">www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/mariynn-Parham</a>	



Many thanks to Mary Montoya '59,  
Connie Nelson '59, Jim Carlson '56,  
Eric Gustafson '58 & Bill Lobe '59 for keeping  
the O & B informed & Stephen Veenker '59 as  
Adviser/ Contributor!

**Jack & Debra Phillips**  
**Please send your news, stories &**  
**photos & Letters to the Editor**  
**to keep the O & B alive to the New Address**  
**[orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com)**

