



**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: [jackmp@me.com](mailto:jackmp@me.com)

## O&B Computer Down

On January 7, 2020 my computer started doing strange, aggravating and frustrating things. Eventually I had to call Apple Tech Support and they suggested I upgrade my software from "Mohave" to "Catalina". Over the next 10 days, much difficulty, approximately 10 hours on the phone with tech support ,plus two over night visits for my lap top to the Apple "Hospital" I got it back only to find out that lots and lots of files from June 6, 2019 were missing.

I am telling you all of this for several reasons. First to apologize for many Special Editions since early January being mailed late. This apology also includes lots of tardy replies to many of your emails. I also worry about how many emails you may have sent to me since June 6, 2019 that I never received.

I was able to receive and reply to some emails on my cell phone during that down time, but when I finally got my computer back there were still over 800 unopened emails in my inbox. As I have told you in the past, I normally receive between 100 and 200 emails per day, so because of this huge backlog I am having to in some cases not answer some of your less urgent emails and just be slow in answering the others. Of course if you have written me and have not received a reply please don't hesitate to write me again.

Don't you agree that computers are like children, wonderful and such a joy when they behave, but so maddening when they don't?

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**ANOTHER "WOW" TO BE PROUD OF!**

**"Best High School Football  
Programs by State"**  
**by Stadium Talk**

**South Dakota: Sioux Falls Washington High School**



Dave Eggen/AP Photo

**City:** Sioux Falls. **Year opened:** 1908

**Type of school:** Public. **Enrollment:** 1,949.

The high school football program that has won the most state championships of all time doesn't reside in Texas. Or California. Or Florida. It resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Washington High has 42 state titles to its name. When you think of football in South Dakota, you may think we are referring to six-man, eight-man or nine-man football, but these 42 championships came in 11-man football. Just three other schools in the country have won at least 30 state titles.

Since its debut in 1899, Washington High won football titles in every decade through the 1970s. After winning in 1976, they then had a 23-year drought before regaining their status as the best football program in the state.

The Washington Warriors have won six state titles since 2009, and their total of 42 are 10 more than the second-place school (Central High in Little Rock, Arkansas).

**Record since 2009:** 104-26 (.800 winning percentage)

**Notable players (graduation year):** RB Scott Boyens (1986), WR JaRon Harris (2004), LB Nate Gerry (2013), OT Matt Farniok (2016), LB Seth Benson (2018)

**Notable coaches:** Howard Wood (1910-45), Brian Hermanson (2005-12), Chad Stadem (2013-present)

**State championships:** 42 (1905, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1917, 1918, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1941, 1945, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1976, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017)

**Bottom line:** Washington High School's 42 football state championships are the most of any school in the United States, with the first 14 under head coach Howard Wood.

Included in Washington's run was an unbelievable streak of 14 straight state titles from 1952 to 1965, which is also a national record.

Washington's record title haul includes a 33-year stretch from 1976 to 2009 without any championships.

**Editor's note:** The 50's decade should be particularly proud as our 50's decade contributed 8 of WHS's record number 42 state championships. More than any other decade!

Thanks to both Doug Olson '56 [Springman38@aol.com](mailto:Springman38@aol.com) and Stephen Veenker '59 ' [s.veenker@aol.com](mailto:s.veenker@aol.com) for submitting "*Why Sioux Falls Is Booming*"

Editor's note: An appropriate follow up to Sioux Falls being a, "WOW" city.

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/south-dakota-s-sioux-falls-can-teach-the-u-s-about-growth#gs.HkAfBgg>



Doug Olson '56  
WHS Senior Photo



Stephen Veenker '59  
WHS Senior Photo

# Why Sioux Falls Is Booming

Oct 02 2018, 10:00 AM

(Bloomberg Opinion) -- There are 63 metropolitan areas in the U.S. (out of 382 total) that saw their populations grow by 10 percent or more from 2010 through mid-2017, according to estimates compiled by the Census Bureau. That compares with an increase of 5.5 percent for the nation as a whole, and 6.5 percent for its metropolitan areas — which, just to be clear on what we're talking about, are defined as "one or more counties that contain a city of 50,000 or more inhabitants, or contain a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area and have a total population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England)."

Thirty-nine of these fast-growing metros are in the South and 19 in the West. This should come as no big surprise, given that these two regions are estimated to have accounted for 86 percent of the country's almost-17-million-person increase in population since 2010. None of the fast-growth areas is in the Northeast, but there are five in the slowest-growing of the four regions delineated by the Census Bureau: the Midwest.

One of these Midwestern standouts, Iowa City, Iowa, is home to a large research university, a frequent catalyst for local economic success. Another, Des Moines, Iowa, is a state capital with a metro-area population of 645,911, which is in keeping with urbanist Aaron Renn's dictum that "If you want to be a successful Midwestern city, it helps to be a state capital with a metro area population of over 500,000." Two, Bismarck and Fargo, North Dakota, have been beneficiaries of a big shale-oil boom in their state.



That leaves Sioux Falls, South Dakota, which has seen its metro-area population rise 13.5 percent since 2010 (and 68.8 percent since 1990), to 259,094. There's no major university in town; local legend has it that city fathers were given the choice 150-plus years ago between the University of South Dakota and the South Dakota State Penitentiary, and they opted for the latter because they figured it would bring more jobs. The state capital, Pierre, is more than a three hours' drive away. The signature local industry used to be meatpacking — and there's still a big, exceptionally fragrant Smithfield Foods Inc. pork-processing plant along the Big Sioux River about a mile north of downtown.

This does not sound like a recipe for economic success in the early-21st-century U.S.! Yet Sioux Falls is undeniably booming. What's up with that?

I am not the first to attempt to answer this question: James and Deborah Fallows devote the first chapter of their new book [“Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America”](#) to it, and if you want a detailed account complete with Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons (manufactured in Sioux Falls by Raven Industries Inc.), that's where you really need to go. Last year, meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal described how [“As Many Midwest Cities Slump, Sioux Falls Soars,”](#) while the New York Times, early to the topic and focused on what really matters, published [“A Food Scene Grows in Sioux Falls, S.D.”](#) in 2014.

Still, this is a subject worth repeated examination, given that lots of city leaders around the country must wonder how they can capture some of that Sioux Falls magic. And I have two possibly useful observations, one that occurred to me while visiting Sioux Falls recently and another that jumped out as I looked through the metro-area population data just now.

Let's start with the latter: Remember how I said that none of the fastest-growing metros is in the Northeast and five are in the Midwest, even though the Midwest's population is growing more slowly (1.9 percent since 2010) than the Northeast's (2.1 percent)? Go further down the rankings of metropolitan-area growth, and this discrepancy stands out even more. There is not a single metropolitan area in the Northeast that has grown at or faster than the national metro-area rate of 6.5 percent since 2010, and only two (Boston and State College, Pennsylvania) have grown at or faster than the overall national rate of 5.5 percent. Yet there are 19 metro areas in the slower-growing Midwest that make the first cut, and 23 that make the second.



What the Midwest has been experiencing is a great reshuffling. On its eastern side, as I [wrote about Ohio last month](#), older industrial cities and to a lesser extent rural areas have been shedding people and jobs. To the west, the story is almost entirely one of rural areas depopulating as, among other things, bigger, better agricultural equipment allows farmers to plant and harvest more acres with less labor. Some of these people have left the region entirely — the Midwest as a whole has been experiencing net domestic out-migration for decades — but many are flocking to the region's growth hubs, a mix of college towns, state capitals and a few other cities. So the headline on that Wall Street Journal article, while not factually wrong, is misleading. Lots of Midwestern metro areas are soaring, or at least growing faster than the national average, even as the region as a whole plods along.

Still, it cannot be denied that the Dakotas trio of Fargo, Bismarck and Sioux Falls has soared the highest since 2010. While I dismissed the former pair earlier as beneficiaries of North Dakota's oil boom, in Fargo's case that's not really fair, given that it is all the way at the other end of the state from the oil wells (Bismarck, the state capital, is much closer); plus, it was growing at a healthy clip before all the fracking started. Its success raises many of the same questions that Sioux Falls's does, and they probably have some quite similar answers. But it is Sioux Falls that I happened to visit recently, and the Sioux Falls metro area's growth has outpaced Fargo's if you measure from 2000 or 1990.

What did Sioux Falls do to encourage such rapid growth? Most famously, it [persuaded Citibank to move its entire credit-card operation to town in the early 1980s](#) after the South Dakota Legislature voted to repeal the state's usury laws, which limited the interest rates banks could charge. Other card issuers followed, attracted not only by the ability to charge as much interest as they pleased but also by very low taxes. South Dakota has no corporate or personal income tax, and when the [Tax Foundation last measured](#)

[overall state and local tax burdens](#) in 2012, South Dakota's ranked second-lowest, just behind oil-rich Alaska.

This isn't just the story, though, of a state luring industry with low taxes and deregulation. South Dakota's workforce happens to be pretty solid, too. College graduates make up a smaller share of the adult population there than nationwide, but the state ranks near the top in the [percentage of adults](#) with high school diplomas and associate degrees, as well as in [literacy rate](#), and it has [among the highest](#) labor-force participation rates and lowest unemployment rates.

Also, the financial sector ceased being the big economic growth story in Sioux Falls a while ago. The area still has the nation's third-highest [location quotient](#) for [financial employment](#), a measure of how concentrated the industry is in the area relative to the nation as a whole, trailing only the metropolitan areas of Bloomington, Illinois ([home of State Farm](#)), and Des Moines (another [big insurance center](#)). But metro Sioux Falls has fewer financial-sector jobs now than it did in 2008, even as other payroll employment has risen 20 percent.

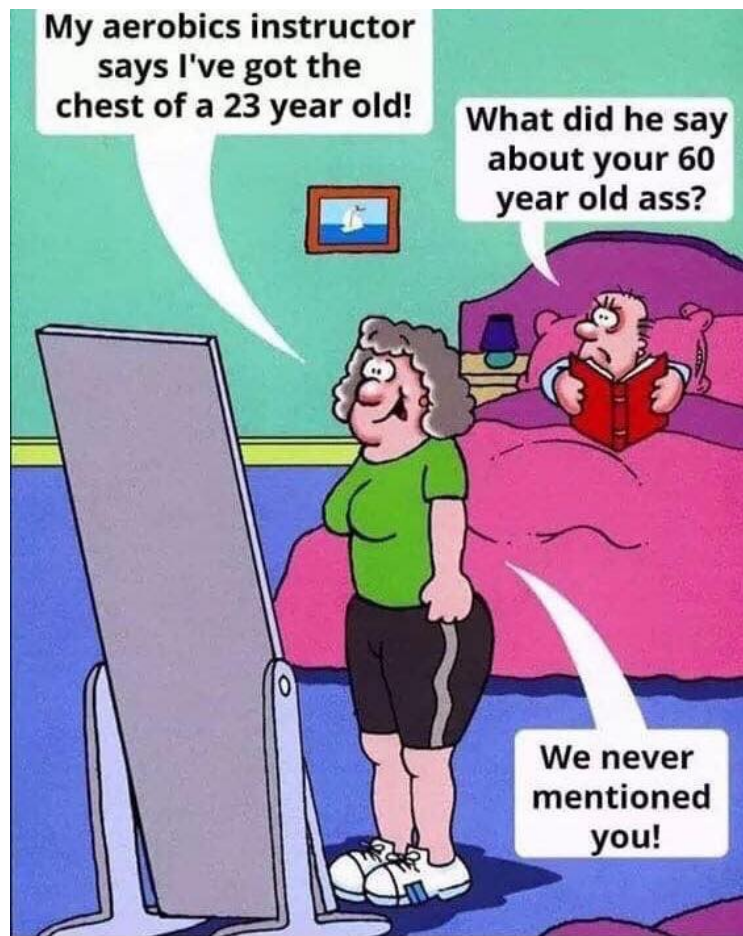
It can't have hurt that, before it started shedding jobs, the credit-card industry provided Sioux Falls with a [billionaire](#) sugar daddy. Minnesotan T. Denny Sanford had founded and sold a company representing manufacturers of construction materials and was trying and failing to enjoy retirement when, [according to Forbes](#), he bought a 10-branch South Dakota bank in 1986 from a friend who needed to unload it because he was going through a divorce. A few years later, Sanford hired a young executive from Citibank's Sioux Falls operation to see if there was a credit-card niche that his First Premier Bank could exploit. What they settled on was high-interest-rate cards for people with terrible credit. First Premier is now a major national card issuer, and while its practices sometimes garner [bad media coverage](#), they also bring in tons of money — money that Sanford, now 82, has pledged to give away fast enough that he can die broke.

Sanford has [reportedly donated](#) nearly \$1 billion to one of the two Sioux Falls-area hospital systems, which is now called Sanford Health and bills itself as "the largest rural, not-for-profit health care system in the nation." One of its affiliates, [Sanford Research](#), employs 200 medical researchers in Sioux Falls. Regional centralization of health care has made it a key source of jobs in lots of mid-sized cities, but Sanford's gifts have helped make those jobs even more plentiful and well-remunerated in Sioux Falls than is the norm. Sanford has also helped fund the [Sanford Underground Research Facility](#), a state-managed physics lab in a former gold mine in the Black Hills at the western edge of the state; the new [Madison Cyber Labs](#) at Dakota State University about an hour's drive northwest of Sioux Falls; and the [Sanford School of Medicine](#) at the University of South Dakota about an hour's drive to the south.

No one else in Sioux Falls has amassed anything like Sanford's fortune, but other businesspeople in the city feel similarly compelled to chip in. The new mayor, Paul Ten Haken, is the founder and former chief executive of a Sioux Falls-based [marketing technology company](#) who decided it was time to "pivot" to public service, while [his predecessor](#) had been a Citibank and First Premier executive before taking charge at City Hall. Since 1987, an initiative called [Forward Sioux Falls](#) has been relying on donations from local businesses to finance most of the area's economic development efforts, which at the moment include a [giant new industrial park](#) at the north end of town and a nearby ["corporate and academic research park"](#) affiliated with the University of South Dakota. "The business community recognizes that we're in a low-tax state," Dave Rozenboom, president of First Premier Bank (overseeing the local community bank, not the national credit-card operation) and co-chairman of the current Forward Sioux Falls fundraising campaign, told me. "So in essence we're taxing ourselves. And we get to choose what to spend it on."

This mixing of private and public interest may make you cringe, but as the Fallowses recount in their book, such public-private partnerships can be found again and again in successful cities and regions. And while cutting state taxes to spur growth [doesn't always work](#), combining low taxes with high investment seems like a pretty potent recipe for economic success, if you can find a way to sustain it.

This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners. Justin Fox is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering business. He was the editorial director of Harvard Business Review and wrote for Time, Fortune and American Banker. He is the author of "The Myth of the Rational Market."



## Future of The O&B

In September of 2019 I announced that I was considering retirement from publishing the Orange & Black by March of 2020. Each March I must renew my annual contract with Constant Contact who actually mails the O&B to all of you. Below in the “**Letters To The O&B**” are just some of the many extremely moving, kind and generous emails I have received concerning my planned retirement. Needless to say the sentiments you expressed to me are making it extremely difficult to adhere to that plan of retirement.

I feel that the best bottom-line decision for my personal business interests is that due to the greatly increased demands from my personal businesses and the ever increasing demands of publishing the O&B I definitely should retire from the O&B. **BUT**,,, due to your overflowing expressions of appreciation, understanding and support I find myself feeling I need to reconsider my decision.

Below is just a small sampling of emails I have received from you, my readers, on the subject of discontinuing the Alumni O&B. Your wonderful letters of support and appreciation have always made me feel that my work was appreciated, but now after receiving the first two unbelievably generous “**Letters to the O&B**” below from, **Dick Sweetman '54** and **Jack Kittelson '54** representing the **Class of '54**, and **Dale Peterson '56**, I am wondering if I have ever fully realized what the O&B has meant to some of my readers?

Without a doubt I am deeply touched and overwhelmed by the significant offers of financial assistance, but more than that it makes me more aware of what the O&B means to so many people.

**Thank you!**

**Jack Phillips '54, O&B Editor**



# Letters to the



# &B



**Dick Sweetman '54**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 9, 2019, Richard Sweetman '54  
<racsweetman@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Jack,

Another superb newsletter and a beautiful Christmas card from you and Debra. Kathy and I send the two of you our best Christmas wishes.

I noted in your newsletter that the internet service you use for WHS O&B costs about \$615 a year. The bank account for WHS Class of '54 has a bit over \$300. in it. I suggested to **Jack Kittleson '54** that we send the balance to you to use as you see fit and he agreed. If this is OK with you I will run it by Marilyn V and Jeannie and am sure

they will be in agreement.

What you do for so many is absolutely amazing and the joy you create is immeasurable. Thank you, my friend, you are one of a kind!

Sincerely, **Dick Sweetman '54**



**Jack Kittleson '54**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Dale Peterson '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

**DALE AND CAMILLE'S EXTREMELY GENEROUS OFFER IS TRULY OVERWHELMING! I CAN ONLY SAY, THANK YOU CAMILLE AND DALE FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS COMMITMENT TO THE O&B AND FOR HELPING TO PRESERVE OUR CHERISHED WHS MEMORIES JACK**

On Dec 27, 2019, **Dale Peterson '56** <dale1228@nwi.net>  
wrote:

Dear Jack,

Thank you for all the amazing information, joy and wonderful photos and stories you have shared with all of us who were students of the 50's at WHS. Your desire to stop your editorial roll is entirely understandable realizing it couldn't continue indefinitely. The fact remains that you still are at the top of your game and does it have to be now. The time you have put in and the quality of the work you turn out has been a gift of immense proportions and you have asked for nothing in return. The realization of your expenses should have dawned on me before your last letter. We are putting a check for \$1,000 in the mail to you today at your address, 2261 Lauren Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89134. Should you choose to continue we will be glad to do this on an annual basis. I implore you, Jack, to put this letter in the next O&B, if there is one. Others, too, may feel a financial responsibility for our O&B that you have so capably published over the last half century.

You have my profound thanks and admiration,

**Dale T. Peterson '56**



**Camille Larson '61**  
WHS Junior Photo



**The beautiful bride, Camille and handsome, Dale on their wedding day, December 28, 1963.**

**Photo is from the O&B Valentine Day issue #2-14**



**Pete Hegg '57**  
WHS Senior Photo

## TWO OTHER GENEROUS & THOUGHTFUL SUBSCRIBERS. BOTH VERY CLASSY GUYS!

**Editor's note:** Over the years there have been two other thoughtful and generous O&B subscribers that have also offered financial assistance to the O&B that I would like to belatedly acknowledge and thank.

Way back on April 8, 2013 **Pete Hegg '57**, all on his own, wrote and acknowledged that there must be expenses associated with publishing the O&B and offered to contribute financially to those expenses. Needless to say I was extremely impressed with his thoughtfulness. I declined his kind offer but thanked him then profusely and again now.



**Don Brown '53**  
WHS Sophomore Photo

More recently my good friend, **Don Brown '53**, after becoming aware of the expense associated with publishing the O&B also wrote offering to contribute to those costs. His thoughtfulness, like all of the others touched me greatly. Again I declined his generous offer, but again, I truly appreciated his thoughtfulness.



**Nancy Knepper '59**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Nov 10, 2019, Nancy Lee Scott <nancylee.scott@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks, Denny usually watches your good work here, hope all your travels are enjoyable, we are still at it, too. We used to be all alone in Europe during the active duty days, now we have the reality of the crowds often outside the USofA. However, here, one of our favorite stories from **Noel Muller '56** was his sailing his assigned battleship through the Cape Cod Canal at the order of the Captain; Cape Cod has taken new meaning for us since then. Not too many crowds during the off season.

Cannot remember your class at this writing, but, my sister, **Sharon Knepper '56**, was Noel's class. Sharon and her friends did capture me as a freshman and carry out the "passage into WHS," lots of lipstick on my face, as I recall.

Thanks again for facilitating these important passages. **Nancy (Knepper) Scott '59**



**Sharon Knepper '56**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Denny Scott '59**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Kay Nordin '55**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 7, 2019, at 3:22 PM, Donald Stoterau <daskms@cox.net> wrote:

Thanks Jack for all your dedication to keeping  
Us from the 50s up to date on friends and  
Classmates. Living in AZ for several decades  
Makes it difficult to keep.

Have enjoyed every issue

**Kay Nordin Stoterau. '55**  
Mesa, AZ





**Wanda Shelp '55**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 7, 2019, **Wanda Shelp Chinnery '55** <wchinnery@aol.com> wrote:  
Jack,  
Thank you so much for you diligent work over many years on the Orange and Black. You have been so dedicated and generous. I have used it to remind myself of many wonderful people.  
I wish you the best as you go forward and thank you more than you can know for what you have done.  
Merry Christmas,  
**Wanda Shelp Chinnery ( 1955)**

Wanda, thank you for writing and for the kind words. While inserting your email in this issue I discovered I do not have any contact information on you. Would you please send your current address, etc. Jack Phillips '54



**Chuck Erickson '50**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 7, 2019, **Chuck Erickson '50** ericksonca@everestkc.net wrote:  
Thank you Jack!!! As one of the older grads [1950] I wanted to tell you what a wonderful thing you have done in your life. The WHS news was such a delight to read and I will miss it greatly!! I shared the news with a few of my old computer challenged friends. I will forever be grateful for what you have done.  
Very Sincerely **Chuck Erickson '50**  
Chuck, so simple yet so touching. Thank you. Jack

On Dec 7, 2019, **Roberta Atkins Cathedral '59** <robertaatkins@gmail.com> wrote:  
Thanks for all the work you do (and have done) on the O & B. I enjoy it every time.  
Merry Christmas.  
Roberta Atkins  
**Class of '59 Cathedral HS**

Thanks Roberta, Sorry I don't have a senior photo of you. If you send me one I will include it next time. Jack



**Denny York '55**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 8, 2019, **Dennis York '55** <yorkota.dy@gmail.com> wrote:  
Didn't know my girls sent a note to you! Thanks for publishing. I graduated from wheelchair to walker about 2 weeks ago and returned to my apartment. Working on getting to a cane.  
Finally feel like an old guy. I have a 100 year old gal living near me and she flies by me to get to activities. She could be my mother!!  
I know you're ready to retire. We all owe you a giant bundle of thanks for all the work you've done. It's remarkable the number of folks you've covered over the years. Looks like you are ready to pass the details of the O&B to someone who is willing.  
Again, thanks for all you've done for us.

**Denny York '55**

On Dec 27, 2019, at 1:40 PM, **JIM REDFIELD '50** <jimwred@cox.net> wrote:  
Thanx Jack, lot of my '50's bunch gone! Obviously not many left except the old-die hards like me! I'll be lucky to make it to 88, next year! Cheers, **Jim Redfield '50**





**Robert Owens '55**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 27, 2019, Robert Owens '55 <ROwens@dc.rr.com> wrote:

Happy Holidays to you and the wife from Robert Owens in Cathedral City, California..... I have enjoyed your Black and white's for a long time. Sorry I have never had anything to contribute to it. I will be 85 next Wednesday. Very LONG enjoyable life for me. Went over the names from the class of 55 and called out those that I dearly remember. You would probably agree with me and saying time really goes fast, doesn't it? Wow. ha The big problem with me and my age is losing so many friends before me. I feel very alone at times. And the amazing thing is that so many were much younger than me. My last dear older childhood friend that passed away was Denny Zea. Class of 55. Last one on the list I have to say. ha Anyway, thanks a lot for what you have done. I will ask my brother and close others to let you know IF I should go not far down the road. I am not in really bad condition. So WHO KNOWS? HA Happy 2020.....**Robert Owens '55**

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**Tom Muchow '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 9, 2019, **Tom Muchow '56** <eaglewoodsman@gmail.com> wrote:

THANKS JACK,

I can't thank you enough Jack for the "ORANGE and BLACK" email's you have sent my way since I have hooked up with your web site. It has been totally awesome reliving my memories from WHS Class of 1956 and from other former class mates and their memories who graduated from WHS. What a Great High School we all went too, ONWARD WHS!!! Just a little background on how and why I graduated from Good OL' WHS. My mom graduated from WHS in the early to middle 1930's. We were living in the 500 hundred block of South Grange avenue and I was in third grade at Emerson grade school. In the middle of third grade my Dad bought a basement house along North Highway

77. I then went to country grade school. When I graduated from there I could have gone to maybe Baltic or Brandon or where ever. I told my mom and my dad I wanted go to WHS where my mom graduated from, I think in the early 1930's. No regrets about doing that because of all the students I became friends with. My mom did say there were two buildings to WHS, a North and a South building. When they had auditorium events they had to walk down to the Coliseum and back. Well that's my great memory about WHS!!

Thanks Again Jack, for the Memories about WHS

**W. Thomas Muchow Class 1956**

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**Alma "JJ" Anderson '53**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 9, 2019, **Alma "JJ" Anderson Johnson '53**

<jayne\_johnson35@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Jack, you know I will miss the O&B, but I understand. However, I'm sure you could get over 50 to help with the cost and also \$100 for an all school reunion. Even me! I see where it seems like every year except "53" seem to still want to have individual reunions, why not have an ALL school so many of us have crossed over. You know ever time you send one my heart sinks, because it's kinda scary. Yes, I know that is one thing all of us most face so those of us, especially those of us in the class of 53 thru 50. However, you have been a real blessing. Debra has been a good help mate because I know it takes time away

from her. So Jack I'm going to miss hearing about Sioux Falls.

Right now I'm in Vienna and will be leaving for Budapest on Thursday. Been in Prague and Munich. These places have been through so much, but I'm so impressed. Yes, it's kinda cold, but not any snow except in these beautiful mountains.

Merry Christmas to you and Debra and may God continue to bless you and 2020 be good to you. **Alma Jj Anderson '53**

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On Dec 28, 2019, **Sally Taylor Bjorge '55** <sbjorge@comcast.net> wrote:

Hi Jack...hope you and yours are having a great holiday!

I was perusing your patient compilation of those no longer living and wondered if you had a listing easily available of the total number of graduates by year....

Do you?

All is well with me except that age and its ramifications continue to harass me (us all!) 😊 **Sally Taylor Bjorge '55**

**Editor's Note:** Below are the total number of graduating seniors I calculate from each of our class yearbooks from 1950 through 1959. Please keep in mind that these are just the numbers of seniors as listed in each yearbook. Each year it is most likely that a rather significant number of those listed in any yearbook did not graduate at the end of their regular senior year for a number of reasons.

Each year's Commencement Program would offer a much more accurate count of actual graduates. Unfortunately, I only have my 1954 Commencement Program to compare with and I do not suggest the 1954 numbers are typical. But as you can see from the chart below, the class of 1954 had 434 seniors listed in their yearbook, but the 1954 Commencement Exercise Program only listed 415 graduates. That is a reduction 19 students, or .044% from what my '54 yearbook showed.

WHS Deceased Estimates As of 1-1-2020

Table 1

Year	Seniors In Warrior	Deceased Known	Estimate Alive	% Deceased
1950	426	157	269	36.9%
1951	376	129	247	34.3
1952	279	166	213	43.8
1953	504	183	321	36.3
1954	434	186	248	42.9
1955	421	131	290	31.1
1956	481	184	297	38.3
1957	473	176	297	37.2
1958	492	160	332	32.5
1959	510	152	358	29.8



**Laurel Pierce '55**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

On Oct 30, 2019, **Laurel Pierce Hampe '55** <laufred@att.net> wrote:

Hi Jack, I just wanted to let you know how much I simply loved the last issue of the O & B. It was wonderful seeing all the wonderful photos depicting the progress & changes in our old home town! I have not been back there since 2002 & my time there then was limited, so I was not able to visit many of the old "haunts" that time, but mostly relatives & friends, which was great in itself. So, this issue really made my day. Thank you so much for sending it my way & for your diligent effort in producing, not only this issue, but all the previous ones as well. You have always been such a dedicated alum of dear old WHS & have gone so over & beyond to make it a valuable reference for all those who attended that great school in the years that we did. I just can't thank you enough!

I hope this finds you & Debra thriving & enjoying life to the fullest, & again, I thank you wholeheartedly for everything! God Bless!

My Best Always,

**Laurel Pierce Hampel WHS Class of '55**





**Jim Wylie '51**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 30, 2019, **James Wylie '51** <jimwylie@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Just checking in as directed at the new O&B address. Thank you for the listings of expirations in 2019--the list gets longer. It has served an important function for me.

I may have mentioned before.....the difference between "remembering" and "reliving" (medical finding central to Transactional Analysis).....remembering is like your phone #;..... reliving is recall with the same feelings you had at the time of the original event---it is as tho you are there.

In the case of the list, I experience intermitent "reliving" when I see names of folks with whom I had important developmental experiences.

Thanks again; Blessings in the New Year. **James Wylie '51**

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**Ken Eisenbraun '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Jan 3, 2020, **Ken Eisenbraun '58** <keisenbraun@unitedgs.com> wrote:  
Thanks Jack. Tuffy and I went to grade school and high school together.  
Just a real nice kid.

Hope all is well with you. Happy New Year!

**Ken Eisenbraun '58**

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**Dr. Wayne Boese '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Jan 18, 2020, **wayne boese '56** <drwboese@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Jack,

Could you forward this note to Mel Shrader?

We both went to Lincoln Grade School as well as WHS.

Dear Mel,

I seriously doubt if you remember me but I was one of those Lincoln guys who played basketball at Mike Howe's' home. I later was fortunate to play on the varsity at WHS on the 1956 team, year of my graduation. My name is Wayne Boese and was a good friend of Denny Zea who graduated with you in 1955. Denny passed away just over two years ago, also from pancreatic cancer.

I am very sorry for the loss of your brother

and wish you the best in this New Year.

Most cordially,

**Dr Wayne E Boese '56**

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

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**Julie Kay Olson '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Jan 21, 2020, **Julie Kay Olson Bramkamp '53**

<jbramkamp@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Jack: I just wanted to tell you how much i enjoyed and appreciated your O&B. I know it can't go on forever but I am sorry "forever" is now.

Best wishes.

**Julie Kay Olson Bramkamp '53**

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**Jim Redfield '50**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 9, 2019, **Jim Redfield '50** <jimwred@cox.net> wrote:

Jack: Appreciate you getting me hooked up again to O & B.

Don't remember much about my former inputs, but that's history. Not too many left in the 1950 class I guess. All in their '80's, those of us left; I'm 87. Hard to tell if they have died & when no one advises you, huh? Most of my former working & certainly college friends are gone. Jeannie & I talk regularly but the rest of the family besides her's have passed.

After my Boeing, Ryan, General Dynamics & Navy Reserve careers, I've been volunteering for the last 18 yrs. at the Midway Museum. I helped establish the aircraft restoration center. My team put the first 8 restored airplanes on the ship for it's opening, back in 2004, and now we have over 30 on display! I moved on to be a senior adviser to the Director of Volunteer Programs. Midway has over 1000 volunteers, mostly former Navy

or other service personnel. We are the #1 tourist attraction in California & #5 in the US!

I can appreciate the massive effort you go though to handle the O & B publishing & data maintenance task.

We take great pains to honor our volunteer staff with monthly meetings with a CEO briefing & individual recognition awards for services rendered, plus quarterly dinner parties & a chosen volunteer of each month & a volunteer of the year awards ( both of which I've been lucky enough to receive in the past).

I'm slowing down now but the volunteering keeps me active!

Take care Jack, & I'll be lookin' for your next issue: I responded to your forwarded request. Happy Hoiidays!

Sincerely,

CDR **Jim Redfield '50**, USN (Ret)



**Lloyd Greiner '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Dec 10, 2019, **Lloyd '56 & Bernita '59 Greiner**

<l.grein77@gmail.com> wrote:

Jack:

We really have appreciated all your time and effort that went into publishing the O&B newsletters and we're very sorry to see them come to an end. But first, please accept our gratitude and many "Thanks" to you for

starting the O&B and extending it to cover all the classes of the 50's.

Also thanks to your Wife for supporting your efforts.

The newsletters were a way of learning about all the accomplishments those kids we bumped into on a daily basis in the halls of WHS contributed towards making our world a better place. It is truly amazing when learning about the different paths we all took.

Again, please accept our sincere "Thanks" for a job well done and wishes for the very best in the future.

Sincerely

**Lloyd Greiner WHS'56 and Bernita Hagen Greiner WHS'59**



**Bernita Hagen '59**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Jan 26, 2020, at 7:06 AM, **James Wylie '51** <jimwylie@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Good Show Sherlock.....re. Jim Minick..we went to Sunday School together.

We went in different circles. But as our old Minister used to say at Augustana

Lutheran Ch...."We have here no abiding city..."



**Jim Wylie '51**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Dick Ageton '54**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Jan 7, 2020, at 8:23 AM, **TERI AGETON** <[angelkoty@aol.com](mailto:angelkoty@aol.com)> wrote:

Good morning Jack. My name is Lee Ageton. I am **Dick Ageton's '54** son. I got your address from **Fred Klawiter '54**. He wanted me to let you know my Dad passed away Sunday January 5th and have you put that in the Washington class of 1954 letter. I was also wondering if you had contact information for **Dick Sweetman '54** and **Joe Floyd '54** Thank you Jack.



**Fred Klawiter '54**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Dick Sweetman '54**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Joe Floyd '54**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Jack Phillips '54**  
WHS Senior Photo

In a response message dated 1/19/2020, **Jack Phillips '54** [jackmp@me.com](mailto:jackmp@me.com) writes:

Dear Lee,

I thank you for writing to let me know that your father had passed away. I am so sorry for your loss and extend my most sincere condolences to you and all of your family. Dick and I became friends in 1947 when my family and I first moved to Sioux Falls and we attended grade school together. We were team mates on all of Emerson Grade School teams. As you know, your Dad loved sports and was a good athlete.

Please accept my apology for not replying to your thoughtful letter before now. Almost immediately after I published a "Special Edition" on your Father's passing my computer totally froze up and I had to take it in the Apple repair store twice and I just got it back (along with over 800 new emails to respond to).

In case you did not see Dick's Special Edition I sent out to all of my "Orange & Black" readers I am enclosing it below. I'm sorry it has taken so long to get it to you.

You also asked for Dick Sweetman and Joe Floyd's addresses. Here they are: Dick's is [rcsweetman@gmail.com](mailto:rcsweetman@gmail.com) and Joe's is [jfloyd@sio.midco.net](mailto:jfloyd@sio.midco.net)

Again, I am truly sorry about the loss of your father. He was one of the good guys and will be missed by his many friends.

**Jack Phillips '54**

On Jan 21, 2020, at 4:12 AM, **TERI AGETON** <[angelkoty@aol.com](mailto:angelkoty@aol.com)> wrote:

Thank you Jack for the kind words and sympathy. He was a special man and a loving father. We are finding out more and more just how many lives he touched. Thank you also for the special edition in honor of Dad and thank you for the emails. I just had a birthday yesterday. Dad would call me on my birthday and sing happy birthday to me. I will miss that and so much more. Thanks again Jack. Take care and God bless.  
Teri Ageton

Feb. 1, 2020;

Dear Teri,

One more thing I think you might like to have, if you don't already have it, is this photo on the next page of your Dad and his basketball team in Sioux Falls about 1949 or 50. We had just won first place in the Y's, "Tri State Tournament".

Back row: Dick Ageton, Nafe Alick, Dale Colwell, (deceased), Jack Phillips, Norm Westby and our coach Miles ? (Maybe Miles Brown?).

Front row: Dick Bakke (deceased), Dennis Luce, Fred Klawiter,





**Emerson Team wins, “YMCA TRI STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP” Circa 1949 -1950**



**Jim Wylie '51**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

On Dec 10, 2019, **James Wylie '51** <jimwylie@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Greetings to you and Deb...

Let me open by wondering if the house (s) pic at the end of the current issue made it into the TV competition re. house Christmas lighting??

I must have missed an issue so your announcement of the end of your O & B mission (ministry) has come to an end. As with the passing of all "Good To Great" efforts I am a bit sad to see it go. Congratulations to you both..a job exceeding "Well Done".

Were I to go on to the full extend of my reaction to you work and the joy and information it has afforded I am confident I would be repeating much of what you have already heard from the remarks and feedback you depicted in your communication. I shall simply take cover by referencing the lighting of the house to the left of your Christmas house pic. (You don't hear that much if ever--in my day we used the wssord a log--now we have other expressions--none better or more civil.)

Further the success of your initiative and the experience of these 11 + years should be written up as "Project Research" A) for THE Washington High and the several morfed from same, to a point where each graduating class, as one of its required final actions would establish a structure for much as you did for

each class. There could be economies of scale as each year connected to the next and provided for cooperation etc, etc.

"If some is good--more is better" = this could be exemplified across the country. It would be fun, exciting--the cross referencing and learning about others---let your mind go.

However in addition, as I suspect you already know, there would be a social, health, spiritual benefit. Yes, I am judging from my own experience but I would like to see a demonstration review to confirm the experience of others.

Example:/:

1) Yes, initially the news is great. However over time we meet others around the country, etc HOWEVER news about WHS types was super great.

I reference you to the clinic and the psy work in Transactional Analysis--Remember the work "Games People Play" and "I'm O K--You're O K?? The research behind this modality is this...the difference between "Remembering" and "RELIVING"

You remember your phone number; youRELIVE your key life experiences--that is, in addition to the recall, you are emotionally taken back there and you experience the feelings you felt at the time.

2. The keeping in touch with others--even if we didn't know them well, helps many who are feeling alone out there.

3) I could go on about the benefits to health re the vital signs ( Blood pressure, bio-function etc, et al.

My thoughts in part....we can talk....

THEREFORE, I choose to see your move as the proper conclusion of phase one of a great, benevolent (in more ways than one) that has demonstrated (your feedback et al) significant personal, financial, and social value. It remains to be seen who and what will prevail for the WHS 50 - types, but then there are the 60, 70, and so on.

Well done good and faithful servant--you heard (saw) the call and I trust you have now your just reward in our collective HIP, HIP..

May the Blessing of God our Father continue with you Both.

**Jim Wylie '51**

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On Dec 10, 2019, **Wauthena Nelson Brooks '54**

<wauthenam@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Dear Jack, First, a huge, huge Thank You for your dedicated work in sending out the much appreciated Orange & Black over the past ten years. What a great way for us to know what our classmates have been doing over the years, and also to learn of those who are no longer with us. Again, a huge, huge Thank You!!!

And on another note. All those glowing remarks about Sioux Falls, well, I'm thinking some have forgotten our winters. Today we have a whopping 10 degrees, not counting the wind chill and blowing snow! Just never had it so good. :)

Just kidding of course. I have made this little city my home since I was six years old, have traveled in all 50 states and overseas, and never wanted to live any other place.

For me life has been very good.

That's it for now. Wishing you and Debra a blessed Christmas and a wonderful and healthy New Year. **Wauthena Nelson Brooks '54**



**Wauthena Nelson '54**  
**WHS Senior Photo**



Wally Boersma '54  
WHS Senior Photo

On Jan 23, 2020, Wally Boersma '54, wallace@wpboersma.com wrote:

The attached is an effort to convince you to continue the obituaries and news letters in the future. The revenue would also permit you to hire an assistant to handle the detail work with your supervision. Since you and I intend to stay around for many years, we may be one of the last recipients.

Wally's proposal:

As you are well aware your efforts to keep up with the WHS classes of the 50's is important to many of your classmates. I would like to make a few suggestions.

It is always good to know your efforts are appreciated. There is no better way to be made aware of the benefits those efforts mean to others than by some compensation. I for one would be happy to acknowledge my appreciation with a donation of no less than \$20 annually. I am sure the vast majority of the other recipients would feel the same. Receiving the News Letter could be conditioned on an equal donation. Interestingly, we better appreciate what we pay for than what we receive gratis.

The other suggestion; there is most assuredly a member of each graduating class who would assume the duty of maintaining the roster and notification for their respective class. They would notify you of each obituary and you would forward it from your email folder and update the respective roster. That should cut down on your detail time. They could also receive the write ups for the News Letter. This could basically eliminate any emails sent to you except from the ten "assistants".

I know you basically enjoy being a clearing house to WHS graduates. I know the thousand plus school mates enjoy your efforts even more so. The best way to forestall getting old is to stay active, as though you are not active already. By significantly reducing your detail involvement you can maintain the information foundation accumulated in the past. And continue providing current information so many look forward receiving in the future.

Let me know if this makes sense to you.

Wally Boersma '54

Wally, you obviously have been thinking as I have about the future of the O&B and I sincerely appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. As I have indicated, I do not plan to make any final decisions until March 2020. That is when I will have to decide to sign, or not sign a new year long contract for mailing the O&B, and whether I retire or not retire. Hopefully, by that time some pressing major personal business demands will have been solved and no new ones will have arisen.

In the meantime I assure you that I will give not only your suggestions, but all of the others that have been offered lots and lots of serious consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jack





# The Intended Purpose of the O&B

The intended purpose of the Alumni Orange & Black Newsletter is to share news in your lives with your fellow WHS classmates from the fifties decade. It can be major events in your lives, or very simple mundane items such as moving to a new house, city or country. (Well moving to a new country I guess would not be so mundane.) But you get the idea, any news item to help your high school friends keep track of you, and to help me sell more papers!!!

In the beginning of the O&B you did pretty good at submitting lots of 'stuff', but over the years your efforts in this department have severely tapered off. Let's face it, your current efforts of submitting stories now stinks. Of course I don't like that partly because the less you submit the more work I must do. But also and mainly the O&B will surely die a natural death without your stories! So **PLEASE**, start sending me things that will again help fill 15 to 20 pages each issue.

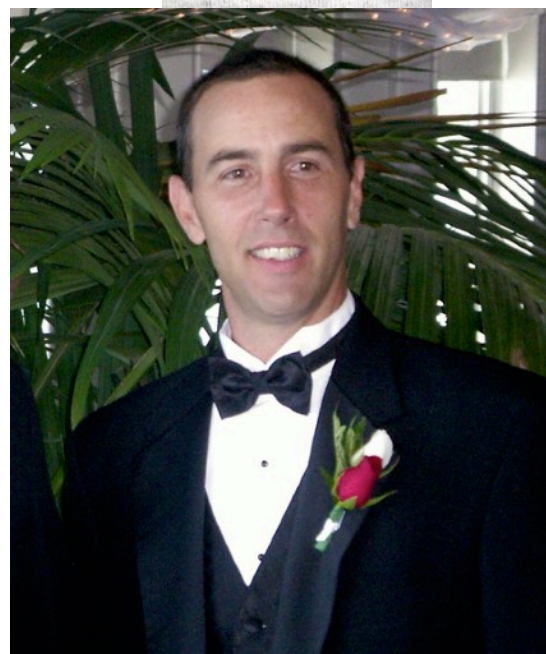
In the meantime I find it necessary to bore you with another filler story from my life. This time it is a story on the way I have spent the last 44 New Years Eves.

I have spent every one of the last 44 New Years Eve's working in my California night clubs. I am now 83 years old so that is over half of my life. Over those 44 years I have owned two different nightclubs, and yes, it has been both interesting and profitable!

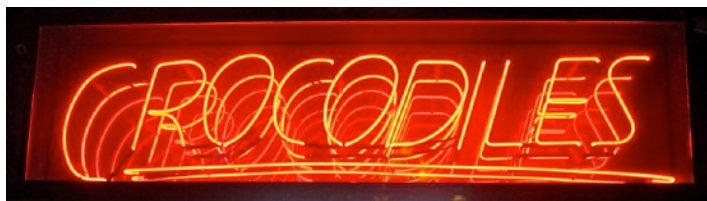
I still own the second club, "Crocodiles", that opened in March of 1978, occupies 10,000 sq. ft., and has been known to hold over 1,500 friendly people. I designed and built it from scratch in a brand new shopping center that was being built at the time in Modesto, CA. Six years ago I was fortunate to buy the entire shopping center which we renamed, "Phillips Plaza". My son, Guy, now ably manages both the shopping center and the nightclub. The following photos were taken this past 2020 New Years Eve.



**Photo # 1; Crocodiles as it looks each night before the doors open. Photo shows dance floor and the disc jockey's booth.**



**Photo #2; My son, Guy, ready for a busy night.**







**Photo #3; First guests starting to arrive and dance. Club has 34 large projection screen TVs.**



**Photo #4; Crocodiles is starting to fill up!**

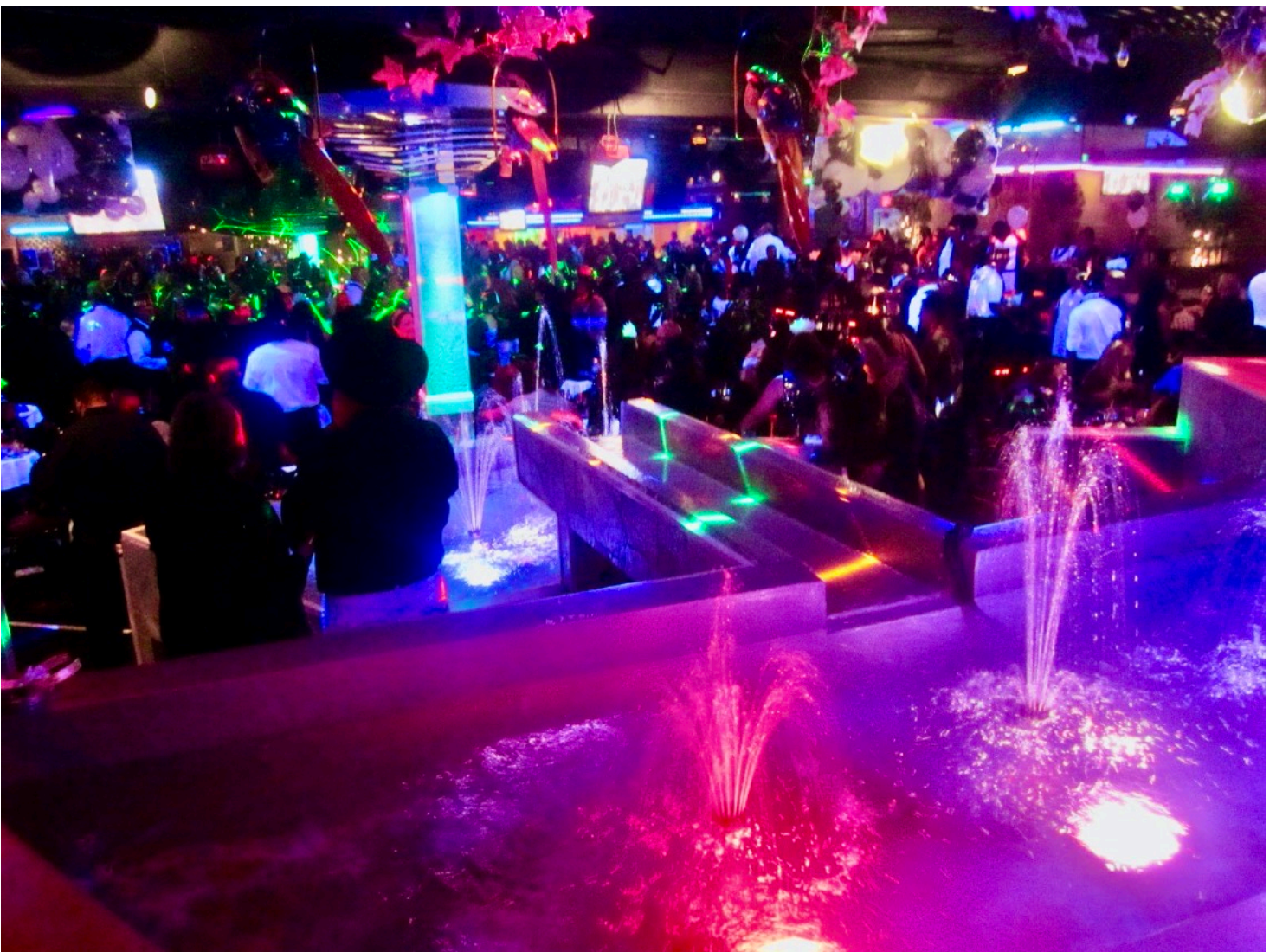




**Photo #5; Crocodile Dancers performing.**



**Photo #6; Debra enjoying the evening!**



**Photo #7; The Crocodile Fountains go all night adding to the festive mood.**





**CROCODILES**





*It's quarter to four,  
there's no one in the place,  
so I'm going to bed.*