

**WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD**

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

Published by Jack M. Phillips '54. [jackmp@me.com](mailto:jackmp@me.com)

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**SEVEN NEW PATRONS  
WELCOME AND THANK YOU!**



Karen Gurley Brown '54  
WHS Senior Photo



Warner Brown '54  
WHS Senior Photo



Ronald Larson '59  
WHS Senior Photo



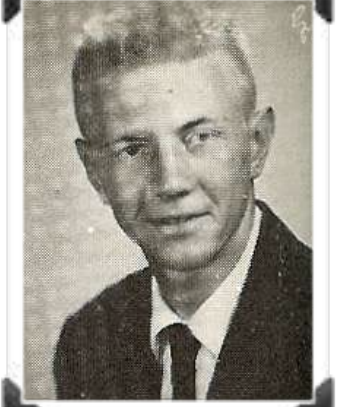
Dr. Glenn Gravelle '58  
WHS Senior Photo



Dave Quigley '56  
WHS Senior Photo



Barb Lease Quigley '55  
WHS Senior Photo



Wayne Gustafson '54  
WHS Senior Photo



**\* ALUMNI WHS ORANGE & BLACK PATRONS      Page 1 of 2**

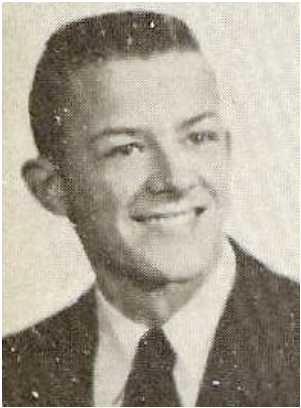
	PATRON	DATE	AMOUNT OF GIFT	DONATION ALSO IN MEMORY OF:
1	Dr. Dale '56 & Camille Larson '61 Peterson Wenatchee, WA	Dec. 27 2019	\$1,000.00	
2	Terry Bradley '57, Tillamook, Or.	Feb. 2, 2020	\$100.00	Siblings: Linda Bradley Benson '54, deceased, Nita Bradley Bale '49, Olive Bradley Beckett '48 deceased and Bill Bradley '46 deceased
3	Patricia Jorgensen Palagi '56 Seattle, WA	Feb. 3, 2020	\$50.00	
4	Jim '51 and Myrna Irwin '53 Wylie Prospect Heights, IL	March 6, 2020	\$250.00	
5	Patti "Trish" Wilder Swanhorst '59 Sioux Falls, SD	March 10, 2020	\$100.00	
6	Stuart VanMeveren '58 Sun City, AZ	March 11, 2020	\$50.00	
7	Jim A Carlson '58 Sioux Falls, SD	March 12, 2020	\$25.00	
8	Kipp Koester '55 Mequon, WI	March 12, 2020	\$100.00	
9	Royce Adams '58 Sioux Falls, SD	March 12, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
10	Bob Berguin '53 Scottsdale, AZ	March 12, 2020	\$152.00	
11	Pete Hegg '57 Sioux Falls, SD	March 12, 2020	\$200.00	
12	Dr. Elliot Miller, '50 Topsham, ME	March 15, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
13	Gil Gjere '54 Viborg, SD	March 14, 2020	\$250.00	Siblings: Mary Gjere '58, Helen Gjere '56 deceased, Glenn Gjere '56 deceased.
14	Daryl '55 & Lois Bjerk '58 Fritz Mesa, AZ	March 15, 2020	\$100.00	
15	Marcia Blumberg Oleisky '57 Minneapolis, MN	April 6, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
16	James Eastman '59 Placentia, CA	April 6, 2020	\$100.00	
17	Jane "JJ" Anderson Johnson '53 Los Angeles, CA	April 10, 2020	\$100.00	
18	Don Brown '53 Santa Barbara, CA	April 10, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
19	Jerry Savold '56 Edwards, CO	April 11, 2020	\$100.00	Brother, Mike Savold '59 Deceased
20	Chuck Erickson '50 Overland Park, KS	April 13, 2020	\$200.00	
21	Dr. Jim Brown '56 E. Wenatchee, WA	April 11, 2020	\$100.00	
22	Darold Gieser '55 Michigan City, IN	April 12, 2020	\$155.00	
23	Barbara Taylor Sampson '62 Sioux Falls, SD	April 13, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
24	Judy Stevens '61 Arlington, TX	April 15, 2020	\$50.00	
25	Ken Eisenbraun '58 Bloomfield, Hills, MI	April 14, 2020	\$158.00	

	PATRON	DATE	AMOUNT OF GIFT	DONATION ALSO IN MEMORY OF:
26	Mary Taylor Herrick '56 Cleveland, OH	April 15, 2020	\$500.00	
27	Roger '55 & Vonda Fritz '56 Peterson Sioux Falls, SD	April 15, 2020	Patron requested \$ amount not shown	
28	Dr. Michael '56 & Carla Thoeke '56 Gibson Reno, NV	April 18, 2020	\$50.00	
29	Roger '55 & Permella Bedford '56 Kielman Peoria, AZ	April 20, 2020	\$100.00	
30	Merlyn "Chris" Christensen '54 Hudson, NH	April 21, 2020	\$100.00	
31	Dick Jensen '55 Naperville, IL	April 22, 2020	\$100.00	
32	Betty Holmoe Pfeifle '52 Sioux Falls, SD	April 20, 2020	\$100.00	
33	Walt Leyse '50 Sioux Falls, SD	April 20, 2020	\$100.00	
34	Tom '55 & Marilyn Rush '56 Simmons Gold Canyon, AZ	April 30, 2020	\$50.00	
35	Terry Robinson '57 Peoria, AZ	April 30, 2020	\$57.00	
36	Bob '55 & Peg Ogle '55 Berdahl Portland, OR	May 1, 2020	\$100.00	
37	Sharon Frank Johnson '53 Sioux Falls, SD	May 8, 2020	\$50.00	
38	Gene Bushnell '56 Rapid City, SD	May 8, 2020	\$100.00	
39	Terry Feay '56	May 12, 2020	\$60.00	
40	Dennis York '55 Rapid City, SD	May 12, 2020	\$100.00	
41	WHS Class of '54	May 14, 2020	\$300.00	
42	Dick Sweetman '54 Sioux Falls, SD	May 15, 2020	\$100.00	
43	Warner '54 & Karen Gurley '54 Brown Scottsdale, AZ	May 20, 2020	\$100.00	
44	Ronald Larson '59 Sioux Falls, SD	May 23, 2020	\$100.00	
45	Dr. Glenn Gravelle '58 Centennial, CO	May 26, 2020	\$158.00	
46	Wayne Gustafson '54 Rapid City, SD & Surprise, AZ	May 29, 2020	\$250.00	



# Patrons

## Warner '54 & Karen Gurley '54 Brown



**Warner Brown '54  
WHS Senior Photo**

To introduce the Browns to you here is a re-run of one of the most popular and interesting stories the O&B has had the privilege of publishing. It was originally published in O&B Issue #3-9 on July 8, 2009. Hard to believe, 11 years ago.

After graduating from South Dakota University in 1960, I worked with my Dad in a small oil distributing company in Sioux Falls. I was interested in federal law enforcement and after passing the entrance exam and extensive background check, I entered the U.S. Secret Service in 1965 in the Oklahoma City field office. The USSS has field offices in every major U.S. city. It was then a division of the Treasury



**Karen Gurley '54  
WHS Senior Photo**

Department and created in 1865 to suppress the counterfeiting of our currency. Subsequently, protection of the President and Vice President became the primary responsibility of USSS. This was later extended to former Presidents and their spouses, visiting heads of state and serious

candidates for the U.S. presidency. Additional duties of the USSS field offices are investigations of forged US Treasure checks, bonds and other security obligations of the United States. During my first year, I worked criminal cases with senior agents and attended 3 six week training schools. From 1966-1970, I was assigned to the Presidential Protection Division at the White House during the administrations of Presidents Johnson and Nixon.

In 1970, I was transferred to the Dallas field office and in 1974; I became resident agent of the Lubbock, Texas office. During my 8 years in Texas, I worked criminal investigations and many times was temporarily assigned to protective details of the President, Vice President, foreign dignitaries and presidential candidates during election campaigns. In 1978, I was reassigned to the former President Ford Protective Division in California as Assistant Agent in charge and traveled extensively with him for seven years. In 1986, I was transferred to our Los Angeles field office as Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge. It is the second largest field office in the US Secret Service and is comprised of several investigative units. I was in charge of one of the squads until my retirement in 1987.

In 22 years with the Secret Service, I traveled in physical protection and conducted advance surveys for our protectees both domestically and in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia, Australia and South America. In total, I worked about twelve years in protection and ten years in criminal investigation.

**Brown story continued on next page.**



***Warner Brown (left) working 1967 President Lydon B. Johnson  
press conference in White House East Room.***



Needless to say, we had incredible experiences over 22 years. At the time, I didn't give it a lot of thought as we all did what we were trained for but now I realize it was a crucial and sometime turbulent time in our history. Through it all, my wife Karen, (Gurley) and I raised 3 great sons and she carried on taking good care of us all. I have many former agent friends throughout the U.S. and I'm especially proud and privileged to have been a part of the US Secret Service.

After retiring on a Friday, I started the following Monday in 1987, to embark on an 11 year career with Master Card International concerning credit card fraud. Previously, I had some experiences in card fraud as the Secret Service added a new federal jurisdiction regarding credit card fraud in 1984. I retired from Master Card International in 1998 as Vice President of Security and Risk Management in San Ramon, California. It was a great company to be associated with and I have been fortunate to have had two great careers.



***President Richard Nixon, at left with U.S. Secret Service Agent Warner Brown, on right (with ear plug) providing security in Paris in February, 1969.***

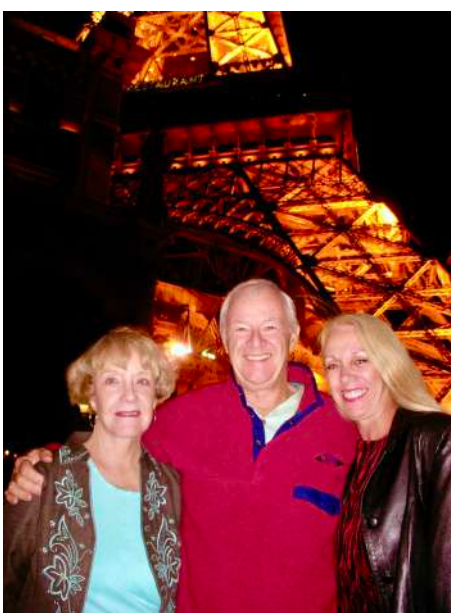


***Above; Agent Warner Brown pictured in sun glasses between Richard and Pat Nixon on Guam trip for 1969 splashdown of astronauts return from the moon.***



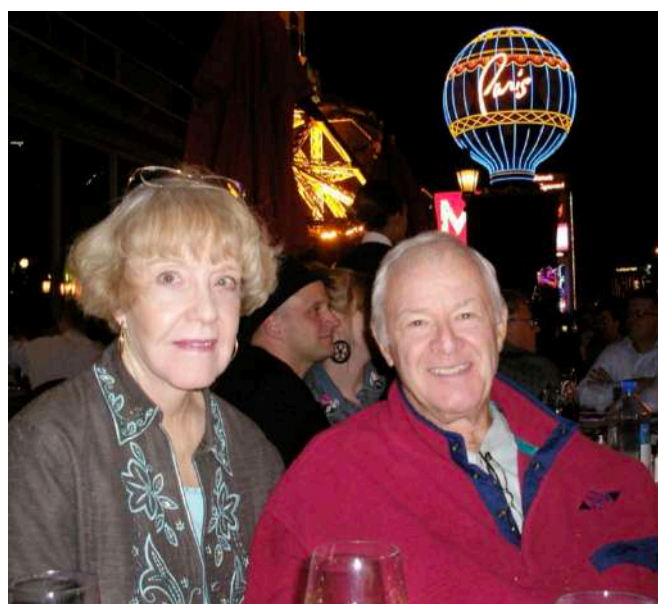
***Agent Brown (2nd from right) providing crowd control for President Nixon on 1969 Guam trip.***





**Photo left:** Karen, Warner & Debra Phillips.

**Photo right** Karen and Warner Both photos were taken during one of their visits to see Debra and I in Las Vegas. Both photos were taken at The beautiful Paris Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.



End of Brown's 2009 story.

## Thanks to Bob Berguin '53

for submitting the following two items to the O&B. ***"For All Those Born Before 1945"*** and a poem by **Harry Klessen '52**, deceased.



**Bob Berguin '53**  
WHS Senior Photo

# For All Those Born Before 1945...

We are survivors. Consider the changes we have witnessed.

We were before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, xerox, contact lenses, frisbees and the Pill.

We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, lazer beams and ballpoint pens; before pantyhose, dishwasher, clothes dryers, electric blankets, air-conditioners, drip-dry clothing — and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our times, closets were for clothes, not for "coming out of". Bunnies were small rabbits — and rabbits were not Volkswagens. Designer jeans were scheming girls named Jean and having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with our cousins.

We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent and Outer Space was the back of the local theater.

We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages. We were before day-care centers, group therapy and nursing homes. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electronic typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurt and guys wearing earrings. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness — not computers or condominiums; a "chip" meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

In 1940, "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did on an exam. Pizzas, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

We hit the scene when there were 5 & 10 cent stores where you bought things for five and ten cents. The corner drug store sold ice cream cones for a nickel or a dime. For one nickel you would ride a street car — make a

phone calls, buy a Pepsi or enough stamps to mail one letter or two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600 but who could afford one; a pity, too, because gas was only 11¢ a gallon.

In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a Grandma's lullaby and aids were helpers in the Principal's office.

We were certainly not before the difference between the sexes were discovered, but were surely before the sex change, we made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you need a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap.

But we survived. What better reason to celebrate.



*In later years it is fun to see old  
friends from far and near.  
Those that are near you see most  
of the year.  
Memories of those from afar are  
not quite so clear.  
When we meet there are  
handshakes, hugs, and words of  
cheer.*

*Those from afar may have  
changed more in the past year.  
Those near, your memory of them  
is more clear.  
Food and drink abound around a  
large table.  
Memories come forth when we  
were more able.*

*Time can change the exact details  
of a past situation.  
Thoughts from the back of the  
mind can create detail inflation.  
Conversation goes around the  
table mostly of the past.  
Talk is when we were young and  
would always last.*

*Pictures in their minds are coming  
and going.  
A time when our age was not  
showing.  
All stories were good, some bold  
and some very old.  
At the end of the day we all had  
our tales told.*

*I know not when we will meet  
again, those from far and near.*

*These people wearing masks of old men  
and women, maybe next year.  
By Harry Klessen*



Harry Klessen '52  
WHS Junior Photo  
Deceased

Again, thanks to **Bob Berguin '53** for sharing this insightful poem by **Harry Klessen '53, deceased**. Bob wrote the following footnote to Harry's poem, "*Fellow Northender Class of '52-Departed*. The above is more factual as you age!"

Thanks to my good friend, Kermit Olsen, from USD and Rapid City for sharing these two interesting photos of every South Dakotan's pride and joy, Mount Rushmore.





Elsie O'Connor '50  
WHS Senior Photo

## A 1910 WHS Post Card From **ELSIE O'CONNOR BECK '50**

Thanks to Elsie for this most interesting letter and  
1910 Penny Postcard showing the brand new WHS Building.  
Note the one cent U. S. Postage Stamp.  
The New WHS Building Was Finished In 1910.

Dear Jack,

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed post card. My grandmother, Theresa Lundquist, who lived in Sioux Falls and sent all 5 of her children to WHS, sent this card to her husband, Elof, who was working in the stone quarries in Jasper, Mn. My mother, Hazel Lundquist O'Connor, graduated from WHS in 1916 but kept many of her collections, as she was instrumental in establishing the beautiful Falls Park. There is even a plaque there in her honor. I thought this postcard was interesting, as it shows WHS in 1910 when it was built.

Since I get your newsletter regarding the classes of the 1950's, I thought you might put this in the hands of someone who collects WHS memorabilia. I also have a copy of a yearbook from one of those early years that was illustrated by my uncle, Ed Lundquist on a nautical theme. Since I just turned 83, I know that most of these things will be tossed when I am no longer around.

I would also like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I enjoy your newsletter and the time you take to pass it on to us. I wish you and your family the best and if my health continues to be acceptable, I will probably be attending another WHS reunion in the future. I was there in 2010 and enjoyed it so much. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Elsie O'Connor Beck 1950

*Elsie O. Beck*

*az.popeye6@cox.net*



Top Two Photos:

1910 WHS "Penny Post Card" featuring a photo of the then just completed Washington High School.

Note the post mark on the 2nd photo of, Sioux Falls, SD July 16, 1910 at 9:30 AM with a "ONE CENT" stamp.



For your convenient comparison the third photo is a current photo of WHS from the same angle on the S W corner of Main and 11th Streets. Notice that at some point a large addition was added on the right, or North side of the building.

I personally think the balustrade railing around the roof was a great addition.

Thanks again Elsie.





**Don Noordsy '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

**Don Noordsy '58**

On Jun 3, 2020, **Don Noordsy '58** <heythere63@comcast.net> wrote:

Jack.....you may recall that back in the earlier days of this pandemic, I asked you if you knew of any of the Special Editions you were sending out on deaths of WHS grads of the '50 decade, (were from the virus), and you said you were not aware of any. We agreed that it was probably statistically logical that there had been, or would be, some to our classmates.

Shortly after that an article appeared in the Argus Leader about a family who had lost family members to it, and it sounded from what I could read that it involved one of my classmates from 1958. I found the article, and learned it was the story of the family of one of our classmates, and it is a sad story, indeed. Attached is the Argus Leader article that appeared in the Argus on May 7, 2020.



**Darlene Cook '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

**Editor's Note:** The classmate Don is writing about is **Darlene Cook Smart '58** who died April 29, 2020 of the Coronavirus. Darlene's O&B Special Edition was published May 2, 2020.

<https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2020/05/07/darleen-smart-sioux-falls-coronavirus-death-touchmark-covid-19/5179146002/>

**"This is what a COVID-19 death looks like': Family recounts, mourns loss of loved one"**  
Makenzie Huber Updated 11:09 a.m. CT May 7, 2020



Robin Christensen, 52, cries on the floor of the Miller Funeral Home room in Sioux Falls, South Dakota after her mother, Darleen Smart, died from COVID-19 on April 29. The photo was posted on Facebook, urging people to take coronavirus safety precautions seriously. (*Photo: Jessica Walter*)



Robin Christensen collapsed into a heap at the head of her mother's coffin.

She hadn't seen Darleen Smart in nearly two months, but the face she saw inside the casket was a shadow of the vibrant, loving woman she knew, altered by the effects of COVID-19.

Smart died from the effects of coronavirus April 29 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. She contracted the virus at the Touchmark at All Saints Retirement Community, where she was [one of 11 residents and 3 employees to test positive](#) for the virus. Four residents have died.

After seeing her mother at Miller Funeral Home, Christensen's knees were weak and her grief so heavy that she couldn't stand its weight anymore. Her niece, Jessica Walter, sat about six feet away in the room where Smart's body was placed.



Darleen Smart poses with her husband, Rodney, and their four children. (From left) Richard, who died in 2019, Robin Christensen, Rod Jr., and Randy Smart. (*Photo: Submitted*)

Sometimes Walter would pat her aunt's leg for support. More often, they talked through the shock of their loss. At some point, Walter took a photo of the casket and Christensen grieving. She posted the photo on Facebook.

"This is what a COVID-19 death looks like," the post reads. "...Stare hard, study this photo. This is what I want you to see when you start to tire of the safety precautions. When you get sick of that mask or those gloves, remember this photo."

Twenty-nine people have died of COVID-19 complications in South Dakota, with more than 70,000 deaths across the nation. Behind each of those statistics is a person with a family who has to mourn their loss without physical connection.

The coronavirus has robbed the Smart family of not only their grandmother and mother, but the ability to mourn together.

### **More than a statistic**

Walter watched last month as her grandfather tried to find the right words to say goodbye to his life partner of more than 60 years. The 82-year-old couldn't hold her hand or kiss her on the forehead over the Zoom conference call.

In the end, he couldn't find the words, Walter said.

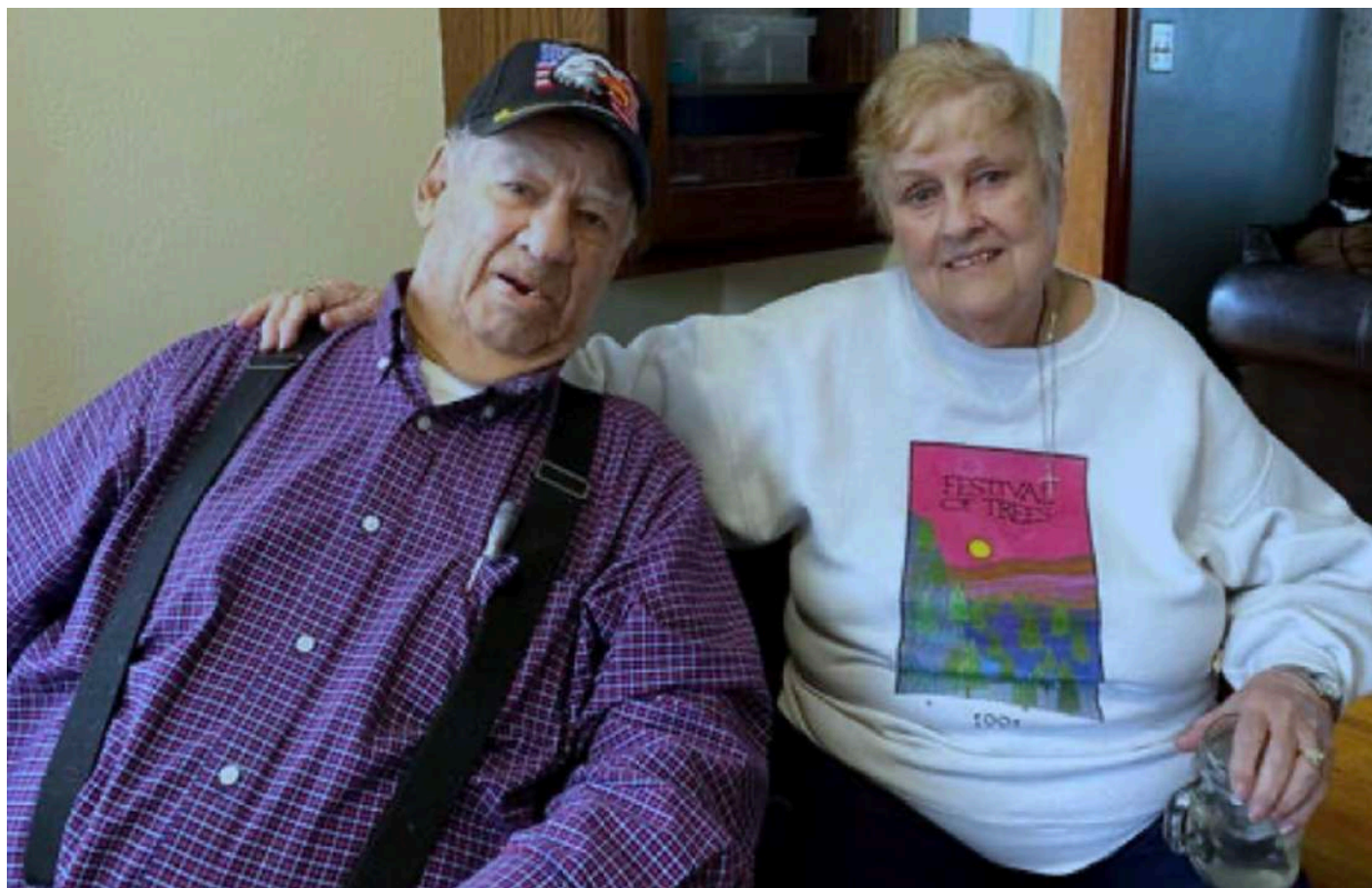
"There's my bride," Walter recalled her grandfather speaking into the screen. "I love you. You be tough and I will talk with you in the

screen. "I love you. You be tough and I will talk with you in the morning. This isn't going to get you."

He leaned into the screen and kissed Walter's phone.

Darleen died of COVID-19 the next day.

The 79-year-old was born in Deadwood and moved with her parents to Sioux Falls, where she attended Washington High School before marrying Rodney Smart. The two had four children, as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Darleen Smart, 79, died from COVID-19 complications on April 29.  
She was married to Rodney Smart for over 60 years. *(Photo: Submitted)*



She loved animals and she knew how to laugh, her children said. But above all, she was kind.

"Sometimes when you just hear 'five more deaths in South Dakota today,' I don't think that says as much as being able to see one of those people, those family members affected," Walter said. "It's completely different to be on the other side of it and see that a 79- year-old woman was one of them and that she had a family. People don't see that, so they aren't as careful."

Darleen was admitted to the hospital April 27 because she had lung complications after testing positive for COVID-19. After arriving, her medical team said she'd likely be released to rehabilitation soon, but she quickly deteriorated overnight.

Walter drove from her Garretson house to Sioux Falls, where she started a Zoom conference call with her dad and grandfather in person and several family members online.

This was the last time they'd be able to talk to Darleen. But she couldn't talk back. COVID-19 had ravaged her lungs to the point of incoherence. She could only mouth 'I love you' to her family before they eventually ended the call.

Only Christensen had been able to hear her say goodbye, when the 52-year-old FaceTimed her mother before she was transferred to the hospital. Even before entering the hospital, Darleen had accepted the possibility of death.

"I felt I needed to say goodbye to her," Christensen said. "She told me that she loved me and that she'll see me again someday."

### **'She's not going to die alone'**

The Zoom call wasn't enough for Rod Jr., Walter's father. Darleen wasn't a good candidate for a ventilator because of her age

Darleen wasn't a good candidate for a ventilator because of her age and heart condition, so she was placed in comfort care. Despite being 60 years old, diabetic and having a heart condition himself, Rod didn't hesitate to sit by her bedside during her last hours.

"She's my mom," he recalled thinking. "She's not going to die alone."

Rod's other family members couldn't join because of distance or their own health concerns, and he didn't give them an option to risk their lives either. He went into the hospital with a CDC-recommended face mask provided by Avera and sat by her bedside for more than 20 hours.

Darleen Smart, 79, died from COVID-19 complications on April 29. Her funeral was held at Arlington City Cemetery on May 4.  
(Photo: Submitted)



Before entering the room, he was tempted to return home and grab a pair of goggles for his eyes, as an extra precaution, but then he saw his mom.

"My mom's face when she saw me — I just didn't want to go anywhere," he said.

She was coherent for the next 30 to 45 minutes. He held her hand and told her how much he loved her. But her heartbeat hammered above 160 beats per minute, wearing down her organs and making her struggle to breathe. She was given morphine, but it didn't last.

Rod had sat through deaths before and didn't want her to suffer. He instructed her medical team to lower her oxygen to 1%. He spent the next several hours listening as her breathing slowed.

"At first she was squeezing my hand back hard," he said, "but then she started fading away."

He used his time to rest and recall memories of his mother — her kindness and ability to have fun, yet teach him the important things in life; like how to drive a car and how to keep faith in God. Her lessons have come in handy this past week.

"There's a lot of good memories. But I know that I'll see her again," he said. "It's a short time on earth here."

Rod quarantined himself in his home as instructed by Avera Health after his visit. A few days later, he presented COVID-19 symptoms. He tested positive on Sunday.

"When it hits close to home like this, you realize that it just destroys lives," he said.

### **'Give your mom an extra hug'**

It was windy and cold at the Arlington City Cemetery on Monday. Walter's hands shook as she struggled to FaceTime the burial for her cousins and other family members who couldn't attend.

Only five people could come — Walter; her husband; Rod Sr.; Christensen; and Walter's uncle, Randy Smart. There were no hugs. They were separated six feet apart. There was no church service. The family's longtime pastor prayed over the grave.

There were no memories shared or flipping-through of photo albums. Her body was lowered and the family said their goodbyes. "My grandma deserved more than that," Walter said.

Walter couldn't help comparing the burial to her uncle's funeral a few months before, when hundreds of people gathered to remember him and support one another through the loss.

"I went away from his funeral feeling comforted and joyful for his life and everyone he touched," she said. "This was a stark difference — the opposite experience. I left feeling completely broken with my grandma's because she didn't have any of that."

The family realizes that the funeral services likely aren't what matters to Darleen now. They believe she's in heaven, reunited with her son and waiting to see her family again someday.

But the loss still hurts.

"We have enough respect for the virus at this point that we just have to keep each other safe," Walter said about not being able to comfort her family at the burial. "We can't lose any other family members."



The family hopes that their experience serves as a lesson for others to take precautions against spreading the virus. Wearing masks and gloves, socially distancing yourself from others — they're not just guidelines to flatten an impersonal data curve. They save lives, Christensen said.

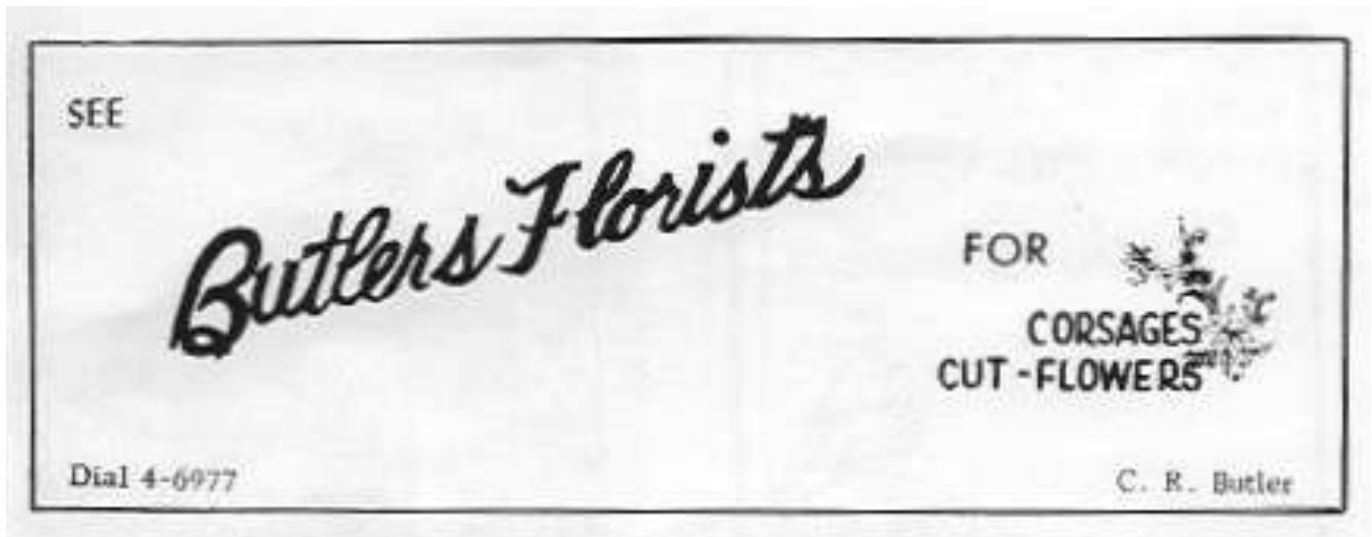
"This is the first time in my life I won't be able to celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday with her," Christensen said. "Make sure you give your mom an extra hug this Mother's Day and think of mine."

**The O&B offers our most sincere condolences to the entire Smart family.**

**Darlene did deserve more. May she now rest in Peace.**

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## Old O&B Ads.



# 1954 Lincoln Grade School 8th Grade



## 8-1 CLASS

**First Row:** Melvin Dykstra, Charles Janssen, Evan Moir, Jerry Hartnett, Billy Lewis, David Vollmer

**Second Row:** Cynthia Huffman, Mary Gleason, Karen Michaelson, Patricia Lane, Sharon Carlson, Shirley Riise, Carole Nelsen, Margaret Anderson

**Third Row:** Carol Akason, Kay Leach, Judy Pruner, Richard Adkins, Douglas Snook, Darrold Dean, Billy Rober, Donald Helgeson. Not pictured Donald Runge



## 8-2 CLASS

**First Row:** James Castle, Richard McNamara, Stacy Unruh, Tom Keegan, Mike Howes, Richard Olson, Eugene Steensma, James Damm

**Second Row:** Barbara Sales, Judy Johnson, Peggy Polzin, Roberta Stevenson, Myra Lowell, Gale Woolf, Bonnie Hanson, Sharon Bachman

**Third Row:** Lanette Gates, Audrey Bultena, Carmen Oren, Edward Searles, Merle DeBoer, David Weber, Richard Barber, Robert Arnold. Not pictured Floyd Stauffacher



# Letters to the



# &B



**Don Noordsy '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

On May 20, 2020, at 8:26 AM, Don Noordsy  
<heythere63@comcast.net> wrote:

Jack....Glad to see the **Buddy Edelen '55** story ! He was such a great athlete.....and just kept winning and winning, and reducing his times with each track meet.

On another note, I had to chuckle at the "Do You Remember" photo on page 16 of the coin purse. My dad used those for his entire adult life.

Back in the day, he got a lot a coins in change and instead of using it, he tended to use bills, and accumulating change in his pocket. Subsequently, the coins would wear a hole in his pocket and he would ask my mom to fix it. She did, but not happily so he got one of coin purses somewhere and a marriage was saved !! When I went to his room at Dow Rummel after he passed away, there was a coin purse on the desk along with his wallet, keys, and a handkerchief ! I had gotten into the habit of using one too, by that point in my life, but I used the one he had for as long as I could until it cracked and coins would "leak" out into my pocket. Just to show you, I took a photo of my nightstand this morning.....I thought you would get a chuckle out of it:

**Don Noordsy '58**



**Buddy Edelen '55**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased

On May 20, 2020, at 11:47 AM, Debbie K <dk3098@yahoo.com> wrote:

Jack, I was so touched that you posted my inquiry to your readers, Thank you. The two responses do appear to be my parents. Mom was called Patty most of the time and she grew up in Trent. My dad never lived in Trent. I am thinking that maybe neither of them actually graduated from Washington High, but rather attended maybe in 1950/1951. It's a wonderful thing you do with your newsletter, keeping people alive through your articles.

Best wishes,

Debbie Kemblowski

On May 23, 2020, at 3:19 PM, **Jim Brown '56**

<gidocjb@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks again Jack for all you do. I was deeply moved by the beautiful poem by **Sally Taylor '55 Bjorge**

**Jim Brown '56**



**Dr. Jim Brown '56**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Sally Taylor '55**  
WHS Senior Photo



**From: Terry Feay '56**

**Sent: Friday, May 8, 2020 6:00 PM**

**To: [terrydfeay@gmail.com](mailto:terrydfeay@gmail.com) <[terrydfeay@gmail.com](mailto:terrydfeay@gmail.com)>**

**Subject: Orange and Black**

**Terry Feay '56**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Leah Nordin '60**  
WHS Soph. Photo.



**Shirley Feay '55**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased

I want to join the "Thank you Jack" fan club and echo the plaudits for such an undertaking as you have accomplished these past years. Bet you never realized how big this would become back then. You done good ! Thank you. I am one of the few who went to TWO schools .... Emerson Grade School for 9 years and Washington High for 4 years. I was kind of wild in high school sorry to say and didn't know too many but did get to know **Ben Rossow**, (Assistant Principal) real well ! He was a great guy and put up with me and my buddy **Lloyd Lange '56** and our antics. Sadly we lost Lloyd a few years back. Lucky for me I met this cute little gal, **Leah Nordin {class of 1960}** and she has been attempting to tame me for the last 65 years and has made some progress. I served 3 years in the Navy and we just celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in lockdown here in Ohio ! My other lifetime buddy , **Jerry Wall '56**, died this year on March 13th. Jerry was with me from 4th grade in Emerson on ..... we even served all 3 years in the Navy together on Treasure Island ! Jerry, Lloyd and I were class of 1956, Leah was 1960 and my sister **Shirley Feay [Johnson] was 1955** and sorry to say we lost her a couple years ago. We made the "old folks" move to Finlay, Ohio last year to be closer to family and now they come by and we talk from the deck while they stand 6 feet away ! what a crazy world ..... anyway thanks for your commitment and keep up the good work as long as you want ..... stay safe.

**Terry Feay '56**



**Ben Rossow**  
Beloved  
WHS Administrator



**Lloyd Lange '56**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased



**Jerry Wall '56**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased



**Jim Redfield '50**  
WHS Senior Photo

On May 22, 2020, at 8:06 PM, JIM REDFIELD <[jimwred@cox.net](mailto:jimwred@cox.net)> wrote:  
Thanx Jack. Been reading your editions with a great amount of continued interest. Glad you decided to continue. Not too many of my 1950 troops left, I presume, as we are all in our late 80's now! I'll be 88 in August, still hanging on, but this quarantine business is really a pain! My volunteering on the Midway is limited to home work as the ship is closed like most attractions in San Diego, but some are starting to be released so as to re-open with attendance/cleanliness guidelines. As an old TV commercial relayed: "Things are lookin' up!"

Best to you & your lovely & thoughtful lady,  
Jim Redfield, WHS Class of '50



**JJ Alma Johnson '53**  
WHS Senior Photo

On May 23, 2020, **JJ Alma Johnson '53** <[johnson35@yahoo.com](mailto:johnson35@yahoo.com)> wrote:  
I loved "INNER Peace", I had to laugh when I got to the end because I was saying to myself this kind sounds like me except for a few exceptions, then to find out it's the family dog. Laughter is good for the soul. **jj Anderson '53**





**Tom Anderson '54**  
WHS Senior Photo

On May 22, 2020, **Thomas D Anderson '54**  
<anderson.tom36@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Jack, first I need to express my appreciation and thanks for the beautiful job you do on the deceased lists. I just received your latest submission and what a beautiful job you do with it and also must thank your lovely wife for the wonderful poem.

I had a very good friend in the class of 1955, but we have not been in touch since the 1960's so have recently been doing some research to see if I could find where he might be. I have some wonderful fond memories of **Larry Gene Johnson '55** with his companionship along with a gang of several others during the later

high school years and beyond. Larry was always a pleasant, respectful and giving guy. Unfortunately, I am sad to say that in my research I found that Larry had died on January 11, 2018 in Pensacola, FL. Larry had served 30 years in the US Navy Reserve. I had hoped to get this to you before you published the Memorial Day deceased listing but could see I was not going to make that.

Just to make sure there was no mistaken identity I tried to reach his brother, who I think still lives in the Sioux Falls area, but have not been able to do so. However since his obituary does list his brother as Carroll Odell Johnson, who I also knew well, and although after 60 years have past our looks change a lot I did recognize him in his obituary picture and feel certain this is the Larry Johnson I knew. I know what a tragedy it is when someone is listed as deceased when they are not. I did find a discrepancy in the 1954 Warrior as it showed his middle initial as J instead G which made me wonder as I remembered his middle initial as G, but then going back to the 1953 Warrior it showed his middle initial as G. I do not have a 1955 Warrior.

I cut and pasted the obituary and picture of Larry I found on line and am attaching it to this email along with the picture I have of him which I assume is the same as his graduation picture in the 1955 Warrior.

Again many thanks for all the work you do for the 1950's graduates of Washington High School.

**Tom Anderson '54**



**Larry G. Johnson '55**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased

Larry's obituary can be seen by going to "*Obituary for Larry Gene Johnson.*" in Sioux Falls, SD

On May 22, 2020, at 2:58 PM, Jack Phillips <jackmp@me.com> wrote:

Hi Tom, Thanks for the nice compliments. I am glad you enjoy the O&B.

I have added your friend, Larry G. Johnson '55 to my master list of the '55 deceased list. The next update of the deceased list will be Christmas 2020. But I will be publishing your letter in my next regular Newsletter so his friends will know right away that he has passed away.

I appreciate you writing such a nice letter.

Stay safe.

Jack



**Kathie Noyes '59**  
WHS Soph. Photo

On May 23, 2020, Kathie <kackymarie@aol.com> wrote:

Just beautiful. I remember Loren but hadn't a clue everything he had accomplished. I remember a very quiet young man who was kind of in the background. He certainly changed!

**Kathie Noyes Brave 1959**



**Dr. Loren Little '59**  
WHS Senior Photo



On May 23, 2020, **wayne boese '56** <drwboese@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Jack,

Thanks for this very fine issue.

A favor. If he is amenable, could you provide me with Dr. Little's (**Dr. Loren Little '59**) email address? I attended grad school at the University of Washington at the same time Dr Little was there.

May you and your wife have a blessed Memorial Day.

Most cordially,

**Wayne Boese. Class of 1956**

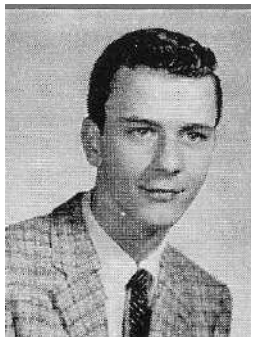
**Dr. Wayne Boese '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On May 26, 2020, **wayne boese '56** <drwboese@gmail.com> wrote:

Loren and I had a nice interchange.

Thanks for the address.

Wayne



On May 23, 2020, **Myron Wachendorf '59** <myronwach@gmail.com> wrote:

Jack I was so impressed reading the story of **Loren Little's '59** life in the military. I had no idea he went through all of that. I do remember though the many times he would set in with my band. Many of those times were at the Seven Oaks Club on W. 12th St. in Sioux Falls. He was a wonderful musician. After reading this article I am so proud of him.

**Myron Wachendorf '59**

**Myron Wachendorf '59**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Carl Turco '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

On May 26, 2020, at 3:34 PM, Carl Turco <mmparadise@suddenlink.net> wrote:

Dear Jack,

I don't know how you keep up, with all that you have going on, I just have to tell you, what a great full article ,you did for the 2020Military Edition. It is beyond above and beyond, keeping all of us WHS alumni more than just informed. The photos are outstanding,

And the articles, need to be read twice, just to absorb the true content.

I thank you, as I assume all the others also appreciate the time, you put into these O&O series.

Thanks also to Your Wife Debra for her support.

Best wishes, for the good year (without corona 19)

**Carl Turco '58**





**Bob Bryant '59  
WHS Senior Photo**

On Jun 1, 2020, **Robert Bryant '59**  
<robertwbryant@outlook.com> wrote:

Jack,

Thank you for your wonderful 2020 O&B Military Edition, and particularly your tribute to classmate **Lt. Col. Loren Little. '59**

Here are three classmate military veterans for consideration. See the attached files for information about their records.

**Larry Dean Howey, '57** Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army, deceased. ('57)

Larry served in combat in Kosovo during the Bosnian conflict. Larry and I worked in the Circulation Department of the Argus Leader while in high school.

**Ronald Roy Nelson '59**, Ph.D., Colonel, U.S. Army, deceased. ('59) Ron served a tour of duty in Vietnam during which he was wounded and recovered; Ron served as a Foreign Affairs Officer and in Tactical/Strategic Intelligence. He retired from the United States Army Reserve in 1982 after seventeen years of service.

I recall Ron sharing his experiences flying in the UH-1 Lightning Bug helicopters at night over the jungles shining a large spotlight to search for enemy troops. The Lightning Bug was followed by a large gunship aircraft. If the Lightning Bug drew enemy fire, the gunship responded with heavy firepower. Ron told many interesting stories.

Ron and I were life-time friends from high school.

**Thomas E. O'Brien '59**, Colonel, U.S.A.F. Reserves ('59.) Tom is a Viet Nam veteran and reported flying 236 combat missions, an amazing number.

Thank you to Connie Nelson ('59) for locating the information on Col. Tom O'Brien.

And, thank you for all you do for the classes of the '50s.

Bob  
Robert W Bryant  
PO Box 422  
Ilwaco, WA 98624-0422

and

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**Larry Dean Howey  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased**



**Ronald Nelson '59  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased**



**Tom O'Brien '59  
WHS Senior Photo**



John Hisel '57  
WHS Senior Photo

Letter from **John Hisel '57**.

April 10, 2020

Hi Jack,

Just a word to say thank you for all the work you do on the Orange and Black. I so look forward to receiving updates on folk and other information you send on to us out here (John Hisel 1957)...the late Wanda Coffield (57) was my wife.

I officially retired from serving as a pastor in the UM church 10 years ago but then jumped back on board here at First UMC in Aberdeen, SD as a part time pastor and have been doing that throughout the past nearly 10 years. Looks like I will make another attempt at retirement come July 1, 2020. Thank God still doing well.

Keep up the good work. We all appreciate you very much.

John Hisel

### **THREE MORE TID BITS TO KEEP IN MIND TODAY.**

**Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.**

**AND**

**Where there's a will, I want to be in it.**

**AND,**

**WW II SUGAR RATIONING ENDED ON THIS DAY!**