

# THE ALUMNI ORANGE & BLACK

NEWSLETTER

Issue #8-17      October 10, 2017

**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: [jack@jackmohillips.com](mailto:jack@jackmohillips.com)



Dennis Anderson  
'55  
WHS  
Junior Photo

August 14, 2017

Jack Phillips  
2261 Lauren Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

## Wall Street Journal On Sioux Falls Growth Courtesy of Dennis Anderson '55

Introducing myself – WHS class of 1955. Dad, mom, sister and I moved from Sioux Falls to Phoenix June of 1954 so I didn't graduate from WHS. Graduated from North Phoenix High and, in 1959, ASU. But that didn't really feel like home. WHS does. I'm in the 1954 yearbook as a junior. And am really happy you keep emailing the O&B's. My email is [dsacpa@yahoo.com](mailto:dsacpa@yahoo.com)

I've enclosed an article from this past March from the Wall Street Journal. Maybe you have already seen it. Anyway, in case you want to put pieces of it in future O&B's.

I still have a couple of real friends from the old days who live in Sioux Falls or Brandon and put up with me by letting me stay with them when we have those all school reunions.

I live in Mesa and visit Las Vegas 2 or 3 times a year and think of you each time. Anyway, that's enough blather. So, again, thanks for keeping the O&B going. I don't want to think of what happens when the inevitable happens to you. Who would keep the O&B going?

Sincerely,

Dennis Anderson

**Editor's Note:** I find this nice letter from Dennis Anderson '55, such a heart warming compliment to not only our wonderful WHS, but also to all of the student body, the faculty and to all of Sioux Falls for making people like Dennis feel the way they do.

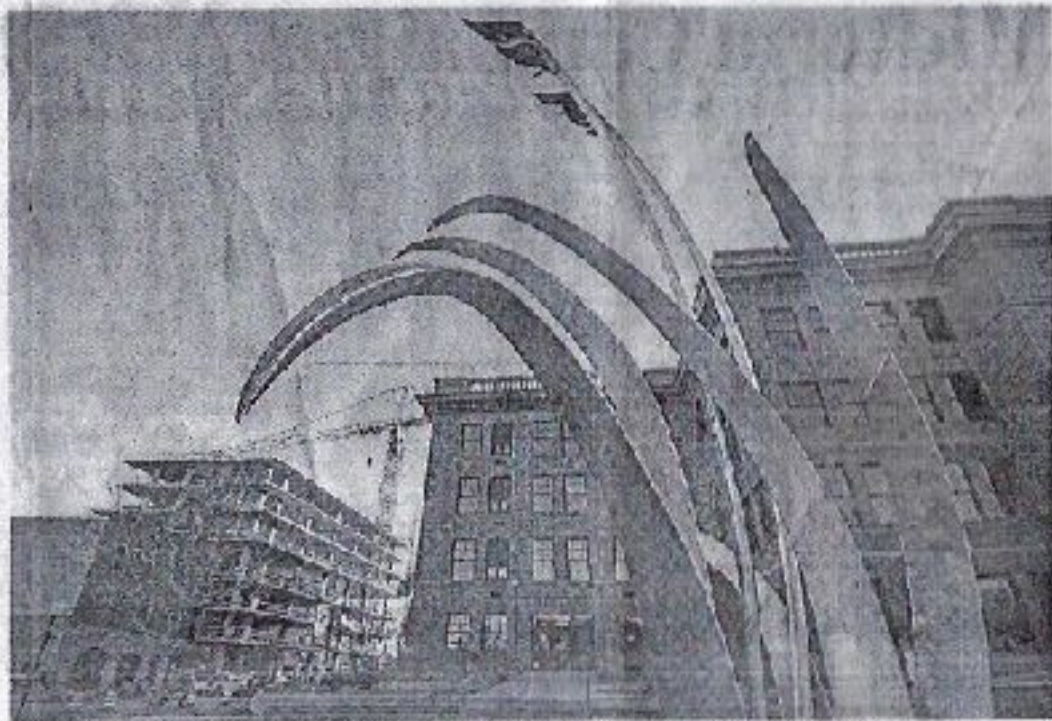
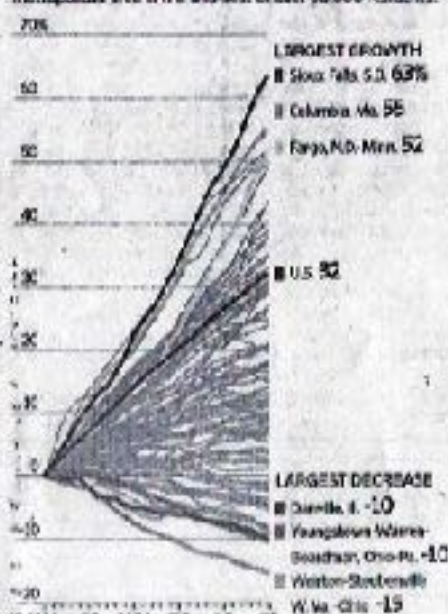
Dennis, of course I am glad you enjoy the O&B and you feel that it helps you stay in touch with your good memories of WHS. I also thank you for sending the following great positive article (see page 2), on Sioux Falls from the Wall Street Journal. It is just one more of the many many reasons we are all so proud to call Sioux Falls home!



## U.S. NEWS

## Top of the Charts

Sioux Falls has had the fastest growth in residents of any metropolitan area in the Midwest of over 50,000 residents.



Construction in Sioux Falls, S.D., this month. The city's unemployment rate, at 2.8%, is among the lowest in the U.S.

# Sioux Falls Prospers as Other Cities Slump

Financial firms, health care help South Dakota metro area reduce reliance on agriculture

By STEPHAN MATHIAS

SIoux FALLS, S.D.—When Ruth Stacia sold East Coast friends she was moving here, away from a life where it was

“I got a lot of ‘Do people live in here?’” said the 30-year-old digital strategist, who is among the 25,000 new people to settle in this once-sleepy city of 175,500 in the past five years.

Despite the sometimes harsh weather she now boasts about her new home, which includes four breweries within walking distance and a thriving theater and music scene.

“I legitimately fell in love,” said Mr. Stacia, who grew up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. “I have never seen a place where people were honestly as excited about the growth and change in the city.”

Many areas of the Midwest have struggled with population loss as manufacturing and defense have declined, and many have needed less labor. But Sioux Falls is on a tear after undergoing an unlikely transformation into a financial and health-care power-

house in the middle of cornfields.

For decades, Sioux Falls was a typical regional farm city, with a still operational slaughterhouse, grain elevators and a livestock auction. In 1980, its population was about 81,000.

Then, in 1981, Citibank relocated credit-card operations to Sioux Falls to take advantage of a relatively new state law that eliminated caps on interest rates and fees, even if a bank's headquarters was elsewhere and the account holders lived out of state. Soon other banks, such as Wells Fargo, followed.

“Citibank's arrival was a complete breakthrough,” said Erik Holte, former president of the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. “It exposed us to the reality that we could move away from agriculture and become a financial hub.”

Dave Swenson, an economist at Iowa State University, said Sioux Falls is a bit of a “fringe” that was able to grow based on the state's unique law loosening financial restrictions.

“What was done at the time was considered heresy, and it paid off well. Much like the frenzy of gaming and easy divorces in Nevada,” said Mr. Swenson. While other states have also loosened caps on interest rates, the Sioux Falls fi-



The Sanford Research Lab in Sioux Falls, where work includes investigating rare children's diseases.

ancial industry has “taken on a life of its own,” he added.

The city's population jumped 53% over the past 25 years, the fastest growth of any major area of more than 60,000 people between Ohio and North Dakota. A building boom downtown pushed the value of construction permits to \$708.8 million last year, up from \$262.9 million in 2011, city records show.

The city's unemployment rate is among the lowest in the

region, at 2.8%, and Sioux Falls helped make South Dakota the fastest-growing state in the nation last year, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Growth has come without the traditional economic drivers of many smaller cities, such as the oil boom playing out in North Dakota, a large university or state legislature.

“We're a boomtown, and we don't have any oil,” said Sioux

Falls Mayor Mike Huether.

In 2007, the city received the first \$400 million of what would grow to \$1 billion in backing for the regional health-care system from billionaire J. Dennis Sanford, a longtime South Dakota resident who made his fortune at the helm of First Premier Bank, which issued high-interest credit cards to customers with poor credit histories.

The rechristened Sanford Health, together with another

provider, named Avera, are the biggest employers in the city, with some 15,000 workers combined. Sanford Health has also branched into medical research.

The nonprofit's medical-research team is doing groundbreaking work in rare children's diseases like Hatten's disease, a neurodegenerative disorder, and Type 1 diabetes.

Now, the growth of health care and the strong financial sector have spurred other industries, Mr. Swenson said.

When Lawrence & Schiller, now the city's biggest ad agency, set up shop in Sioux Falls in 1975, it was one of two players, said Chief Executive Scott Lawrence. Now there are at least two dozen.

The growth has come with downsides. Construction companies say finding workers is getting tougher and homes can't be built fast enough to meet demand. Residents say the population of youngsters is rising faster than the city can handle, leading to crowded day-care facilities and elementary schools.

Sioux Falls economic developers say the only way to sustain the growth is to embrace immigration and attract diverse residents, sometimes a tough sell in a city in the middle of a heavily conservative state where about 82% of people are white.



# Mini Class of '56 Reunion in Bellevue, WA

Thanks to Permella Bedford Kielman '56



Permella Bedford '56  
WHS Senior Photo

Jack, Here are some pictures of our recent mini-reunion at the Newcastle Country Club in Bellevue, WA. A shout out to Pat Jorgenson Palagi, Andy Perlbachs, and Kent Scribner for organizing the event. It was so much fun. I hope these will work for the Orange and Black. Thanks, **Permella Bedford Kielman '56**

## Class of 1956 Pacific Northwest Reunion

Back Row: John Ewing '53, Roger Kielman '55, Andy Perlbachs '56, Kent Scribner '56, Gene Ross '56, Bob Pederson '56, Pat Jorgenson Palagi '56, Dale Peterson '56, Myra Scholten Swanson '56

Front Row: Ruth Cartee Ewing '56, Carol Winden Johnson '56, Permella Bedford Kielman '56, Camille Peterson '61, Leora Capen Bass '56





Ruth Cartee Ewing, Camille Peterson, Dale Peterson



Andy Perlbachs, John



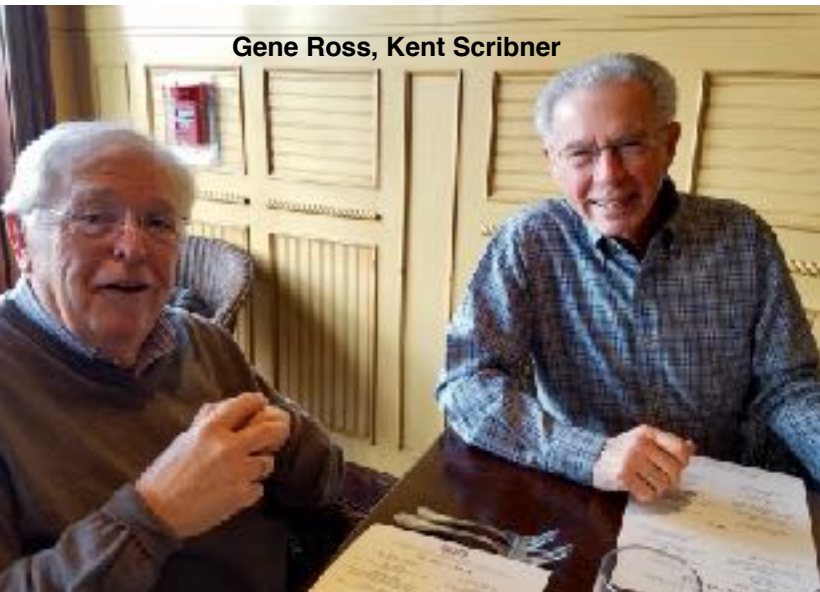
Leora Capen Bass, Carol Winden Johnson



Bob Pederson, Roger Kielman



Gene Ross, Kent Scribner



Pat Jorgenson Palagi, Permella  
Bedford Kielman, Myra Scholten



End of '56 Mini Reunion



**Thanks to Bill Lobe '59 for providing this most interesting chronicle of our great generation, the '50s**

**Bill Lobe '59  
WHS Senior Photo**

## **1950s Important News and Events,**

Fifties Fashions, the peak of the Baby Boomer Years where following the end of the great depression and then World War II people wanted to live a normal life raising a family, teens found rock and roll music and Elvis, parents found more consumer choice and jobs were abundant.

### **Money and Inflation 1950's**

To provide an estimate of inflation we have given a guide to the value of \$100 US Dollars for the first year in the decade to the equivalent in today's money

If you have \$100 Converted from 1950 to 2005 it would be equivalent to \$835.41 today

In 1950 a new house cost \$8,450.00 and by 1959 was \$12,400.00 More [House Prices](#)

In 1950 the average income per year was \$3,210.00 and by 1959 was \$5,010.00

In 1950 a gallon of gas was 18 cents and by 1959 was 25 cents

In 1950 the average cost of new car was \$1,510.00 and by 1959 was \$2,200.00

#### **A few more prices from the 50's and how much things cost**

Chrysler New Yorker \$4347

1958 Chevrolet Corvette \$3631

Men's All Wool Suits \$28.90

Square dance Cotton Check Dress \$3.29

Electric Portable Singer Sewing Machine \$19.90

Ronson Electric Shaver \$28.50

Rib Roast 29 cents per pound

Ritz Crackers 32 cents

Rollaway Beds \$14.95

Ring 1 carat Diamond \$399.00

Mechanical Adding Machine \$3.98

### **What Happened in the 1950s**

*The events listed below we have tried to put a small paragraph on the specific year page providing additional information )*

#### **1950**

- The Diner's Club begins issuing the first credit cards.
- The Korean War begins when North Korea invades South Korea.
- Famous physicist Albert Einstein warns the world that a nuclear war would lead to mutual destruction.
- The United States begins the development and production of the hydrogen bomb.
- The FIFA World Cup is held in Brazil and Uruguay wins the title.

#### **1951**

- "I Love Lucy" premieres on television on the CBS network.
- DJ Alan Freed coins the term "Rock n' Roll."
- Libya becomes independent from Italian rule after about forty years.
- Luis Miramontes develops the first oral contraceptive.
- The United States ratifies the 22nd amendment, limiting a president to two terms.

## 1952

- Elizabeth II becomes the Queen of England after her father, George VI, dies.
- The first hydrogen bomb is successfully detonated by the United States.
- The Mau Mau Rebellion begins in Kenya as an effort to end the British rule of the country.
- Puerto Rico is named as a self-governing commonwealth of the U.S.
- The first issue of the comedy-driven MAD Magazine is published.

## 1953

- The Double Helix DNA Model is revealed by Francis Crick and James Watson.
- Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay become the first people to successfully climb to the top of Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world.
- Jonas Salk develops the first polio vaccine.
- The first James Bond novel, "Casino Royale," is published by British author Ian Fleming.
- Joseph Stalin, the leader of the USSR, dies and is replaced by Nikita Khrushchev.

## 1954

- The U.S. Supreme Court rules that racial segregation is unconstitutional in public schools in their unanimous decision of Brown v. Board of Education.
- U.S. Senator Joseph McCarthy is censured by the Senate, ending his four year long hunt for Communists within the United States government.
- Frozen TV Dinners are introduced by Swanson.
- Ellis Island ceases to be a point of immigration into the U.S. when it officially closes.
- Roger Bannister becomes the first recorded man to run a mile in under four minutes.

## 1955

- The popular children's television show "The Mickey Mouse Club" premieres. The Disneyland theme park in California also opened during this year..
- The Warsaw Pact is signed by the Soviet Union and seven of its satellite countries (Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, and Czechoslovakia).
- Rosa Parks is arrested in Alabama after she refuses to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, sparking the Civil Rights Movement.
- The McDonald's chain of restaurants is started by Ray Kroc.
- The United States adds "In God We Trust" to all paper currency.



## 1956

- The popular musician Elvis Presley has his very first hit song, "Heartbreak Hotel."
- American Actress Grace Kelly marries Prince Rainier of Monaco.
- The Suez Crisis begins after Egypt nationalizes the Suez Canal.
- The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 becomes law, allowing for the mass construction of tens of thousands of interstate highways in the U.S.
- Albert Sabin creates the oral polio vaccine to replace the Salk vaccine.

## 1957

- The USSR successfully launches Sputnik 1, the very first artificial satellite. They also launch Sputnik 2 later in the year, a satellite that carried the first animal into space.
- The "Baby Boom" peaks during this year.
- Nine African-American students enroll at Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas and are met with resistance by protesters and the state's governor. Federal troops end up escorting the students into the school at the command of President Eisenhower.
- The European Economic Community is created when West Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg sign the Treaty of Rome.
- Malaysia and Ghana gain independence from the United Kingdom.

## 1958

- The microchip is co-invented by Robert Noyce and Jack Kilby.
- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is created.
- Bobby Fischer, a fourteen-year-old boy, wins the U.S. Chess Championship.
- The popular children's toy the Hula-Hoop is created by Wham-O.
- The Great Chinese Famine begins.

## 1959

- The Cuban revolution ends and Fidel Castro comes to power, creating the first Communist nation in the West.
- Alaska and Hawaii are admitted as the 49th and 50th states in the U.S.
- The Soviet Union's Luna 2 spacecraft becomes the first man-made object to touch the surface of the Moon after it crashes.
- The first astronauts are introduced by NASA ( John H. Glenn, Jr. and Alan Shepard, Jr. ).
- The St. Lawrence Seaway is completed.

## Technology

- First oral contraceptive ( the Pill )invented by Luis E. Miramontes

- The Soviet Union launches Sputnik I, the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth. and so starts the space race and man's exploration of our solar system

Inventions The Year Invented Inventors and Country ( or attributed to First Use )

**Atomic Clock** ----- 1955 England

**Breeder Reactor** ----- 1951 USA Converted Uranium to Plutonium

**Computer Modem** ----- 1958 USA

**Credit Card** ----- 1950 USA by Ralph Schneider

**Hovercraft** ----- 1955 England by Christopher Cockerell

**Hydrogen Bomb** ----- 1952 USA by Edward Teller's team

**Lunar Probe** ----- 1959 Russia Lunik I passed the Moon;

**Lunar Probe** ----- 1959 Russia Lunik II crashed on the Moon;

**Lunar Probe** ----- 1959 Russia Lunik III photographed the far side of the Moon

**Microchip** ----- 1958 USA by Jack Kilby

**Nuclear Power** ----- 1956 England First power station at Calder Hall

**Robot** ----- 1954 USA by George C Devol Jr

**Satellite** ----- 1957 Russia Sputnik I

**Solar Cell** ----- 1954 USA Or Photovoltaic cells

**Transistor Radio** ----- 1953 USA Texas Instruments

**Video Recorder** ----- 1956 USA

**Video Tape** ----- 1956 USA

## Popular Culture 1950s

Popular Culture in the 50's can be captured in just a few words which speak volumes. "The Cold War", "Baby Boomers" , "Korea" , "The Red Scare",. This was the decade where people built Bomb Shelters, had babies and the news was filled with what the reds were doing or going to do.

### 50s Music

The other important change was in how teenagers were viewed up until the 50's teenagers were just children and were treated as such the 50's and future decades changed that where teenagers became an important section of society when politicians and others realized teenagers would very quickly become voters and consumers and a new generation of pop stars including Elvis Presley were created whose main target audience was teenagers.





As the radio had done in the 20's providing the masses with news and entertainment so the TV did in the fifties originally broadcasting in black and white but later in color

This was also a time of great affluence after the depression years and the World Wars consumerism took off in a big way which in turn created jobs and wealth and a circle of growth

Following on from black men joining the forces and fighting for their country , a change was needed to treat this section of society equally " they had fought for their country " and should be treated as equals, and the battle for civil rights began

- The frozen "french fries" were invented by the JR Simplot company in the early 50's and up till the time McDonalds still peeled, cut and prepared fries on the premises
- A common name termed for people born in the 50's are the baby boomers . ( after the depression in the 30's and the world war in the 40's ) people felt confident enough to have children and an explosion in the population occurred.

## TV Shows 1950s

- Perry Mason 1957 - 1966. Perry Mason played by actor Raymond Burr.
- Rawhide 1959 - 1966. Starring Eric Fleming and Clint Eastwood.
- The Phil Silvers Show 1955 - 1959. with US Army master sergeant Ernest G. Bilko played by Phil Silvers.
- Lassie 1954 - 1973.
- The Lone Ranger 1949 - 1954.
- Bonanza 1959 - 1973.
- 77 Sunset Strip 1958 - 1964.
- The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin 1954 - 1959.
- Gunsmoke 1955 - 1975.
- The Twilight Zone ( Original Series ) 1959 - 1964.

Some of the Most Well Known Movie Stars of the Fifties; Gary Cooper, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, John Wayne, James Stewart, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe and William Holden

**Once again, the '50s were pretty amazing and we were so fortunate to have been there!WHS Athletic**

**WHS Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet**  
**October 20, 2017**  
**Save The Night and Order Your Tickets Now.**



Washington High School Athletic Hall-of-Fame  
RSVP

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please make the following banquet reservation:  
Number planning to attend at \$40.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Name on ticket(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL-OF-FAME

Mail to:  
Nate Malchow, Activities Director  
Washington High School  
501 N. Sycamore Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Your name tags will be placed on a table and may be picked up at the banquet hall the evening of the induction ceremony. Please circle the inductee that you are honoring with your presence.







**Marlys Ahrendt '57**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

On September 28, 2017 **Marlys Ahrendt Hohman '57** wrote:  
Jack, Maybe you could include this in one of the up coming O&B.  
**Thanks Marlys Ahrendt Hohman '57**

Dear Marlys,

Thank you for attending Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation's Annual Scholarship Reception and representing the Washington High Alumni Scholarship Fund. It's a great opportunity for the recipients to meet people who care so much about their future.

Scholarships are an affirmation of our confidence in the young people of our community. It is wonderful to have scholarship founders, friends, and donors who believe in the students and are willing to invest in their education. We are grateful for your continued interest and support.

I've included a photo of you and the Washington High Alumni Scholarship Fund recipient for you to enjoy.

With thanks,

Molly Donohue  
Development Associate

*Since its inception in 1995, the Washington High Alumni Scholarship Fund has awarded 25 scholarships totaling \$20,550! Attached is a spreadsheet showing yearly winners. Total gifts to the fund are \$45,073.69. The fund balance today is \$53,947.14. Endowments are a beautiful thing. Thank you for letting Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation support the philanthropic goals of the Washington High Alumni Scholarship Association.*

*Anyone who would like to add to the Washington High Alumni Scholarship may send your donation to:*

**Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation**  
**200 North Cherapa Place**  
**Sioux Falls, SD 57103-2205**



**Marlys Ahrendt Hohman '57 presenting the 2017, \$1,500.00 Grant to Jillian Stamp.**



# Letters to the & B



Kathy Cook '53  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased

On Aug 10, 2017, **Ellen Flaherty Janssen '58**  
<ejanssen@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Hi Jack,

Just got home a little while ago. We went to Kathy Cook Ross's funeral today. Her sister, Darleen Cook Smart, is another one of my best friends – since 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Lowell. It was a beautiful funeral with lots of old friends in attendance.



Darleen Cook '58  
WHS Senior Photo

Thanks,  
**Ellen Flaherty Janssen '58**



Loren Little '59  
WHS Senior Photo

On Aug 10, 2017, at 6:40 PM, tpts1@aol.com wrote:  
Another super news letter.  
Thanks

I keep seeing names I recognize, some were mentors or guys that were older but we kids looked up to - they set the bar high. Two were **Bill Simpson '53, & Bruce Qualseth '57**, both counselors at the camp. It never dawned on me that these were summer jobs for these guys who were at WHS. They seemed like they were some sort of God sent that knew everything there was to know - so we learned a lot. Some pics here: Qualseth, Bill with baby raccoon, I don't know anyone else in the pics. I think I previously sent the pics of Linter and Chester from Emerson.



Bill Simpson '53



Miss Annamae Linter  
Our Beloved  
Emerson Principal



Emerson's Nice, NICE  
Janitor, and also  
Beloved, Chester.



Bruce Qualseth '57 and his troops.







**Wayne Boese '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Aug 11, 2017, **Wayne Boese '56** <drwboese@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you, Jack, for continuing the O and B newsletter. The old hometown was a wonderful place to grow up and we were very blessed to be at WHS in the 1950s.

Could I ask you a question: How did you happen to decide to undertake this challenging task?

Thanks again for your past and ongoing efforts.

**Dr Wayne E Boese, Class of 1956**

In March of 2009 I received word from my WHS class of '54 that our 55th class reunion was scheduled for Sioux Falls in Sept. of that year. I have always truly enjoyed our reunions and have always looked forward to each of them with great anticipation. But at the same time I had always felt guilty that simply because I lived so far away I never had to do any of the hard work putting it together. So that year I contacted the reunion committee and told them how I felt and asked if there was something I could do to help from Las Vegas to please let me know.

They responded with a request that I try and locate some of the 107 classmates that we didn't have current addresses for. I agreed to try and started by joining some Internet "search engines" to assist my efforts. Every time I found someone on the Internet that I thought was the right missing person I would call them by phone to confirm my find.

Each one that I called that was indeed a classmate, (And there were a few that turned out to not be classmates), was always genuinely excited and happy to be "found". I would end up talking to each of the classmates for up to an hour. They had so many questions and would tell me how long it had been since they had been to Sioux Falls and without exception profusely thanked me for finding them. They all definitely wanted to be added to our class mailing list and be kept informed of future happenings.

Each one of those phone calls were both enjoyable and rewarding to me, but they were also sad and funny and all of them, without exception, interesting. I remember feeling how fortunate I was to hear all of those wonderful stories, but that it was sad that I was the only one hearing them. As a result of those many pleasurable phone calls the idea of a class newsletter developed and the first issue was published on May 1, 2009.

That first issue only went out to the 40 classmates I had in my mailbox at the time, but I was absolutely amazed at the positive response. I immediately begin receiving subscription requests from not only other members of my '54 class, but also from members of other WHS classes. By early 2010 my mailing list was made up of many WHS Alumni from throughout the fifties decade and it was then that I made the decision to try expanding the O&B's coverage to include news and stories of all 10 class years from 1950 to 1959. I am proud to say that the Alumni Version of the O&B now has well over 1,000 readers.

I am also proud to say that of those 107 missing classmates the '54 reunion committee asked me to locate, all but two were found prior to our Sept. reunion. However, I must always give credit to a good friend and classmate, **Glenn Gulbranson '54**, who got actively involved in the search with me and contributed so much in helping find many of our lost friends. **Jack Phillips '54**



**Glenn Gulbranson '54**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Sandy Brix '59**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Aug 12, 2017, **Sandy Brix Hembd '59** <sandyhembd@comcast.net> wrote:

Wow, awesome edition! I'm always amazed at the accomplishments of the graduates from the 50s. It was the best of times. We were brought up to become responsible and giving citizens. Thanks again for continuing the stories from the 50s. **Sandy Brix Hembd '59**

On Aug 14, 2017, **Eric Gustafson '58** <egustaf@me.com>

wrote:

Hi Jack, Well should have waited knowing how good Don is at getting things done. In any case here is the obit for Lois Ann Lugg Gortmaker who was a member of the Class of 58. Per the obit she passed on January 5, 2011 in Springfield, MO. Not sure if you want to put out a O&B Obit notice but in any case I am adding her name to the deceased list for the class. That will bring the total deceased for the class to 139. Your call if you want to send out an obit notice.

Thanks, **Eric Gustafson: '58** Obit for Lois Ann Lugg Gortmaker

**Eric Gustafson '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Lois Ann Lugg '58**  
WHS Senior Photo



Jeff Herbert '74  
WHS Senior Photo  
Also WHS  
Teacher & Coach '94 - '14

On Aug 11, 2017, jeff herbert '74 <herbertj@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Jack...as always, I so enjoyed the latest *ORANGE AND BLACK*---I thought you might enjoy the photo of the WHS 2017 FB Seniors---having their photo taken in Alumni Hall and right outside our beloved Washington High School---very best wishes...

Jeff Herbert '74







**Marilynn Hill '54**  
WHS Senior Photo

**Gay Marshall '56**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Dick Viehweg '53**  
WHS Senior Photo



**Jerry Schleicher '54**  
WSH Senior Photo

On Aug 16, 2017, **Marilynn '54 & Dick '53 Viehweg** <rmvmjv@sio.midco.net> wrote:

Hi Jack, Thanks for the news on Gay Schleicher and Jerry. Appreciate knowing this. Jerry grew up a few blocks from me, been friends since grade school at Mark Twain. Didn't know Gay personally. So sorry for them. I will send a card or e-mail. Just don't like this "end of life" stuff that goes with our age, unfortunately. Every day is a blessing, as we all know. Some of us have fewer days than others. Wish we could all live on and be healthy, but not how it works.

Thanks again, Jack, for always being there for all of us!

**Dick '53 and Marilynn Hill '54 Viehweg**



**Dennis Kolbrek '56**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Aug 17, 2017, **Dennis Kolbrek '56** dkolbrek@gmail.com wrote:  
Jack, I am sending a letter by snail mail to Jerry and Gay so that it doesn't get lost in cyber space. For your information I am sending you a copy. Thank you again for your support of them.  
**Dennis Kolbrek '56**

Thursday evening

Hello Jerry and Gay,

I don't know you personally though we walked the sacred halls of WHS together for a while. I was at Brandon for my 10<sup>th</sup> grade but then returned to WHS for my last two years. Thank you for allowing Jack to share your story and give us an opportunity to respond.

I served as a pastor of local churches for 28 years and as a chaplain in nursing homes and assisted living facilities for another 11+ years. In spite of all those years and experiences it is still so hard to know the best way to bring words of hope and comfort when people go through an experience like yours. This afternoon I 'happened' to turn on the RFD channel on television and there was a program with Bill Gaither and his guests Rory and Joey Feek. I haven't been familiar with them but recall last year that they were very public about Joey's journey with cancer.

I don't know about your faith journey or where you are finding special strength and comfort these days, but perhaps some of Joey's story will serve as an encouragement. You can look them up on YouTube and a lot of their videos will be listed. This link is to the interview with Bill Gaither and the next day she learned that her cancer was not responding to treatment.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TanQFBzV3I&list=PLit1Jq891Lz\\_ac\\_xCfv8ekS8vjopg5UxO&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TanQFBzV3I&list=PLit1Jq891Lz_ac_xCfv8ekS8vjopg5UxO&index=2)

She is singing a song, "It Is Well with My Soul", written by a man who had just learned that his wife and children had been lost at sea.

Please be assured that my wife Carolyn and I will be asking God for special grace and comfort in your journey. Daily put your trust and future into the hands of Jesus. If there is any additional way that we can be of help please let us know. In Jesus' Name,

**Dennis L. Kolbrek (WHS '56)** 3213 E. Augustana Pl Brandon, SD 57005 Cell 612-246-2151



On Aug 22, 2017, **Royce Adams '58** [Litljump@aol.com](mailto:Litljump@aol.com) wrote:

Today I took an Honor Flight to Washington, DC It was a whirlwind trip, 1 day out and back, and saw much there, monuments and landmarks. Took many pictures but this one struck me in being so "reflective" in it's form and message. It's like saying "life goes on".

**Royce Adams '58**

**Royce Adams '58**  
**WHS Senior Photo**



On Oct 3, 2017, at 9:49 PM, **Royce Adams '58** [<Litljump@aol.com>](mailto:Litljump@aol.com) wrote:

This morning my wife informed me that one of her long-time girl friends is throwing a birthday party (her own surprise birthday party) and the theme is to be "Rock & Roll"! Everybody is to show up depicting that wonderful era we 70 year old "kids" grew up in - Elvis, Jerry Lee, The Big Bopper etal.

Now the discussion turned to what to wear that depicted those times. Not too bad a job for me - Levis rolled up at the ankles, white T shirt- pack of ciggies rolled up in the sleeve and onto the shoulder (gonna use a small soap dish for that, cigs are too expensive), and a great pair of engineer boots with the leather straps crossing the top and the heel. Both straps hooked together at the ankle with a "D" ring. Or maybe a boot in the Wellington style would work.



Now that was simple. I just have to remember to get my Levis out of the cardboard storage box marked "fat clothes" and make sure they are 38-40 Waist. Oh, and I need that wide leather belt, preferably black, and a small chain hanging from that belt with my keys hanging off (of which I needed only a car key because we never locked our doors at home). Now I have to have that ducktail haircut! How can one do that with the limited amount of hair I have now! Good will- get a wig, cut and style it rite, dye it black, delouse it, and walla, I'm there

Now for the lady of the house - Poodle Skirt is the first and most important and recognized part of her ensemble. Where do you find one of those except in a museum in a display of ages past. Well there's always E Bay. Need that white puffy blouse and a wispy neck scarf. Dee can look in the old WHS Annual for hair style as there's plenty to pick from there. White loafers or penny loafers would fit well with her costume. And don't forget the "bobby socks". We have a neighbor who has a poodle and perhaps she will loan it to us. Dee could dangle the dog from her belt. Well, I told her it's an idea and she is very opposed to it as is the neighbor..

One thing is sure - we will be going. They are having chocolate cake and sodas. That's about the best fare for us older folks. If all else fails we can go to the party as "Harry the Homeless and Sweetie the Bag Lady". Now there's another story for another time!

PS - sending a picture of Harry and Sweetie in case someone wants really classy people at any of their occasions. We rent out cheap! **Royce Adams '58**





**Dick Kelly '58**  
WHS Senior Photo

**Yvonne Ennis '57**  
WHS Senior Photo



On Aug 25, 2017, **Dick Kelly '58** dickmkelly@yahoo.com> wrote:

Jack, I don't think I have ever read a testimony as as touching, beautiful and thoughtful as Yvonne Ennis . I never knew her, guess that's my loss **Dick Kelly '58.**

Please use [dickmkelly@gmail.com](mailto:dickmkelly@gmail.com) for future communications. Thank you!



**Leone Sundby '59**  
WHS Senior Photo

August 16, 2017 Letter Written By **Leone Sundby Thompson '59**  
[ltthompson0118@cox.net](mailto:ltthompson0118@cox.net)



**Harolyn Kimbell '55**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased



**Judy Starns '59**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased



**Dan Trautman '56**  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased

August 16, 1917

Jack Phillips  
2261 Lauren Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134

Dear Jack,

Some time ago I sent you an obituary on Harolyn Skadland to your Las Vegas Address. I kept watching for her name on the deceased list and it never appeared. I just discovered that her maiden name was not on the funeral brochure. Her husband informed me it is Harolyn Kimball. She has always gone by Lynn. I have known her for years through various church functions but never knew she was a Washington High School graduate until after her death. Her husband first told me she graduated in 1954 but now he and children think it was 1955. I do not have those annuals to double check the year. I am sure the 1955 class would like to know this.

Another Obituary I have is on Wanda "Judy" Starns. She has always gone by Judy and is listed in our annual as Judy. People have been telling me her name was turned in to you but again it has never appeared on the deceased list. Judy and I have been friends since sophomores in high school and we both landed in Omaha and have kept in touch all these years. It has been just two years ago she passed away. She was married to Dan Trautman for many years and then divorced. He was a (1956) -WHS graduate but not sure what year. He too has passed away a year ago. I was told his sister turned in his name to you.

I hope these names will get on the deceased list. Sorry they are late but had trouble getting the information I needed. Any questions you can e-mail me at [ltthompson0118@cox.net](mailto:ltthompson0118@cox.net).

Sincerely,  
*Leone Sundby Thompson*  
Leone Sundby Thompson  
Class of 1959





**Mavis Larson Carl '55**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Sep 3, 2017, **Mavis Carl '55** <mcarl47071@aol.com> wrote:

Class of 55 Celebrating Joyce Portice Graff's 80th Birthday. Joyce is in the front. From left to right. Mavis Larson Carl, Dolly Tague Wait, Jervin Wait, Judy Allen Portice, Ron Green, Jeanne Sweet Simunek, Stan Cadwell, Sally Lambert Linton.. A good time was had by all. **Mavis Larson Carl '55**



**Jerry Kersten '53**  
WHS Senior Photo

On Sep 14, 2017, **Jerry Kersten '53** jerrykersten434@gmail.com wrote:

Hi Jack,

Both Rusty and Robert Huhn were in the BoyScout Troop I belonged to. Robert, being a couple years older than me was a good mentor for me. Although Rusty was a couple years behind me in school, we were pretty close friends. I have been in contact with Robert a few times in the last 5 years. He is the age of my older brother, Dick (deceased.) My condolences to the families.

**Jerry Kersten '53**



**I to r: Robert Huhn '50 Russ Huhn '55 deceased, Dick Kersten '51 deceased.**  
**All WHS Senior Photos**

On Sep 16, 2017, at 4:35 PM, Kermit Olsen <kpolsen@pacbell.net> wrote:  
Thanks to my good friend Kermit Olsen from USD for sending this interesting list of SD cities and their size.

## Largest South Dakota Cities

1. [Sioux Falls](#) - 153,888
2. [Rapid City](#) - 67,956
3. [Aberdeen](#) - 26,091
4. [Brookings](#) - 22,056
5. [Watertown](#) - 21,482
6. [Mitchell](#) - 15,254
7. [Yankton](#) - 14,454
8. [Pierre](#) - 13,646
9. [Huron](#) - 12,592
10. [Vermillion](#) - 10,571
11. [Spearfish](#) - 10,494
12. [Brandon](#) - 8,785
13. [Box Elder](#) - 7,800 – Because of Ellsworth Airforce Base, I assume.
14. [Sturgis](#) - 6,627
15. [Madison](#) - 6,474



Glenn Anderson '57  
WHS Senior Photo

On Oct 4, 2017, **Glenn Anderson '57** <wlfsg914@aol.com> wrote:  
Jack, what follows describes something that I am strongly supporting and hope others will as well. Alan Jensen, class of '57, died in 2008 and his wife, Sandra, is helping establish a scholarship fund as a living memorial to him. I hope you feel inclined to add this to the Orange and Black.

### Glenn Anderson '57

Editor's Note: It should be noted that Peggy Servold Teslow '57 also requested that the O&B post this story.



Peggy Servold '57  
WHS Senior Photo

What I am addressing here is the honoring of our classmate Alan "Al" Jensen. For me, one of the great pleasures that came out of the WHS Class of 1957 reunion in 2007 was being able to spend time with my old classmate and friend, Al Jensen. As joyous and happy as we were then, little did I know that in less than a year he would not be with us any longer.

After high school, Al went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Sioux Falls College in 1960, his M.A. in Sociology from the University of South Dakota in 1962, and his PhD in Sociology from Washington State University in 1966. He began his teaching career at California State University, Chico in 1965, a career that would span 37 years until his retirement in 2002. Al was instrumental in the growth of the Department of Sociology and the College of Behavioral Sciences, and he served as Department Chair from 1985-1988, in addition to serving on countless faculty committees at the department, college, and university level throughout his tenure at Chico State. After retiring, he served two terms as President of the Retired Faculty Association.

Al was passionate about teaching, and he mentored and developed friendships with hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students over the years, guiding many of them to careers in teaching and public service.

A most appropriate way of honoring Al is now underway; the establishment of the **ALAN F. JENSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**.



The following is a letter from Al's wife, Sandy, that gives the particulars of this effort. I have sent my contribution and I hope that you will too.

**Glenn Anderson '57**

Here are the details.....

+++++



**Alan Jensen '57**  
**WHS Senior Photo**



**1956/57 WHS Band Board**

Front row 1, l. to r.: Maribeth Kelly, Nancy Knepper, Bev Byington, Jensen Michael, Karen Osgood, Sharron Steakes; row 2: Larry Larson, Alan Jensen, Dave Wegner, Chad Boese, Ron Beck.

**Kind   Caring   Humble   Good listener   Great professor   Mentor   Friend   Always accessible**

These adjectives are universally used by former students, colleagues, friends, and family members to describe Al Jensen. During his 37 years teaching at California State University, Chico, Al positively influenced the lives of legions of students, and many of his students credit him for helping to launch them on their careers or for encouraging them to pursue a graduate degree.

To honor Al's legacy, we are establishing the **ALAN F. JENSEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**, which will target sociology or social work majors, or students whose major in the behavioral and social sciences will lead them to a career in teaching or public service. Financial need will be an important criterion.

*We need your assistance in establishing an endowment for this annual scholarship. Our goal is to begin with a fund of \$25,000 in order to award an annual scholarship of at least \$1,000. An endowment will ensure that the principal remains intact and produces a perpetual scholarship in Al's memory.*

You can give online at [www.csuchico.edu/makeagift](http://www.csuchico.edu/makeagift). In the gift designation box, select "Other"; under "College or Program" enter "Jensen Scholarship #17129." Your gift is tax deductible.

Many of Al's former students stated, "He made a real difference in my life." We look forward to making a difference in the lives of future students at California State University, Chico in Al's memory, and we greatly appreciate your contribution to this effort.

Laurice Houck '55  
WHS Senior Photo



Joan Gustafson '52  
WHS Senior Photo  
Deceased



**From:** Kenneth Iseminger <[kmminger@gmail.com](mailto:kmminger@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Joan Gustafson Brown WHS '52  
**Date:** October 6, 2017 at 1:03:17 PM EDT  
**To:** Jack Phillips <[jack@jackphillips.com](mailto:jack@jackphillips.com)>



JoAnn Merrill '55  
WHS Senior Photo

Hi Jack,

Joan came to Bible Study at church Weds. morning and after study we had coffee and treats. As we sat there **JoAnn (Merrill) Eichinger '55** and I noticed Joan's mouth was drooping to the left and other stroke systems. JoAnn got up and went to talk to her and I went to get my phone and call 911. They took her to the hospital. She had a major brain bleed that went from left to right and she was put on life support until the family arrived and then was shut off around 6 PM. She was deceased.

Thought you might know some details.

Sincerely,

**Laurice (Houck) Iseminger '55**

**Editor's Note:** Dear Laurice and JoAnn, thank you both for letting us all know more about the sudden passing of Joan. On behalf of all of Joan's family and friends I thank you both for your quick thinking and quick response efforts to the urgency you so correctly identified. Your quick action at least gave Joan a chance. You both should be very proud of your alertness and that you intervened. Jack Phillips '54



Jack Phillips '54  
WHS Senior Photo

## Las Vegas Tragedy

Debra and I were so moved and appreciative of how many of you wrote or called to see if we were both okay after the terrible Las Vegas tragedy on Sunday evening, Oct. 1st. Your concern meant such a great deal to both of us and we sincerely thank you. Below in red is an email I wrote to our families early that Monday morning. **Jack Phillips '54**



Debra and Jack enjoying a happier night in Las Vegas.

7 am, Monday Morning, Oct. 2, 2017

Dear Family,

Just a note to let you know that both Debra and I are okay. I was at home so I was not even close to Mandalay Bay, but Debra was at work last night at The MGM Grand where she works part time. The MGM is only about a block from the "Festival Grounds" which was the target for the shooter. Mandalay Bay is on the west side of the Strip, but the MGM and the Festival Grounds are on the east side of the Strip. (The shooter was firing over the Strip into the Festival Grounds.)

Shortly after the shooting started the police locked down the entire MGM Hotel property, including the huge, "KA Theater", where Debra works. They also locked down all of the other major hotel properties on the south end of the Strip such as The Luxor, The Excalibur, The New York - New York, The Tropicana, etc. Each of these hotels have thousands of rooms so you can imagine how huge an undertaking this lock down was. The MGM Grand Hotel/Resort is the 5th largest hotel in the world and it alone has over 6,000 rooms.

Debra usually gets off work at midnight and is home by 12:45 am, but tonight the MGM lock down did not allow anyone to enter or leave the hotel until about 2:30 am and then of course traffic was a mess. (The Strip and many of the adjacent streets remained closed for hours.) She didn't get home until after 3:30 am.



For all of you that know Debra, you know what a strong lady she is and tonight was no different. However, she was exhausted when she finally got home so she is now sleeping. She has to be at work at 10 am for, Jerry, the tax attorney she has worked for for about 25 years. So I am really glad she is now getting some sleep.

The news of this tragic event here in Las Vegas is still sinking in and the horrible fatality and injury numbers just keep rising. At the 5:45 am press conference that just ended a few minutes ago they reported that there are now over 50 dead and over 400 injured and the news media has already labeled it the ***“Deadliest Mass Shooting in U.S. History.”***

I guess it was just a matter of time before our wonderfully clean, fun and safe city joined the list of cities hit by the world’s madness.

May we all pray for the victims, their families and all of the brave first responders.

Love,

Jack

Here is some other information that you may not have heard and to give you an idea of how huge and far reaching this horrible event was for Las Vegas and how many thousands and thousands of people it affected. I have now read that some 26 plus flights coming into Las Vegas’, McCarran Airport had to be diverted to other cities because the LV airport landing pattern is over the Mandalay Bay and of course no planes were allowed to take off.

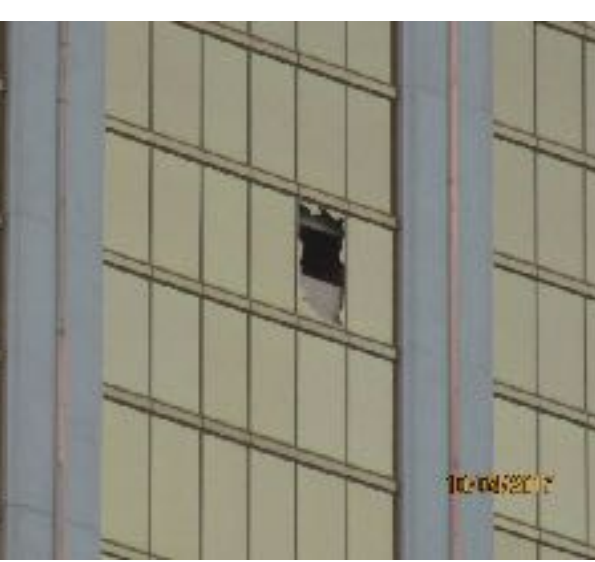
I was at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and the “Festival Grounds” Tuesday afternoon, two days after the shooting, and was surprised at the thousands of pedestrians and super heavy amount of traffic that were there milling around. From the reports I have heard, hundreds, or maybe thousands of people raced to the nearby MGM Grand (which is where Debra works in the show, “KA”), for safety when the shooting started. Many of them were injured and bleeding and were being carried or assisted by friends. Tuesday it was interesting to observe the large number people viewing the many blood stains that remained on the sidewalk leading to the MGM.

Here are some photos I took that you might find interesting. You can see from the last photo how close the concert was to the MGM. The white tent in the foreground is all part of the large “Festival Grounds” where the 22,000 country music fans were gathered. They were so packed in, it was like shooting fish in a barrel.

Here are the photos I took two days after the shooting.

Jack





The photo at the right shows the two windows knocked out at Mandalay Bay. A recent theory on why the shooter broke out two windows is that he broke out the right window to shoot at the Festival Grounds, and he broke out the left window because it faced more West and gave him a straight shoot at the large diesel fuel tanks at McCarran Airport. Evidence showed that he did shoot at the tanks and did penetrate at least one of them but because diesel fuel is so resistant to igniting there was thankfully no explosion.



The white tent is the center entrance to the Festival Grounds and shows the close proximity to the sanctuary of the MGM Grand Hotel.