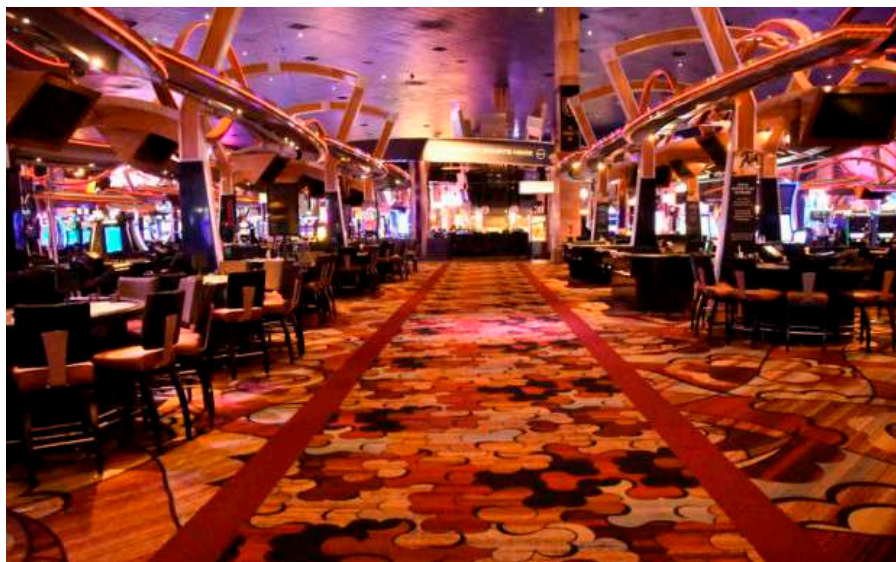


## WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

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)

2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134 702-735-4111 Cell 702-496-3667



### **This Is What Las Vegas Looks Like Now with COVID-19**

Thankfully Debra and I received our 2nd COVID-19 shot yesterday.

We hope you and yours have, or will have your shots soon.

We of course will continue to wear our masks and urge you to also.

For those of you who may have some concerns about the shots, neither

Debra nor I had any unpleasant side effects.

Please Be Safe and Stay Well!

**HOPEFULLY THE END IS NEAR!**

All in favor  
of a COVID-19  
vaccine, raise  
your arm.



# THE MIGHTY MEN OF THE '50S



## KENNY ANDERSON 1950 Spinster

Kenny Anderson received the news with a big smile that he was "Chief Jester of 1950" at the Spinster Dance. The candidates — Dave Paulson, Dick Erickson, Duff Erickson, and Kenny Anderson — all looked their part of jesters with red and yellow striped hats with silver bells. Milt Askew kept the Jester Jumpers jumping with his rhythmic music.

Spinster Candidates, l. to r.: Dave Paulson, Dick Erickson, Duff Erickson, Kenny Anderson.



Above: 1951 Knight, Ike Hoover, senior



Left: John Stelmüller, junior



Above: Dean Olson, sophomore



Left: Hal Erickson, freshman

## SPINSTER

The week when the girls foot the bills is Spinster week. Here the girls have acknowledged their favorite men. The four candidates for Knight of 1951 were: Ike Hoover, John Stelmüller, Dean Olson, and Hal Erickson. Ike Hoover was crowned on Knight's Knite by OLD Queen Patty Masters.

## 1951 Spinster

# 1952 Spinster



L. to r.: Jim Parker, Don Renner, and Jim Higgins.

Spinster comes just once a year but that one week has all the girls running hither and thither making all the preparations to take the one guy out. The Spinster week is climaxed Friday night with the dance. The theme this past year was the "Spring Breakdown." Marv Rimerman was crowned and reigned as Spinster King. Those competing for the position were Jim Parker, freshman; Don Renner, sophomore; and Jim Higgins, senior.



Spinster Knight, Marv Rimerman.



*Les Larson, junior*



*Dick Viehweg, senior*



*Duane Herrick, sophomore*



*Mike Gibson, freshman*

*Les Larson  
'53 Sorcerer*



# 1954 Spinster

1954 Spinster Gayle Hoover



JACK BATCHELLER  
'54 Junior Spinster Nominee



MARK LINE  
'54 Sophomore Spinster Nominee



BOB BASS  
'54 Freshman Spinster Nominee

## *Spinster Candidates for '55*

*King Camel—Ron Moon*



*Paul Wegner*



*John Simko*



*Gary Peterson*



## *Spinster King for '56, Jim Luce*



*Tom Muisenborg, Sophomore*

*Jim Luce, Junior -*

*Andy Perlbach, Senior -*

*Andy Austrums, Freshman -*



## *Spinster Candidates, 1957*

*Lanny Adler, Sophomore; El Matador, Bob Lemke, Senior;  
Dennis Sunderman, Junior*



# Mighty Men Of Spinster '58

Gary Zimmerman—sophomore.  
Jesse Clark—Bell Bottom Beau.  
Bill Olson—Senior.



John Odney, sophomore



OUR MIKADO  
Denny Moller, senior

*Spinster Aspirants, 1959*



Dave Howard, junior

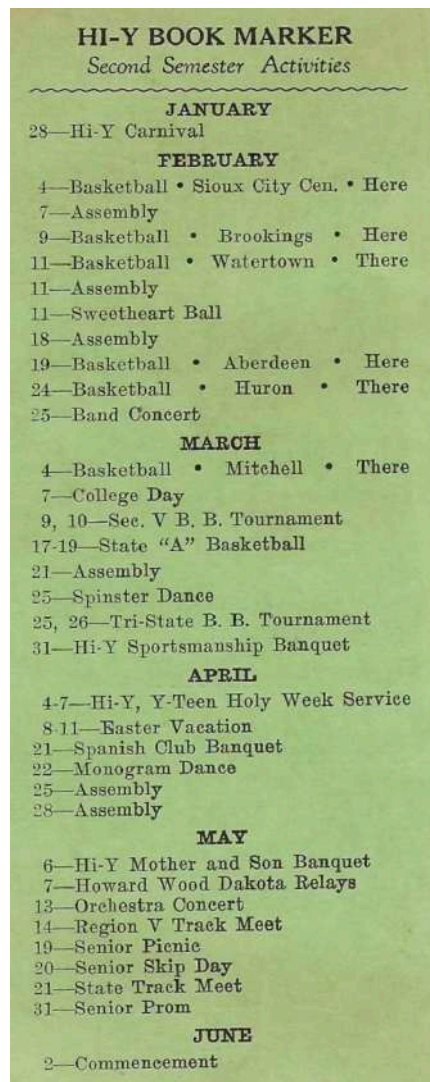
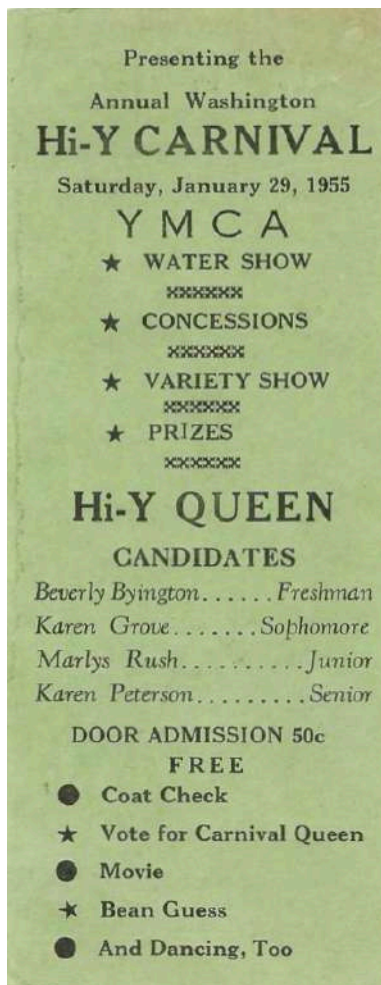




On Jan 31, 2021, **Jim Carlson '58** <pegandjim@sio.midco.net> wrote:  
 Hi Jack, Found this HI-Y Bookmark from 66 years ago.  
 Wanted to get it to you before January 29th of this year  
 as it is dated January 29th. Still dates to remember.

Thanks **Jim Carlson '58**

**Jim Carlson '58**  
**WHS Senior Photo**



Smith climbs to the top of Mt. Sinai to get  
 close enough to talk to God.

Looking up, he asks the Lord. "God, what  
 does a million years mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A minute."

Smith asks, "And what does a million  
 dollars mean to you?"

The Lord replies, "A penny."

Smith asks, "Can I have a penny?"

The Lord replies, "In a minute."

On Feb 16, 2021, at 3:32 PM, **Harry Hoiland '54** <paveknife@hotmail.com> wrote:

Subject: VW's newest car.

## ***NOW HERE IS THE NEW CAR I WANT!!!!***

Any comments? Cost? Saves on tires! Goes well in snow and ice?? Face it, we will not see this vehicle in person. Can you imagine a million of these on the road? This is real. Prototypes have been delivered to several Asian countries. It's made by VW in Korea. **Harry Hoiland '54**



wheel-less car is right next to me!

### **Secrets to a long happy marriage**



A old woman was sipping on a glass of wine, while sitting on the patio with her husband, and she says, "I love you so much, I don't know how I could ever live without you"... Her husband asks, "Is that you, or the wine talking?"... She replies, "It's me... talking to the wine."



**Gary Roddel '59**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

On Feb 16, 2021, **Gary Roddel '59** <mgrod@charter.net> wrote:

Jack, I am offering a personal story for you, as you have been requesting, about a period in my life which came about because of my bout with polio. Marcia and I belong to a small writers group which led me to write some personal stories that can be passed along to our family now and after I am gone. Thank goodness for good health, now even with all the covid issues around us.

Thanks for all the work you put in to keep us in touch with our former WHS classmates. Some are very informative and others bring tears to our eyes because of those we have lost. You have a special gift to be able to publish

all those things and I appreciate them all.

Gary Roddel  
WHS '59

### ***The Train Set***

The year is 1948. Times are still pretty tough in America. It is only three years removed from the time Japan signed the armistice to end WW2 in the Pacific and our soldiers were able to come home. America is back at work on something other than building ships, tanks, jeeps, weapons and airplanes.



Women who had gone to work to support the war effort were now able to be mothers and housewives again. Many families are buying their own homes because of the GI Bill which allowed service families a little support from Uncle Sam. Gasoline costs between 10 and 15 cents per gallon. If you are a skilled laborer you might be able to make as much as \$1.00 an hour.

Dad was 28 years old when he joined the Marines to serve his country in 1943. He was very much a patriot and wanted to do his part to make sure his family was safe from any possible invasion by another country. He had to leave behind a wife and 2 children. We lived in Beresford at the time and I was but two years old. Dad ended up serving on Guam until the war was over in '45. But I digress....

After he returned from the war we moved back to Sioux Falls. Dad worked doing auto repair and pumping gas at a local station and eventually worked as a 'cat skinner' for a road construction company. Even though he only had an eighth grade education he was not lacking for brains and was a very hard worker. Mom was a homemaker and had a third child by this time now so she had her hands full at home.

The summer of '48 is when the second large Polio epidemic swept through our part of America. Shortly after my seventh birthday I contracted Bulbar Polio and spent a total of three weeks at Sioux Valley Hospital. My throat was paralyzed for five days so I couldn't swallow. During that time my nutrition came in liquid form and was administered through a needle in my arm. I was a very sick little boy but of course I didn't understand that. The first thing I remember going down my throat was a trickle of melting ice cream from a chocolate malted milk. Two weeks after that my ability to swallow had improved enough to allow me to recover at home.

I didn't return to school, at South Sioux for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade until October, after the first six weeks were complete. The only physical remnant from my time with polio was the fact that I couldn't sneeze. Whenever I had to sneeze it just wouldn't come out past my throat. Of course my 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classmates thought that was hilarious while I sat there groaning and getting red in the face as if I were trying to lift weights. Luckily, I had a very understanding teacher who, very often, had to gently remind the other children of my situation.

Then came December. Christmases at our house were very simple because times were tough. Our tradition was to open gifts on Christmas morning and the few that we were about to receive were under the small Christmas tree. I don't recall what my sister and brother received but when I opened my gift it was an American Flyer electric train set. It was over and above anything I had ever received as a gift.

Along with the train cars and tracks there was a water tower with a light at the top, an electric crane with an electromagnet that would pick up metal objects to be loaded onto the train, as well as an electric billboard that had a train whistle inside. I was in 'lala' land. Dad must have set it up on the floor to begin with until he was able to get a board large enough on which to mount it. We played with it for hours.

What I didn't understand about that special gift then and for many years later, until after both parents were gone, was the fact that my parents most likely spent 2 weeks worth of wages just on that train set for me. You see, I had recovered from any visual indications of having had polio that year while many others had ended up with paralyzed limbs, were in iron lungs or even lost their lives because of it. My family was very, very happy and thankful to have their son and brother healthy again.

The Lord had blessed Dave and Nellie Roddel's family a great deal that Christmas in 1948.

**Gary Roddel '59**



# Washington High School - Over The Years

WHS is a public secondary school located in Sioux Falls, South Dakota with an enrollment of 1,831 students. The school is now one of three public high schools in Sioux Falls. Founded in 1908, Washington High School succeeded Central School and Irving High School as the city's predominate secondary public school built to accommodate a larger student capacity. In 1992 the school transferred from its downtown location to its current site, with the previous building remodeled to become the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science.

## WHS History:

Construction of Washington High School began in 1904, after Central School in Sioux Falls was outgrown. Upon completion in 1908, it was renamed from "Sioux Falls High School" to Washington High School. 328 high school students enrolled into the new building on February 14, 1908.

The students soon outgrew the building. With a high school population of 536 in 1911, the enrollment exceeded the maximum capacity of 500. With the addition of a new South Wing to Washington High in 1922, the enrollment grew from 959 in 1921 to 1,660 in 1930.

The district approved the remodeling of the north wing in 1932, and in 1935, the center unit of Washington High School was completed, with Central School razed in 1935 to make room for the west wing's construction.<sup>[4]</sup> Following this remodeling, the exterior of Washington High School stood from 1935 until the current Washington High School was completed in 1992. After that, the original school was remodeled to become the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science.

All Sioux Falls public high school students attended Washington High from 1908 through the 1963–1964 school year. Washington's enrollment grew to 2,925 during the 1963–1964 year. The building's recommended capacity was 2,100. To solve overcrowding, the district began construction on Lincoln High School, as a second high school located on Cliff Avenue next to Interstate 229. For about six weeks, in the fall of 1965, 3,300 students attended classes in a split schedule. Following some delays, Lincoln High School opened on October 19, 1965, with 1,300 students.

In the fall of 1992, 1,439 Washington High School students attended classes in the current Washington High School. As of 2009, Washington High School has served 2,091 students with 120 teachers, 6 counselors, 18 education assistants, 44 support staff and 4 administrators.

The following 5 old WHS photos reproduced from, *[The Washington High School Historical Committee Website](#)*.

**Below are historical images from 1907-1992**









# Letters to the



# &B



**Jim Carlson '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 14, 2021, **Jim Carlson '58** <pegandjim@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Hi Jack,

Enjoyed your Valentine O/B , also liked the football quotes.

" I never graduated from Iowa. But I was only there for two terms.  
Truman's and Eisenhower's." Alex Karras

That reminded me of the time I played football against Alex. This is a story I tell, then people ask at Iowa? Guess I have to get honest, in the early 70's I was attending a convention in Chicago, and played a 1 / 1 football board game against Alex. He was part of the shows entertainment at the event.

**Jim Carlson '58**



**Jim Brown '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 15, 2021, **Jim Brown '56** <gidocjb@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks Jack. I don't know how you all the photos. Nice seeing **Marilyn Rush '56**. she was my date for our senior prom. Good memories.

**Jim Brown '56**



**Marilyn Rush '56**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Darold Gieser '55**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 15, 2021, **DAROLD G GIESER '55** <ruthtg@comcast.net> wrote:

Jack, Great Valentine's O&B issue, brings back many many happy memories. Not long ago you were seeking a 1955 yearbook. I have one in very good condition (for a sixty-six year old). I would be more than happy to donate it to the cause if you have not already obtained another. Let me know either way and I will mail it to you if needed.

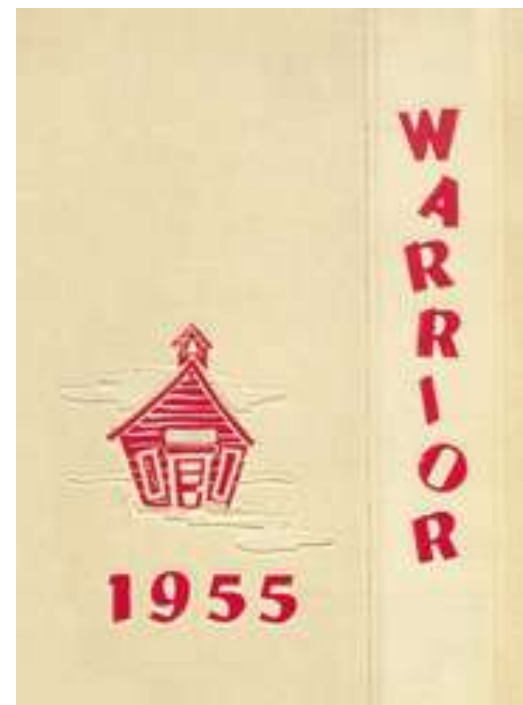
**Darold G. Gieser, Emerson '51, WHS '55**

Thanks Darold! I sure can use it! Please send it. Jack

P.S. The above correspondence with Darold was added to the O&B yesterday. Then his package with his Warrior and nice letter (see his letter top of next page), was delivered this afternoon.

Thanks so much Darold! You're right, it is in very good condition! No doubt it will last longer than me. Darold, you devil you, don't worry I won't print any of the many "romantic" notes so many girls wrote in your yearbook. Jack

Page 12 of 18



Jack, Here it is. My wife's and my high school and college annuals are stored in the attic. I usually peruse one or another when I'm in the attic retrieving Christmas or change of seasons decorations, but after I pulled the '55 Warrior down I spent three hours (my wife tells me) looking through it. Brings back many good memories. Not long ago you had a feature on Frank Gibbs. Partially as a result of that article, three or four members of his first HiY, all readers of your O&B newsletter, reconstructed a membership list of that group. Membership was limited to thirty boys, we could only list twenty-eight. In my three hour review of my '55 Warrior I discovered that at some point many many years ago I had numbered each and every Gibbs #1 member's senior picture. The list of thirty is now complete and totally accurate.

Hoping you use this copy of Warrior '55 for a very very long time. Darold



**Carl Turco '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 16, 2021, **Carl Turco '58** <mmparadise@suddenlink.net> wrote:

**Subject: Fwd: radio around the world**

This is incredible!!! The green dots on this Google Earth map represent radio stations all over the world. Click on any one of the dots and you will immediately hear that station with very good reception. For example, halfway up Ireland's east coast, there is a station playing Irish pub music. Any of you who are multilingual will certainly enjoy this. **Carl Turco '58**

<http://radio.garden/live/toulouse/radiopresence>



**Mick Zerr**  
WHS Faculty 42 Years  
1967 to 2009

On Feb 22, 2021, at 8:47 AM,  
Michael Zerr

<zerrmick@gmail.com> wrote:

Jack, the Committee thanks you for your generous donation. Our only source of income is donations. The Mission of the Washington High School Historical Committee is to preserve and foster an appreciation of the

building that was Washington High School for nearly a century, and to make visitors and future generations aware of the contributions of the many graduates and staff through its long and distinguished history. As you know, we maintain the preserved classroom, the materials in Alumni Hall, yearbooks, Hall of Distinction Awards, [the website](#), [Facebook page](#), etc.

Thanks again

Stay Well

Mick Zerr, WHS 1967-2009  
Chairman, WSHC

The following 2  
photos reproduced  
from the WHS  
Historical  
Committee's website.



**Old WHS Auditorium**





**Washington High School  
Principals 1908 to 1992**



**Our Two Beloved, Respected and Dedicated Principals  
Covering Our Decade of The 1950's.**  
**R. A. Beck, 1944 to 1958**



**Ben Rossow, 1958 to 1971**



**Jeff Herbert '74  
WHS Senior Photo**

On Feb 22, 2021, **Jeffrey Herbert '74** <herbertj@sio.midco.net>  
Jack...a very special thank you for your donation! We often, in our Historical  
Meetings refer to the current **ORANGE AND BLACK** as reference, and as  
learning. We have gained so much from your work---best wishes....  
**Jeff Herbert '74**



**Jeff Herbert '74  
28 Yrs. WHS  
Teacher  
and Coach**

Jeff, I am honored that the O&B can at times be of some service to the  
Historical Committee. Thanks for sending this '73 football photo & the next two  
pages of scenes (8 pics), of "NEW WHS BUILDING SCENES" from the 1938  
Warrior. Jack





**"NEW", WHS BUILDING SCENES  
FROM THE 1938 WARRIOR**



NEW BUILDING SCENES

Modern classroom

W. H. S., southeast corner

The new stage, from the balcony

Gym, with folding bleachers down



**"1938 New"**

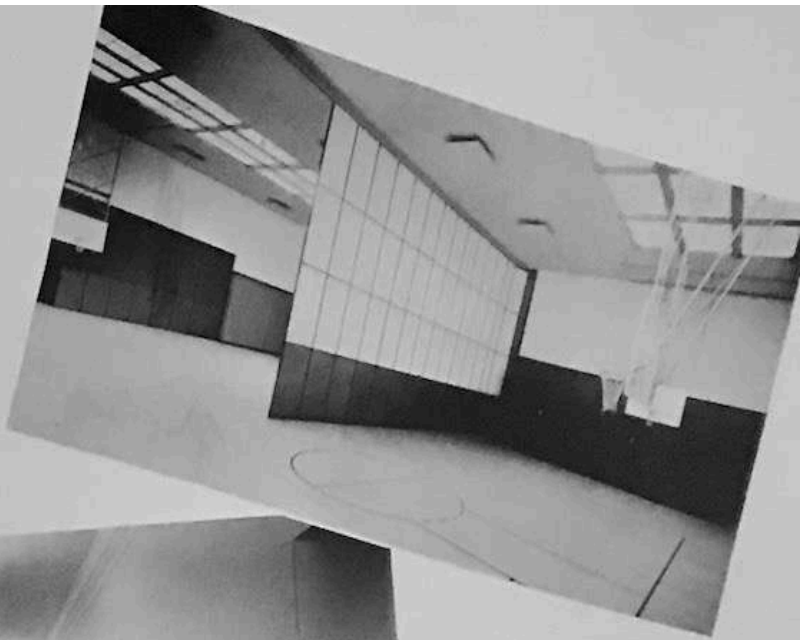
NEW BUILDING SCENES

Gym with folding door

Corridor, with built in lockers

Art room

Auditorium, from the stage



Seventy-seven



**Janet Herman Frey '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Feb 21, 2021, **Janet Herman Frey '58** <msmolliefly@icloud.com> wrote:  
**Ed. Note:** Janet Herman Frey '58 recently alerted the O&B of the passing of classmate, **Annette Hillgren Bray '58**. Janet included this great photo of Annette and 8 other Sioux Falls ladies getting together for lunch in the Twin Cities. The O&B printed the photo with Annette's Special Edition, but is printing it again now so all 9 ladies can be identified.

Jack - attached is the obit for Annette Hillgren Bray, WHS 1958. Annette was part of the "Sioux Falls Girls" group in the Twin Cities. We have missed our regular get togethers this past year. Here is a photo from a couple of years ago.



Mary Drake (Cathedral), Annette Hillgren Bray, photo bomber waiter, Sharon Carlson Goodrie, Joyce Tornow Briggs, Bev Hewlett Campbell, Dee Henline Henriksen, Ann Lippert Flanagan, Janet Herman Frey, Dixie Utesch Tilden.  
**Janet Herman Frey, '58**



**Mary Drake**  
Cathedral



**Annette Hillgren '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Sharon Carlson '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Joyce Tornow '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Bev Hewlett '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Dee Henline '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Ann Lippert '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Janet Herman '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Dixie Utesch '58**  
WHS Senior Photo





## Thanks To My Wife Debra, For Submitting These Thoughts To Age By

*I asked* a friend who has crossed 70 and is heading towards 80 what sort of changes she is feeling in herself?

She sent me the following:

- 1 After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself.
- 2 I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.
- 3 I have stopped bargaining with vegetable and fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to break me, but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.
- 4 I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.
- 5 I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane & relive their past.
- 6 I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
- 7 I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."
- 8 I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.
- 9 I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.
- 10 I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.
- 11 I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.
- 12 I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.
- 13 I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.
- 14 I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!



Two weeks ago **Dick Sweetman '54** notified the O&B that **John Hermanson '54**, passed away in Cambridge, MA on February 10, 2021. Since then the O&B has checked multiple times daily with **Keefe Funeral Home** in Cambridge looking for John's obituary but the following notation is all that appears, "***Please check back for an obituary in the next day or so.***" You may contact Keefe Funeral Home at, [info@keefefuneralhome.com](mailto:info@keefefuneralhome.com) or 617-547 5544 for more information.



**Dick Sweetman '54**  
**WHS Senior Photo**



**John Hermanson '54**  
**WHS Senior Photo**