

# 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.

2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134 **Issue #03-24**

**Dear O & B Subscribers Please read page 3 for the  
"Teacher Feature"**

**We need to hear from you who was your FAVORITE WHS teacher?  
Keep the stories & photos coming! [orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com)**

## Letters to The



## & B



Barbara Harding  
Hines '50  
WHS Senior Photo

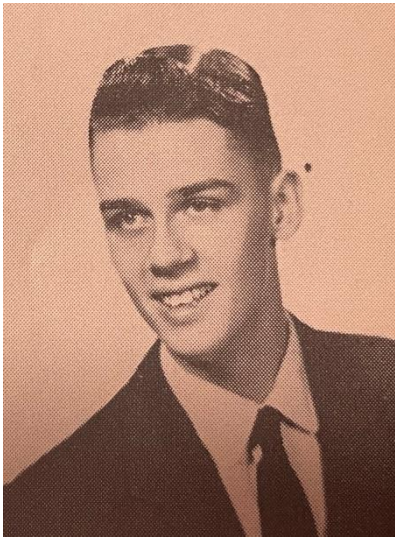
Barb Harding Hines '50 <[barb.hines@icloud.com](mailto:barb.hines@icloud.com)>  
wrote on July 12, 2024 :

**Dear O & B**

Thank you so much for continuing the WHS Newsletter. I enjoy whatever news is forwarded. I live in Dow Rummel Retirement Home in Sioux Falls in Independent Living. At the age of 92 not many of my class are still around but would be happy to hear from any of you who are still kicking.....I hear from Elsie O'Connor Beck once in awhile and Bev Wood Brune and Jean Nerison Johnson is also a friend on FB. Walt Leyse moved in recently to Independent Living as well.

Anyone else around?

Barb Harding Hines



Harold Rudisill '56  
WHS Senior Photo

**From:** Double R Rudisill/Miller

[<richrudy@live.com>](mailto:richrudy@live.com)

**Date:** July 13, 2024

Debra...so many thanks for you keeping the page going. Look forward to receiving it every time. Hope you can keep it up. Sorry we never got to meet on trips to LV and living so close. Me in Palm Springs. Sure like that Ex!!! Thanks again and stay "cool".

Harold "Rudy" Rudisill...class 56  
(Don't know if you ever knew...Jack used to come to the Nickle Plate at lunchtime and I sat with him sometimes in the kitchen. Waitresses and cooks would let us do that. He was such a nice guy!)





# Teacher Feature



**Stephen Veenker '59**  
**Contributing Editor**

Three generations later, what do we remember most about our Washington High School days?

Friends and good times

Coming of age

Teachers who changed our lives!

I'm sure each of us could name three or more WHS teachers who most inspired our life, in a few seconds.

For me, Barney Kremer, Lorraine Norman, Ann(i)e Kleinsasser, Ellen Skaff, and many others.

One year in Mechanical Drawing, we were working on our drawing boards, and Clark Close turned on the radio to hear the Olympics or the Political convention. We all agreed not to tell we listened to the radio! Mr. Close said, "In four more years you will be all over the country, and probably won't remember Mr. Close."

Four years later I sent him a floor plan I was devising for Space Planning, in college. Another four years, the plans of our AFRTS studios in the Canal Zone. Four years later, floor plans from Chicago Tribune Tower, where I worked, and in another four the floor plan of my radio station and magazine employer rented on Michigan Avenue. My message was always that we didn't forget him or his class. My benefit was that everywhere I worked, I was the guy who could read floor plans and help allocate space.

Bill Zabel '54 once wrote to the Argus-Leader to commend WHS faculty. Today it would be called an op-ed. He said going straight from Sioux Falls to Princeton and then Harvard Law did not turn out intimidating; WHS grads were as well prepared as all his well-endowed big city prep school classmates.

Many of our teachers spent summers in continuing education classes to earn their Masters degrees on their own. They were dedicated to us. I stayed in touch with many of mine for many years.

Quite likely you have a favorite class that changed your life, and/or a teacher who inspired you beyond expectations. Or an anecdote that stayed with you for six decades. Tell us about it!



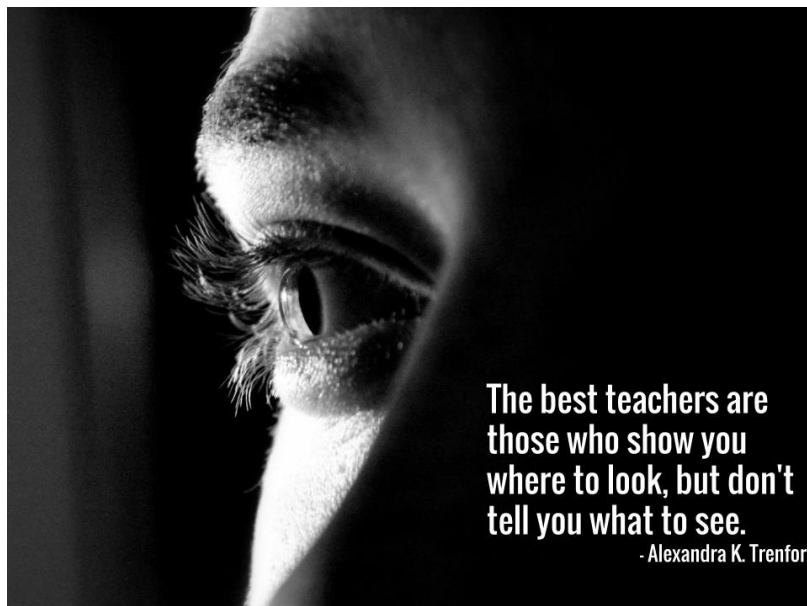
Share your memories and how your lives have changed. You will likely inspire others to do the same, and we promise to print as many as we can in following editions. Though the teachers are probably no longer among us, the rest of us will remember. My brother Ron '54 and his wife Bev taught for decades at a university, and this summer scores of her students honored her at the 50th anniversary of the Musical Theatre program she helped launch. It was moving.

An old joke quoted a teacher as saying, "I'm just in Education to make a quick fortune, then I'm gonna do something else." Teaching is a vocation, and the best of them change us forever. Who changed you? Email your memories.

[orangeandblackonline@gmail.com](mailto:orangeandblackonline@gmail.com)

Stephen Veenker '59 Contributing Editor

**Which WHS teacher do you remember fondly?**



# **The Future of the O & B**

## **by Jack Phillips**

**As we get close to November, we mark a year since the untimely departure of our beloved friend and publisher, Jack Phillips, it seems appropriate to recall his comments and the replies to his earliest published thoughts about retiring from his duties and suspending the Alumni O&B. Here are most of those remarks:**

### **The Future of The Alumni O&B?**

**In O&B Issue #9-19, dated Sept. 9, 2019, I wrote the following:**

**THE END OF THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK** Sadly it seems that there will be few, if anymore at all, WHS Class Reunions from the Fifties Decade. Thus, this seems to be the logical time to retire the Alumni Orange & Black that I have been publishing for almost 11 years. I think we all agree that the '50s were a very special time and we were so very fortunate to have grown up and come-of-age during those magical years. But our numbers are dwindling, and I see evidence that our intense interest and reader contributions of those truly special and wonderful years are diminishing . Therefore, after a great deal of consideration I announced last week at the 65th Reunion of my Class of '54 that the last issue of the O&B would be printed within the next few months. I sincerely wish to thank each of you for the support and the contributions you have made to the O&B. Just saying "thank you" is totally inadequate to express the deep appreciation I feel inside. I have never professed to being a journalist and have fully realized from the very beginning probably more than anyone of my limitations as a writer. But not one of you have ever pointed out my journalistic short comings. You have always accepted my limited writing skills, and I have always greatly appreciated that more than you will ever know. I now thank you for your immense tolerance, acceptance and support. Jack Phillips '54

### **12-4-19 Update:**

**First of all, I just can't begin to express how touched I was at receiving the over 200 truly wonderful thank you letters and letters of understanding and support regarding my intention of retiring from publishing the Alumni O&B. I assure you that making my decision to retire was difficult and one that I am still wrestling with. I also assure you that I don't wish to belabor the subject with you, but since so many of you wrote I would like to share a letter with you that I wrote to a dear friend on the subject. It is the first time I have ever really explained what all has been involved in publishing the O&B for almost eleven years now. If you are bored with this subject I understand, and you certainly can now just skip reading any further.**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ I am just writing to thank you for your phone call and for expressing your opinions regarding the future of the O&B. I truly, TRULY, appreciate your call as well as all of the letters of thanks and support I have received from so many of my subscribers. I assure you it is an extremely difficult decision for me to make and I am now constantly wrestling with it daily. The two main reasons I have for retiring is simply how much time is increasingly required and the fact that I am receiving fewer and fewer stories submitted by our classmates. Of course, that simply requires more work for me to generate stories that I hope will interest my subscribers. When I add those first two pretty strong arguments for me to retire to the several additional factors that I didn't mention to you, it just provides more factors for me to consider. I hope you don't mind, but I would like to share with you some additional factors that I must weigh in making my decision. Several years ago, the "business, or administrative part of publishing the O&B" reached the point where it takes more time than the actual publishing of the newsletters and the Special Editions. That is, assisting and servicing the needs and problems of my large number of subscribers.

The financial burden of publishing the O&B is a consideration I feel I need to start considering. The monthly charge from the distribution company alone is \$45.00 per month, or \$540 per year. It doesn't matter how many mailings I send out each month, the cost remains the same. There are also other direct costs I incur each year with the mailing such as the annual "domain" cost and the annual expense of maintaining my email address. Those costs are also absolute and unavoidable each year. (Since writing this letter I have calculated that the current actual cost of just publishing the O&B is \$615.88 per year and I am prepaid through March of 2020.)

My subscribers have always been most generous in voicing their appreciation of my efforts and commenting on how much work they know the O&B requires. Without any doubt I have always truly appreciated their generous thanks and acknowledgements, but I have always been certain that no one has ever fully realized how much time and work the O&B actually requires. Please don't misunderstand, I am not complaining. The O&B has always been an act of love and a job that I have fully and gladly volunteered to accept. And I have never had any regrets! I hope you don't mind my sharing this description of what all is involved with publishing the O&B to the huge number of subscribers I have had for several years now. I seriously doubt that any of my wonderful subscribers have any idea how much work and time it takes just to try and maintain my records in an accurate and up to date status.

Back to the expense of the O&B for a moment. My largest expense has always been a discretionary purchase of updating my Apple Computer that I have deemed necessary. When I first begin publishing the newsletter for just our class of '54 I did considerable research on which computer on the market would be best for such a project. In my judgement at the time, I felt the Apple Computer was the best choice by far and that was what I purchased. Almost 11 years later I am more convinced than ever that I made the right choice. I am now on my 3rd Apple Lap Top Computer. The surprising thing I learned pretty quickly was what a very large amount of memory I was going to need. As an example, right now I have the following volume of items saved in my current computer. 32,657 letters and documents. . 33,070 photos. 23 videos of past reunions. 2,796 names and addresses plus background notes and information on those 2,796 people in my "Address Book". By the time I purchased my 2nd Apple Computer I knew I needed as much memory as I could get and the same with my current model which is number 3.

At least 99.99% of my years as editor have been super rewarding, positive and gratifying and I totally cherished the entire experience.

Again, I am weighing all of the above in trying to make my decision. I am hoping I can do so by March of next year. I don't feel any hurry to quit something I love so much. The only thing I feel I can safely say now is that I don't feel I could drop coverage of the other 9 class years (as you have suggested), and just continue with our class of '54. To do that I would just feel like a traitor to so many such unbelievably supporting people! I hope this has enlightened you a bit, but all of the above hasn't bored you too badly.

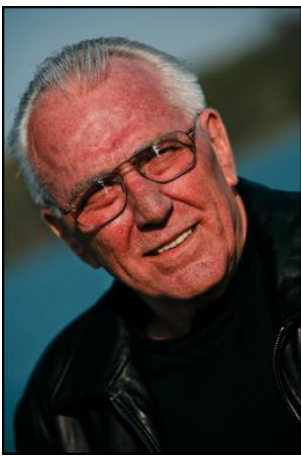
Jack Phillips

Editor Alumni Orange & Black 11/2019

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Jack said it for us. You told us you would miss the Alumni O&B coming online. Many of you are reading about your parents' or spouse's experience with the 50s. All are welcome. If there are anecdotes you choose to share, we are pleased to read them and will include them when we can. We cannot make stuff up. Unless you let us know what is going on in your lives, we cannot tell your classmates. But you tell us you want us to keep it going, and we shall, as often as we can. You tell Us what you want to share and see. We will keep Jack's publication going.





**William Lobe '59**

**Contributor**

## **Virtual Tourist**

As a WHS class member of “the Great ‘50’s Decade” and subscriber of Jack Phillips’ O&B, like most all of us, I’ve experienced my fair share of travel within and outside our national borders. Now, in my ‘80’s, I am no longer anxious to “hit the road” again. I do, however, often reminisce of those special places where I’ve spent some quality time and experiences unique to each locale. From time to time, I would like to visit there again for just a little while but am unwilling to face the travel inconveniences and expense involved.

I have found an alternative that takes me to those destinations *in real time* without leaving the comfort of my home. There are live cameras positioned worldwide in countless locations operating 24/7 that can be accessed by a click on your keyboard. Access to these “live cams” is free and requires no membership. Unfortunately, because of technical limitations, none that I’ve identified include sound with the video feed. Granted, my having a 40-inch computer monitor enhances the experience.

Seems like the most prominent live cam provider is EarthCam.com, although there are many others including those operated by local television stations. On EarthCam, one can select live cameras based on state or country (none listed for South Dakota). Following are just a few locations I enjoy virtually visiting from time to time. Just click on the links and you’re there!

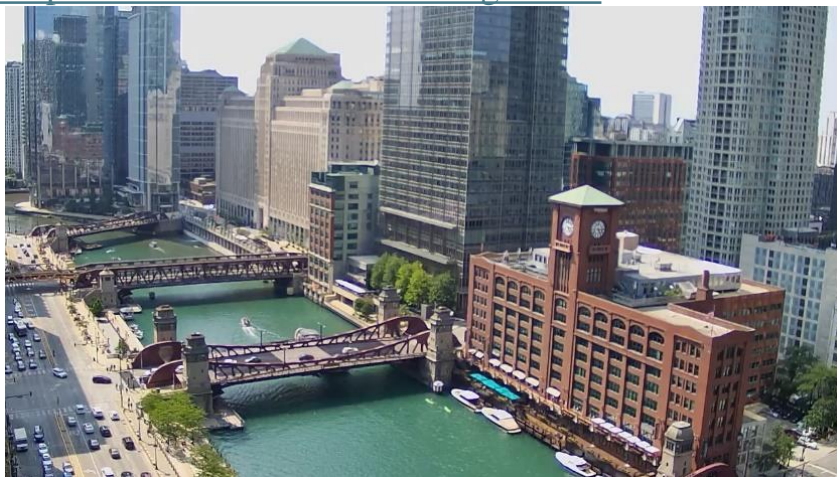
***Bourbon Street, New Orleans*** - Having personally visited New Orleans on numerous occasions, both business and personal, I enjoy watching the tourists on Bourbon Street, particularly during the evening hours, especially Saturday, and reminiscing the unique street music and excellent food.

<https://www.earthcam.com/usa/louisiana/neworleans/bourbonstreet/?cam=bourbonstreet>



**Chicago downtown** - Back in my productive business years, in contracting with government agencies, I established a business location on State Street in Chicago which soon became one of my favorites U.S. cities. I especially enjoyed the sense of community spirit shared by all the locals with whom I interacted in business and socially that was unique to this Midwest community. Often, at the end of the working day, I would meet for cocktails with new-found friends at Bennigan's on Michigan Ave by the Chicago River and watch all the people going home from work and those arriving beginning a new shift using whatever mass transit system best served their needs.

<https://www.fox10phoenix.com/webcams-chicago-river>



**Bar Harbor, Maine** – Venturing out to where I've never been, I came across this live webcam in Bar Harbor, Maine of an osprey nest. Depending on time of day, I've seen up to four ospreys at a time dining on freshly caught fish.

[https://www.earthcam.com/usa/maine/barharbor/osprey/?cam=osprey\\_barharbor](https://www.earthcam.com/usa/maine/barharbor/osprey/?cam=osprey_barharbor)

**Sioux Falls, Falls Park** – Although having not returned to Sioux Falls in decades, I frequently visit via live cam. My previous employer, KELO TV, while attending Augustana back in the early '60's, has dozens of live cams in Sioux Falls and other South Dakota communities from which to select. <https://www.keloland.com/weather/live-cameras/>

Admittedly, the only view that hasn't changed beyond my recognition through all these years is the falls, <https://media.psg.nexstardigital.net/kelo/livecams/siouxfallsfallspark.html>

So, try being your own travel agent for **real time** adventure just a click away. Please take the time to share your favorite live cam locations and stories with all O&B subscribers.

**Bon Voyage!**

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



FIRST NAME	NEE/Middle	LAST	CLASS	OBIT LINK <b>RED Denotes most recent Passings</b>	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		04/24/24
Betty M	Koenekamp	Kroon	50	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/betty-kroon">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/betty-kroon</a>	08/29/24
Sally Lee	Haas	Kocon	51		
Dean	Douglas	Mann	51	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obits/results?obit_lname=Dean+Mann">https://www.millerfh.com/obits/results?obit_lname=Dean+Mann</a>	07/31/24
William		Frank	52		06/24/24
Betty	Holmoe	Pfeifle	52	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obits/results?obit_lname=Betty+Pfeifle">https://www.millerfh.com/obits/results?obit_lname=Betty+Pfeifle</a>	08/06/24
Roger Dean		Gravelle	53	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/roger-gravelle">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/roger-gravelle</a>	03/09/24
Donald		Brown	53		
Bob		Newcomb	53	<a href="http://www.yatesfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Bob-Newcomb?obId=32819558">www.yatesfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Bob-Newcomb?obId=32819558</a>	08/16/24
Lorraine	Beryl	Forslin	54	<a href="https://washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries">https://washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries</a>	05/07/24
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>	
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Jack		Phillips	54	<a href="https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/jack-phillips-11526217">https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/jack-phillips-11526217</a>	11/03/23
Wayne		Gustafson	54	<a href="https://www.osheimschmidt.com/obituary/wayne-gustafson">https://www.osheimschmidt.com/obituary/wayne-gustafson</a>	11/27/23
Ronald (Ron)	Juel	Hoefert	54	<a href="https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-hoefert">https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/ronald-ron-hoefert</a>	07/29/24
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Darlene	Timmons	Hodge	55	<a href="https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/darlene-hodge">https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/darlene-hodge</a>	
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Mari Lynn	Jacobson	Parham	59	<a href="http://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/mariynn-Parham">www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/mariynn-Parham</a>	



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**Jack & Debra Phillips**  
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