



## *2016 Washburn Reunion*

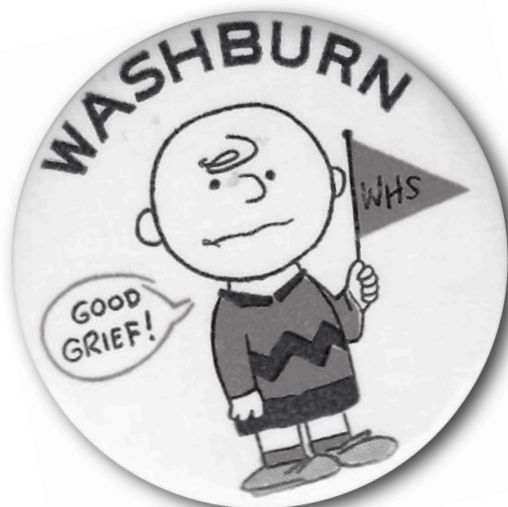
*Second Edition*

*March 7, 2017*





The modern Washburn Millers logo



## *Millers, Memories, and More*

*Members of the Washburn Class of '56  
have contributed their stories, photographs,  
and memories to create this book – a  
souvenir of our 60 Year Class Reunion.*

First published May 2016 by the  
1956 Class of  
Washburn High School  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Revised Second printing, March 2017

WHS56.COM

If you are a member of the class, but not  
yet in this book, submit your photos and  
story to [tkilbride@mac.com](mailto:tkilbride@mac.com).



Our Washburn class of 1956 of 457 students was outstanding. We attended high school in a time when the United States was at peace. Things got done in Washington D. C. with Eisenhower and Kennedy as presidents. We had outstanding teachers, such as Mr. Alwin, Mr. Blackmun, Mr. Brown (the librarian), Ms. Clayson, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Krause, Ms. Laird, and many others. We also remember our many outstanding coaches such as Mr. Helleckson, Mr. Helling, and Mr. Ross.

I've taken page 45 out of our yearbook, which sets out all of the exciting things that happened our senior year.

### ***WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER . . . .***

#### ***Our high school years***

*Our second Football CHAMPIONSHIP ... the riot we had during ninth grade class elections ... THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER ... blazers, blazers, and more blazers ... Mr. Krause's return ...*

when everything had a Davy Crockett label ... the long-awaited day when we dissected frogs in biology ... when everything changed from pink and gray to black watch plaid ... Betty's crazy announcements in auditoriums ... up and down stairways at Ramsey ... the back room at the Hasty Tasty ... the Kinsmen ... our Ramsey graduation parking lot dance ... Mad magazine ... great Ray Ross ... friendly Friendship Week ... Carole Helmeke's clothes ... Easter vacation in Florida ... Jim Spahr's beautiful legs ... the new paint job in the powder room ... "Marryin' Sam" ... squad leader elections in gym class ... skiing ... eighth grade clubs ... when everybody got the measles ... foxes ... lunchroom monitors in junior high ... "meanwhile back at the ranch" ... the Ramsey Record ... class play romances ... when "neat" was the main word ... Wahian doughnuts ... "Sixteen Tons" ... water skiing at McBurney's ... how sad we all felt when Mr. Jackson left ... the Polynesian girls ... Homecoming ... James Dean ... Doug Hackett's mouse ... the mad rush to join Pep Club ... our great Snow Party ... John Councilman and Joe Melena, our silent, but mighty football captains ... how the Grist Staff was always sneaking looks at the Wahian pictures ... the big rush when the senior girls were sophomores ... the big rush when the senior girls were after the underclassmen ... Ernie's snuggles ... pretty queen Donna and her tears ... the time Life came to the Nyvall's and to one of our pep auditoriums ... when Dave Hennessy made his famous touchdowns ... Sandi Kenyon and the great way in which she plays the piano ... finally having student government in the study halls ... carnival time and the Wahian Wing Ding ... the Four Freshmen ... Miss Perry's records ... open houses ... the bop ... "Is this a dagger which I see before me?" ... Martha Reed singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" ... surprise breakfasts ... Mike Murphy's little brother at the basketball games ... cabin parties ... Daisy (Bev Strand) Mae and Little (Joe Melena) Abner ... Marna's Loon laugh ... the city Wrestling CHAMPIONSHIP ... Lee Ann getting a pill in the homecoming auditorium ... when Betty and Bruce were friendship king and queen ... 218's bid for pizza for the senior banquet ... the peppy Zwaks ... the Cokato game ... The Lyndale Drive-in ... the baccalaureate discussions in modern problems class ... our foreign students — Monique, Tomoko, Jorge, and Kjell ... decorating for dances ... renting the bus for Sadie Hawkins ... the yellow and blue paint before the Edison game ... our last Christmas chorus ... Gretchen Renich as our posture queen ... our faculty quartette ... our big musical, "Kiss Me Kate" ... our traditional rainy ninth grade

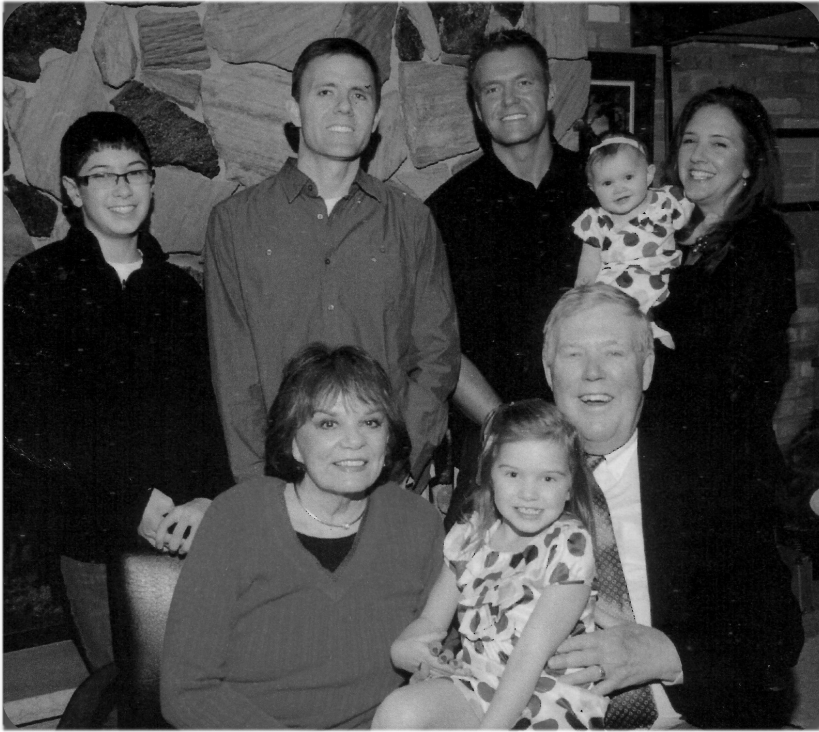
*picnic . . . the basketball game between the Grist staff and the Wahian staff that never was played . . . Friendly Fred . . . Nancy Smiler and "Eloise" . . . all the crazy costumes on class day . . . the signs at all our basketball games . . . Jerry and Sue as Hansel and Gretel . . . homecoming half time . . . Kirkeeide's hat exchange . . . the tired faces at the senior breakfast . . . Rochester . . . Kathy and Mary Jo's art work . . . the senior girls riding their bicycles to school . . . discussions on colleges . . . small fry invaders in the family living class . . . all the things we did together as a class — these are behind us but will never be forgotten.*

It's been a great run of 60 years. Stay well and in touch, and see you all in five years.





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*“Grow old along with me,  
the best is yet to be,  
the last of life for which the first was made.”*

For some reason this poem has stuck in my mind. I forgot all the important things but I remember this poem. I think it is a great thought but they left out some of the major issues that accompany those thoughts.

You’ve got arthritis, bursitis, tendinitis, and all the other itises. Most of us have experienced one or more of these inflictions. Our eyesight has changed and most of us use some sort of corrective eyewear. Things have changed drastically since our days at Washburn High. The good news is we are still on the right side of the grass sod.



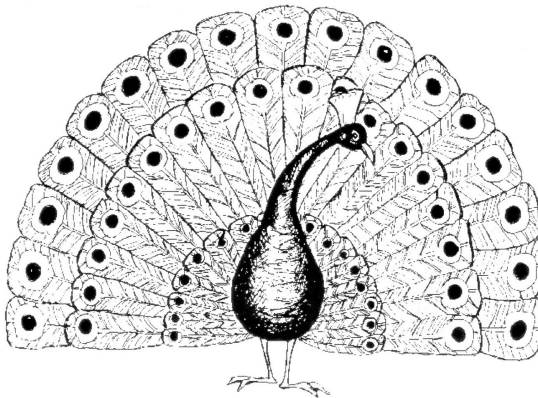
Lots of memories of our days at Washburn. Even though it is our 60<sup>th</sup>, it doesn't seem that long ago. Where else could you spend three years, get a quality education, and have the time of your life?

I look back at the city championship teams we had in both football and wrestling. It's fun to get together with my teammates and relive those magic moments.

One of my proudest accomplishments was getting my PhD in theology. Henceforth you can refer me as Rev. Peacock. As you probably know I've never grown up and I still love practical jokes and tomfoolery behavior. I think it's wonderful that our class has stayed in close contact over all these years. This contact, I believe, helps us keep grounded to our lives from way back when at the old Washburn High.

Life's been good to me! I've got a wonderful wife who has put up with me for fifty years I have two sons that I am very proud of. We have three grandchildren who are as good-looking as their grandpa. Like most grandparents we tend to spoil them and take great joy in spending time with them. It's been a great ride with lots of memories and I hope that ride doesn't end too soon. Stay healthy and think fun thoughts.

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## *Memories. . .*

*Bob Buffalo and I lived in the same Lake Nokomis neighborhood, so we sat next to each other in Miss Alan's ninth grade English class at Ramsey Junior High. Upon determining that we were both mediocre students, Miss Alan began to strongly suggest that we should not go on to Washburn. She was insistent that we both attend Vocational High School to learn a trade. One day she told us that we should both become bakers. She was dismayed when she found out we were planning to go to Washburn and not become bakers. When Bob's health was failing, he called me and we had a laugh about Miss Alan. I still smile when I think of her lecturing me on why I should become a baker. – Jim Cook*



## Richard Wagner



Since 1997 my wife Ursula and I have been living in South Africa, involved with a not-for-profit organization called Affordable Medicines For Africa (AMFA).

Beginning in 2006, we launched a major US effort to distribute anti-retroviral drugs to combat HIV/Aids in Africa. Since then we have evolved and work with local churches in poor communities with

a vision of transforming their communities from within. We call it African solutions to African problems.

Ursula and I moved from Johannesburg in 2008 and live in Cape Town, South Africa. We now spend six months a year in Cape Town and six months in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Our oldest son Mark and his wife Carol live in Libertyville, Illinois and we are proud grandparents of Madeline, Grant, and Scott Wagner. Madeline is a sophomore at Indiana University. Grant will graduate from Libertyville High School in June while Scott will finish his freshman year.

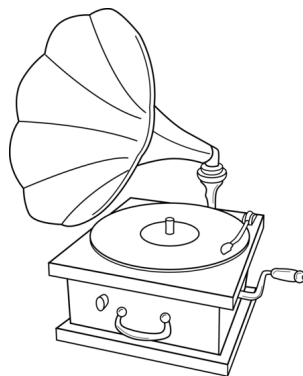
Our son Tom and his wife Lynnda worked with us for four years in South Africa and still serve on our AMFA South Africa Board. They now live in Long Beach, California.

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### *Top Records of 1956 – 1-10*

1. Elvis Presley, Heartbreak Hotel
2. Elvis Presley, Don't Be Cruel
3. Nelson Riddle, Lisbon Antigua
4. Platters, My Prayer
5. Gogi Grant, The Wayward Wind
6. Les Baxter, The Poor People Of Paris
7. Doris Day, Whatever Will Be Will Be (Que Sera Sera)
8. Elvis Presley, Hound Dog
9. Dean Martin, Memories Are Made Of This
10. Kay Starr, Rock And Roll Waltz



## Judy Beyer Jenkins



My husband Benjamin and I have lived in Cologne, MN for ten years now, and are still enjoying our home here. I “forever” retired in January 2010 from U.S. Bank. Now I keep busy counting church money and playing the piano and organ at St. Bernards. I never dreamed I’d be the only organist, but I am, and it has been quite an adventure!

I am not on Facebook!

Greetings and good wishes to all in the Class of 1956!

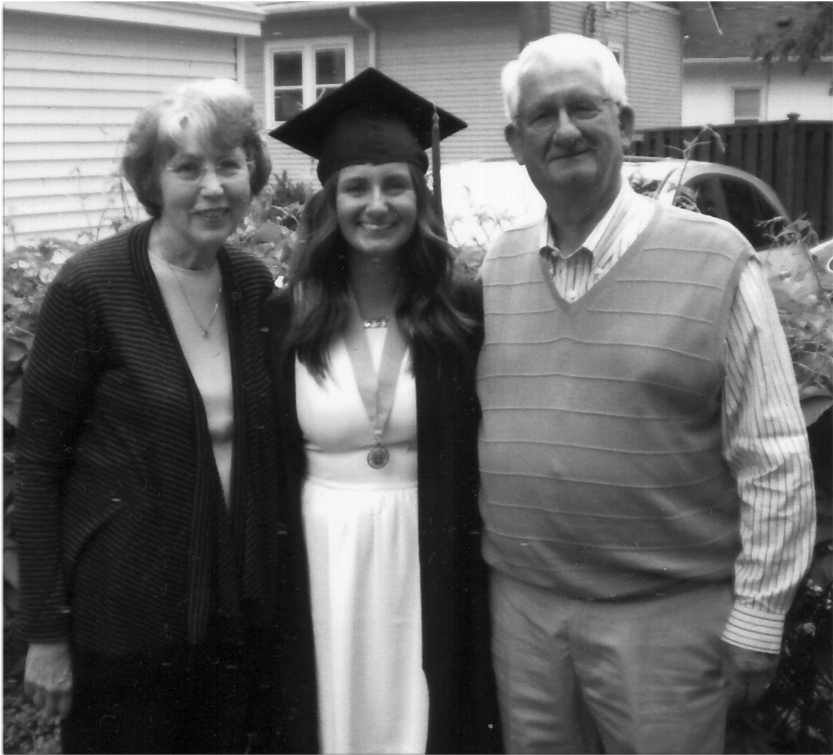
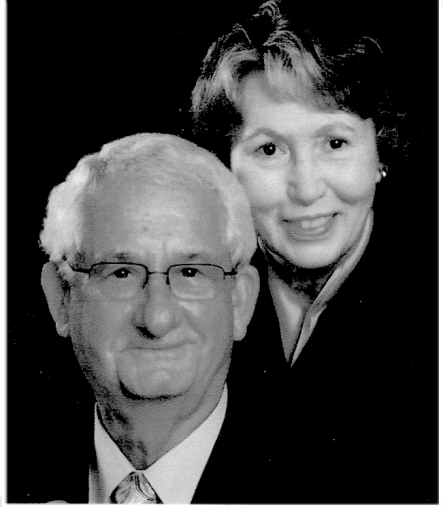
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1  
9  
5  
6

**1956 (MCMLVI)** was a leap year starting on Sunday (dominical letter AG) of the Gregorian calendar, the 1956<sup>th</sup> year of the Common Era (CE) and Anno Domini (AD) designations, the 956<sup>th</sup> year of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium, the 56<sup>th</sup> year of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the 1950s decade.

I had a long career, first as a social worker, teacher, and longest, as a librarian. Now I am in two book clubs, for the friendships and just for fun, and several other groups. My husband Clyde and I are in a Bible study group for couples and share the togetherness of retirees.

In fifty-six years of marriage we have made eight moves and have lived in five





different states. Now we enjoy townhouse living and being in the metropolitan area, with all that offers. We are especially grateful that our son and his family live close by and that we can be involved with them and the activities of the two older grandchildren through their school years.

Our four grandchildren range in age from thirteen to twenty-two, with the oldest graduating from St. Thomas University in 2015.

Our daughter and her family continue to live in Tampa, Florida, and we see them when we can. On our Florida visits, we have become spectators to the new sport for us, Lacrosse. To stay in touch I am the Nana who “texts,” calls, and also, reverting to the past, sends “snail mail.”



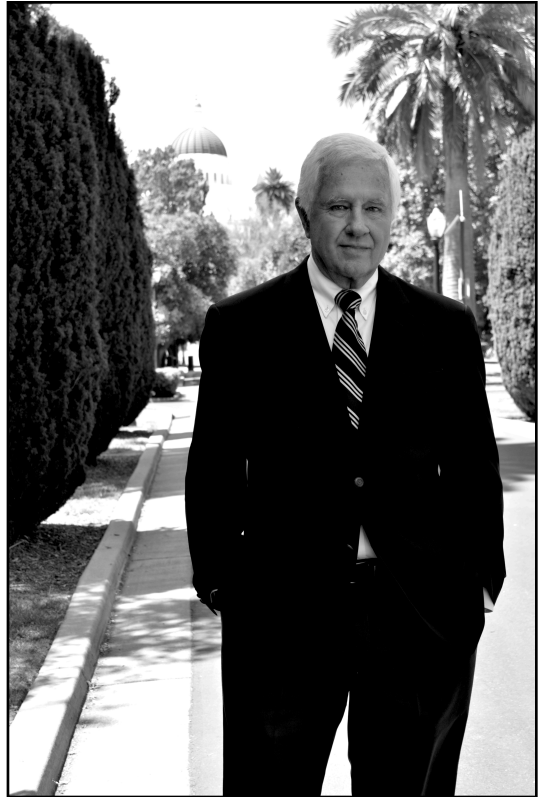
Life is good in Lincoln, California. Debbie and I moved here 6½ years ago from San Diego, and live on a 318 acre ranch, endowed with lots of wild creatures like turkeys, ducks, geese, deer & coyotes.

After 12½ years together Debbie suggested, rather forcibly, that perhaps we should get married. I produced two affidavits from ex-wives saying no one should marry this man, to no avail.

I like to hunt, fish, ski, play golf, and eat meat. She is a vegetarian that prohibits killing anything other than flies and mosquitos.

I am conservative, she is liberal. She takes care of the chickens, sheep, and two horses. Penny, the chicken she is holding, has mastered the “doggie door” and on most days visits my in-home, international headquarters. So, I give up. Looks like my goose is cooked. Maybe God meant this relationship to prove that people on both sides of the aisle can actually get along. So far, so good.

Aside from the fun part, I am involved 24/7 trying to stop legalization of today’s highly potent marijuana in California. (#stoppot) We already have 50,000 cultivation sites producing pot under the guise of medicine, and illegally supply 60% of the US market for recreational use. It is destroying our youth, natural





resources and future. We can't lose, since no one thinks we can win. Our competition is backed with about \$20 million of drug money that flows from and through out-of-state billionaires like George Soros. I authored an initiative for November called Safe and Drug-Free Community. We only need 360,000 more signatures to get it on the ballot, so will see if prayer works. Might have to grow pot so we have money to fight it.

On the business front, I am resurrecting my company Steelheart

International to build light gauge steel frame panelized housing, both domestically and for export markets. Still messing with Uganda and East Africa and think we have discovered a true solution for affordable housing and food security in developing countries in the form of dome homes combined with hydroponics and aquaponics.

All the best to whomever is left. I think we should enshrine Errol for keeping the Class of '56 connected.

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## **Sandi Allen Werthe**



Since the last Washburn Class of '56 reunion my husband and I attended, I have lost my mother, Marian Ensign Allen (WHS Class of June, 1928) at age 101, as well as my husband, Hal, after thirty-five years of marriage.

In 2013, I drove myself east, first to share 75<sup>th</sup> birthdays with classmate Audrey Pihl Hopkins in Greeley, Colorado, and then on to Minnesota to visit Myrna Strand, Gail Whitney Hazeldine, Sharon Siegel Sechrist, and Sandy

Kelly Holt, as well as my family there. It was great to see all of them after so many years!

As to family, my stepchildren, grandchildren, and great grandchildren are spread across the country and occasionally visit me. Everyone is very busy with their own lives!

I am still actively volunteering in Laguna Beach, California. For six months each year, I organize our Patriots Day Parade as Program Ad Chair, Entry Chair, Publicity Chair, and Treasurer—this March was our 50<sup>th</sup> parade!

I also am Membership Chair and Poppy Chair of our American Legion Auxiliary and purchase all the supplies for our monthly veterans' dinners. Each December, our auxiliary unit travels south to Camp Pendleton Marine Base to help with a big Christmas party for the 2/11 Division. (See my photo.)

Each week I volunteer in my church office and on Sundays as a greeter. It's wonderful to be part of a small town (23,000 citizens live here). I've been in Laguna for over fifty years.

My best wishes to all my classmates for a great reunion—I'll be there in spirit!

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### *Top Records of 1956 - 11-20*

11. Morris Stoloff, Moonglow and Theme From "Picnic"
12. Platters, The Great Pretender
13. Pat Boone, I Almost Lost My Mind
14. Elvis Presley, I Want You, I Need You, I Love You
15. Elvis Presley, Love Me Tender
16. Perry Como, Hot Diggity
17. Eddie Heywood and Hugo Winterhalter, Canadian Sunset
18. Carl Perkins, Blue Suede Shoes
19. Jim Lowe, The Green Door
20. Four Lads, No, Not Much

My life has been blessed in all areas. I currently live on a mountain in the Sequoia National Forest in central California with my husband, Larry Dimas. We have been here eighteen years and love living in this environment. We have a lot of land up here with some guest cabins and a barn that we converted into a lovely home that is now for sale. I can't imagine living in town anymore.....this is so peaceful and heavenly.



We travel a lot because my main thing is “people.” I always like to visit and keep up with everyone I know.....ha! We have cruised twelve times and plan on doing more. Our favorite destination, by far, is Alaska which we have done twice. I actually met Marty Allen (the old comedian with the wild hair) on a cruise to Alaska and we hung out quite often that week. And, of course, I have two children to visit, Scott Nelson in Minnesota, and Cindy Jones in California. I have five grandchildren and two great grandkids.

Last month we were in Laughlin for a show with Frankie Avalon, Fabian, and Bobby Rydell. I talked with Frankie in a restaurant after the show. I shared with him that I lived in Shafter, where Annette Funichello lived until her death. I told him I bought her ten foot long leather davenport and it has a tag that says, "Crafted for Annette Funichello." He and Annette made all those beach movies together and were great friends. We chatted a while and he is a very nice man.

My hobby is knitting and crocheting. I sell some of the items, but donate most of them to shelters and cancer places. It keeps my hands busy at night and it is very rewarding when I donate them.

I'm still a Minnesota girl at heart. I go back at least once a year to see everyone. We had a Crouch family reunion last summer in Wisconsin, at my son's cabin. Twenty-one of us were there. We will repeat it in another state next year. I went to Levi Stadium to see the Vikings play the 49ers last fall. I saw the Twins at spring training camp in Florida and went to a game in Minnesota too. I love my Minnesota sports teams, especially the Vikes!

My Washburn girlfriends always get together a few times while I am visiting in Minnesota. We go to Nancy Anderson Middleton's cabin on Cass Lake for a week with our husbands. Some of us go to the Washburn luncheon in June at Poor Richard's too.

For 77 years young, I am so grateful for this life that I have had and continue to have. My health is pretty darn good. Until recently, I didn't have to take any prescriptions. Now I have to take care of COPD, glaucoma, cataracts, and a torn roto cuff plus squamous cell cancer on my face. Goes with age, these things. I am still blessed.

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## *Memories. . .*

*Frank Janes barred me from future athletics which totally changed the direction of my life. – Anonymous*

## Margette Lindahl Hammer

My husband, Roger Schlaefer, and I are both retired and travel as much as we can.

I had a career as a travel consultant and Roger is a retired Lutheran minister. He has two wonderful children and five granddaughters. My children are Kim Wehrin, Jeff Hammer, and Steve Hammer. I have nine grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Many of my high school friends and I have gotten together for our 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, and 65<sup>th</sup> birthdays. What a great time!

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## Nancy Smiler Levinson



Like most of us, I have been kissed by sunshine and also walked in the rain.

Were the love of my life here now, we would be celebrating our 50th anniversary – since eloping – this week in June.

I have been blessed further with family I deeply treasure – two sons, daughters-in-law, and a cherished granddaughter, as well as two sisters and many dear friends.

One son and wife are attorneys in L.A. The other two, with MBAs, are marketing directors in Minneapolis.

Following publication of my book, *MOMENTS OF DAWN: A Poetic Memoir*, written in prose poetry, I've enjoyed having single poems appear in numerous literary journals. A re-invented me!

May all my classmates know their blessings and continue on a path of enduring goodness and love.

## *Widuwe*

By Nancy Smiler Levinson

Nature's hand at work oft shapes  
mid-forehead hairline to a V  
seeming like a mourning veil  
to those afar in days of yore;  
so calling it a widow's peak  
feared dark omen of  
widowhood to early be.

In ye olde shop the printer slogs,  
blackened fingers, smudged with ink,  
setting type—letters, words,  
forming text to fit each page.  
Ah, but look. . .last line hangs  
left lone on the following leaf—  
What call it, this dangling sentence fade?  
'Tis known as a widow in the trade.

Atop the house roof cupola,  
clutching shawl in coastal winds,  
while from this confined widow walk  
she casts her eye far out to sea,  
watching for the whaling ship, God  
willing, bring her husband home to thee.

She creeps on high bent-wire legs,  
seeking courtship, thirsting blood.  
With mate attacked, black widow  
spider copulates, then kills  
with but one venomous bite.  
Alas, she's exiled to live alone  
until time for her next deadly strike.

With a widow woo and a widow wee,  
a waltz in the ballroom one, two, three,  
operetta's grand sweeping steps  
how merry might the widow be?  
Death took my love from me,  
No violins, no waltz melody  
Muffled echoes from faded walls±  
No widow woo, no widow wee.

*This first appeared in **The Lost Country**,  
a Literary Journal of the Exiles.*

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# Ernie's



## INSIDE SCOOP

Frank Janes was our assistant principal and in charge of discipline. He was an ex-Marine and he was hell on wheels if you crossed him. For some reason he took a liking to me and even though I was always in trouble, he took care of me. He put me in charge of the athletic equipment room which was like putting a dog in charge of a butcher shop. If you were on my good side you got the best equipment and supplies that were available. Frank, on a couple of occasions, even called me out of class and had me drive his wife downtown. This caused me to think, why in the hell is he doing this?

There was a room just outside of his office where students waited for Mr. Janes to apply discipline. On the wall in that room was a painting depicting Custer's Last Stand. There was Gen. Custer standing with one foot on a stump with his sword in hand and proud as a peacock. It was a magnificent sight but it was flawed. If you looked at the painting at the right angle, and if the light hitting the painting was just right, Custer could be seen displaying his manhood where someone had drawn on the painting with a lead pencil. It was ingenious! For years this picture hung on display with a secret that almost no one ever discovered.

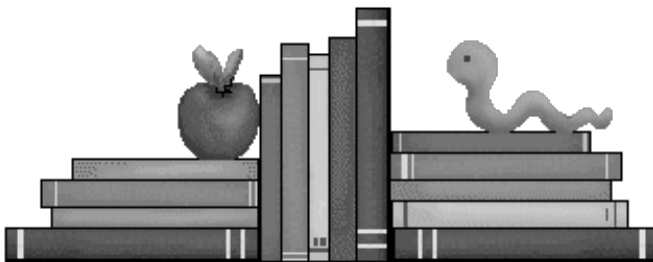
## Myrna Strand

I graduated from Macalester College and the University of Minnesota and then became a second grade teacher in Mounds View School District with a lot of additional education related positions in the district for thirty years.

After retiring, I transferred to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church where I have been involved in a lot of activities and volunteer in the book clubs, library, prayer shawl ministry, and pew cleaning. I also became involved in working in philanthropy, supporting fund raisers by doing prospect research, folding letters, and addressing envelopes, filing, addressing greeting cards, and other related activities. I have worked for Minneapolis and Saint Paul Children's Hospitals, the University of Minnesota Medical Foundation, and Global Health Ministries.

I have visited many of the states and have also traveled to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Wales, England, St. Thomas, St. John, and Alaska.

People seem to recognize me from when I was in high school or even earlier so I don't need a new photograph.



I LOVE to read books and enjoy activities related to books.

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After an academic career as professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco, I continued to do case consultation at SF General for ten years.

My community work for adolescents included: juvenile justice health care reform, AIDS prevention and treatment, and international work with homeless/runaway youth.

Dixie and I have been married for 55 years. We have a son and daughter who have given us one dynamic grandson each. Our life is full with family trips to Hawaii and Alaska, and travel in Europe, South America, and Asia.

We live on a shoulder ridge of Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County where we have a garden including a California native plant/woodland area. I'm in the garden almost every day.

I founded the Marin Poet Laureate Program and I lead monthly roundtable discussions at the O'Hanlon Center for the Arts in Mill Valley. Since retiring, I've been writing poetry and making mono-prints and chalk pastel art.

We often have writing workshops and other community events in our home.

With the help of modern medicine and an interest in fitness and nutrition, we are grateful to remain here on our beautiful and threatened planet.

My best regards to you all.

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### Events that occurred during our senior year (September 1955-June 1956)

- ★ The long-running program "Gunsmoke" debuted on CBS-TV.
- ★ Vladimir Nabokov's controversial novel "Lolita" was published in Paris
- ★ The President of Argentina, Juan Perón, was ousted in a military coup.
- ★ President Eisenhower suffered a coronary thrombosis while on vacation in Denver. Vice President Nixon served as Acting President until Eisenhower recovered.
- ★ Actor James Dean was killed when his automobile collided with another car at a highway junction near Cholame, California.
- ★ Alfred Hitchcock Presents debuted on CBS TV.
- ★ The Mickey Mouse Club debuted on ABC-TV.
- ★ Ngô Đình Diệm proclaimed Vietnam to be a republic with himself as its President.
- ★ "Rebel Without a Cause," starring James Dean, was released in theaters.
- ★ The Vietnam War, between the South Vietnam Army and the North Vietnam Army, began.
- ★ Racial segregation was outlawed on trains and buses.

## *Memories. . .*

*I remember Ernie glueing his friends books to the wooden table in the shop class . . .and they were there for posterity.*

*And Ernie "borrowing" a streetcar from behind Bill Crandall's house on 48th St. and leaving it on Lake Street.*

*The statue of limitations is now up Ernie!*

*And the science teacher "Doc" that had a settlement tank in his science room that had not been touched for years. .  
..until Ernie took a large stick and stirred it all up.*

*Friends of Ernie had an old auto that they would push out on Lyndale Avenue at 54th St.*

*They would have some kind soul. . . push the car with their auto . . .push it for blocks – – – get out of the car lift the hood . . .and then say . . ."holy cow . . .somebody stole the engine ".*

*Then they would turn it around and do the same thing going south on Lyndale*

*That morphed into a real-time job when the construction crews tipped over the small 3x3' house on the parking lot in the middle of downtown. . .only to have Ernie jump out of the small guard shack. . . And settle for megabucks!*

## *Memories*

**BACK**   
**TO THE FUTURE**

**Marty's Mom & Dad graduated with us in 1956... But not from Washburn.**



## Francelyne Oppert Lurie

Our classmate, Francelyne, lost her mother, Paulette Oppert Fink, in 2005. *The American Jewish World* published this tribute.

### **Paulette Fink, member of French Resistance, dies at 93**

By Margaret F. Dickinson

Francelyne Lurie believes that everyone is born with the capacity to commit heroic deeds – the circumstances only need arise for that potential to come to the surface. For at least that's how she explains the sacrifice and selflessness exhibited during and after World War II by her mother, Paulette Oppert Fink, Who died at the age of 93 on April 2.

"It's circumstances," stated Lurie. "It either presents itself or it doesn't."

For Fink, those circumstances were presented to her as a young woman in France, when the Nazis rose to power. She and her husband, Lt. Yves Oppert, went underground and joined the French Resistance. Fink hid Jewish children, and after the war, started an orphanage for children whose parents were killed in concentration camps. One orphanage turned into three, eventually giving refuge to 1,500 children. She raised funds for the orphanages herself by speaking in the U.S. Fink also worked on a refugee ship taking Jews to then-Palestine, supported the building of Israel, became a charismatic speaker raising money for needy Jews – especially Holocaust survivors – and devoted herself to other Jewish charities.

What makes her story even more remarkable is that she managed to do all of this in the shadow of a devastating event into her own life – the capture and execution of her husband, Lt. Oppert, three weeks before the Allies liberated France.

"She did really above and beyond what she needed to do," said Lurie, who lives in Wayzata. "She could have quit after the war."

But Fink didn't quit, which, besides aiding her fellow Jews, also began the turn of events that brought this Parisian socialite turned Resistance fighter to, of all places, Minnesota.



After she began fundraising for the orphanages, it became evident that she had a natural talent for giving moving speeches.

"She was one of the first. . . women, for sure to come and speak about the war and the Holocaust.

There were huge rumors swirling around but she spoke [to her audiences] in a manner that, they weren't going to leave a penny in their bank accounts – they were going to give it all to her," Lurie said. Fink spoke around the world on behalf of Israel and other Jewish causes.

In her heavy French accent, she "mesmerized people... She yelled and screamed, and when she had to be gentle, she was gentle. It was as if she was showing them a movie of what she wanted them to see," Lurie explained.

Among the many people think made an impression upon what was I. D. Fink of Minneapolis who founded G&K Services, an industrial dry cleaner. They were married in 1954 and she made her home here with her two daughters.

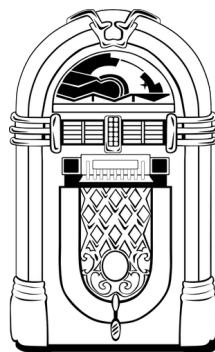
While in Minneapolis, she was national chairwoman of the United Jewish Appeal – Women's Division, and was also involved in Minneapolis Hadassah and the Hillel Foundation at the University of Minnesota. . .

Lurie believes that her mother's legacy will live on through the people who heard her speak and the generations that follow them and hear those same stories and continue to pass them on.

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## *The Top Records of 1956 – 21-30*

21. Bill Doggett, Honky Tonk
22. Tennessee Ernie Ford, Sixteen Tons
23. Johnnie Ray, Just Walking In The Rain
24. Patti Page, Allegheny Moon
25. Fats Domino, I'm In Love Again
26. Patience and Prudence, Tonight You Belong To Me
27. Gene Vincent, Be-Bop-A-Lula
28. Frankie Lymon and The Teenagers, Why Do Fools Fall In Love
29. Four Lads, Standing On The Corner
30. Buchanan and Goodman, The Flying Saucer



## Ronda Havstad Roberts



Have been happily married for thirty-seven years to an avid golfer. . . .which keeps life interesting. . . .shooting his AGE for the last several years. . . or trying to!!

I have enjoyed a career in Real Estate and Property Management in the Twin Cites and can't imagine living anywhere else. . . We have five grandchildren, who luckily live within two hours of our home. The youngest is ten and the oldest is twenty-two.

I feel I have been very fortunate throughout my life. . . .Am blessed!

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**Overheard at the class reunion:  
"I thought growing old would take longer."**

I cannot believe it has been sixty years since we received our diplomas on the Washburn Athletic Field, in June of 1956, but alas, it is true. They have for the most part been good years. I have been fortunate in my marriage to Richard Duxbury (Southwest H.S. Class of 1954). It has been far more of an adventure than I ever imagined when we headed to Pensacola where he went through Naval flight training.



I served in the role of Navy Wife and young mother for the first sixteen years of our marriage. We then returned to the Minneapolis area where Richard had a second career as captain with Northwest Airlines.

While he was busy traveling the NWA routes both domestic and foreign I returned to the University of Minnesota and continued through to a PH.D. in history. Both the teaching and writing were satisfying to me.

The most significant down side to a pretty happy life was losing my brother Parker (Washburn Class of 1955) fifty-three years ago. For my family it was a huge loss of a shared future.

Now that we are retired and spend half the year in Tucson, I continue to follow my history career and serve as a docent at the Spanish Mission, San Xavier del Bac, south of Tucson. I enjoy sharing this architectural and historical treasure with others.

We have three amazing children, two daughters-in-law, a son-in-law, and four grandchildren. As a family we enjoy hiking together in Glacier National Park and spending time together.



Travel has been a big part of our family time together. It has been a joy to watch our family grow and mature and find their own place in the world as adults. Richard and I are very proud of the results of our union.

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- Phone: 952-831-7136
- Winter Address: 5428 N. Strada de Rubino  
Tucson, AZ 85750
- Phone: 520-615-6563
- Cell: 612-387-4870



After graduating from Washburn I attended the University of Minnesota and graduated with a B.S. in Nursing and a Certification in Public Health Nursing.

I worked as a public health nurse for rural Hennepin County for several years and also was a school nurse with the Edina School System for a few years.

I married Al Pettit from our class. We had one son and were subsequently divorced. I returned to nursing working as a public health nurse for Hennepin County in a school for pregnant high school girls. After a few years I was remarried to Cornie Wiens, a radiologist. By now my son, Steven, was six and I continued working for a while, but as an assistant to the gift buyer at Bachman's.

Cornie and I have now been married for forty years.



Over the years I have been involved in a lot of volunteer activities and my husband and I have also done quite a bit of world-wide traveling.

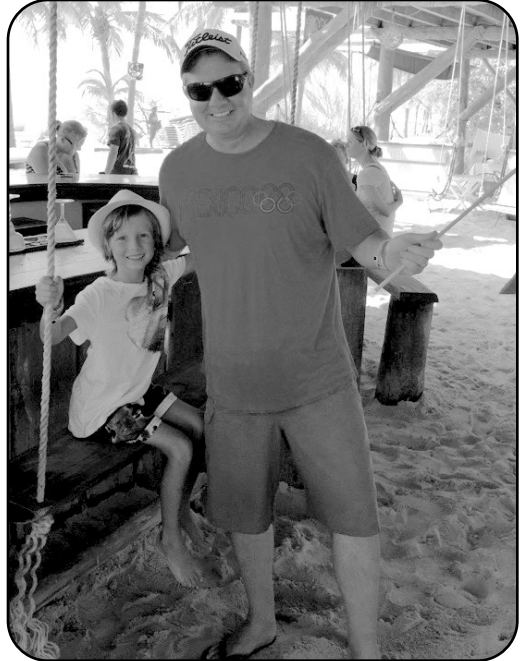
I began painting in 1987 and continue to paint to this day as I enjoy it very much. I also like reading and gardening .

The friendships I made at Washburn still mean a lot to me and we girls still get together quite often.

My son is married and his family lives in Florida. His children are six and a half and eight. We spend three months in Florida during the winter so we can be close to them.

I must admit, I never thought of myself as being 77, but here I am. I think we were very lucky to have grown up when we did. The world was a simpler place back then – for us anyway.

Life has been a good adventure.



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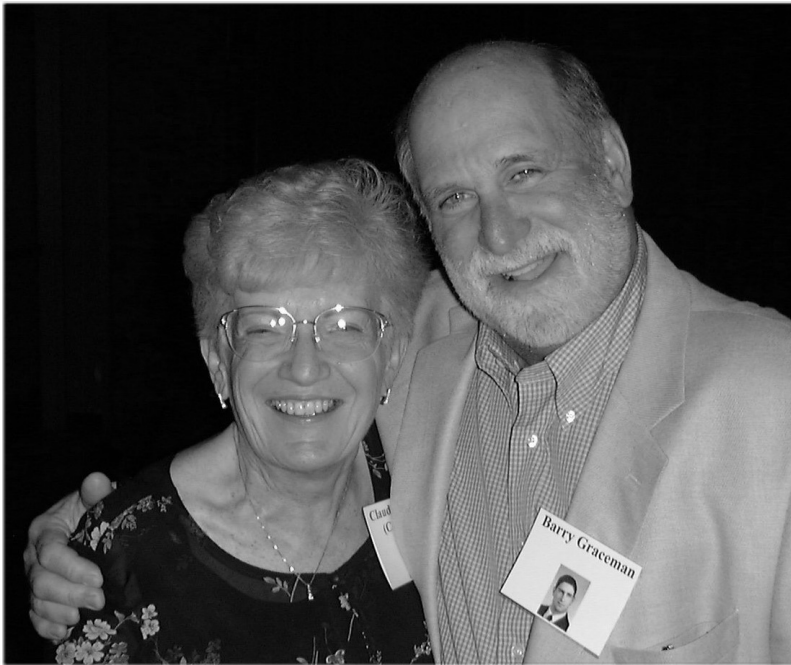
My longevity legacy does say, a 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion? No way!  
But I'm here to say, Life is Good.  
And I wish you happiness.

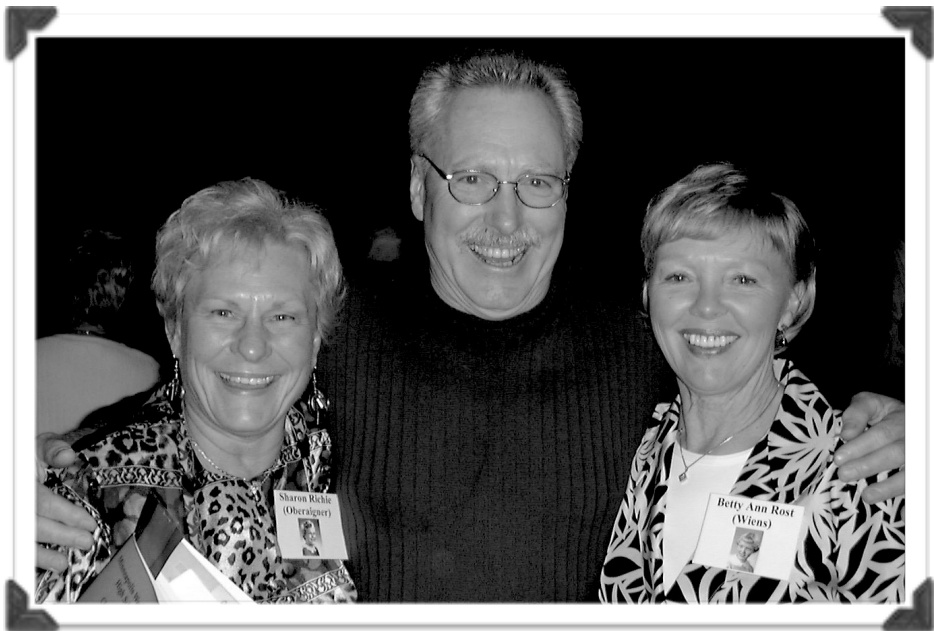
Love, Faye



- Address: 8601 Oxford Lane, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-3985
- Email: [schleter\\_john@comcast.net](mailto:schleter_john@comcast.net)







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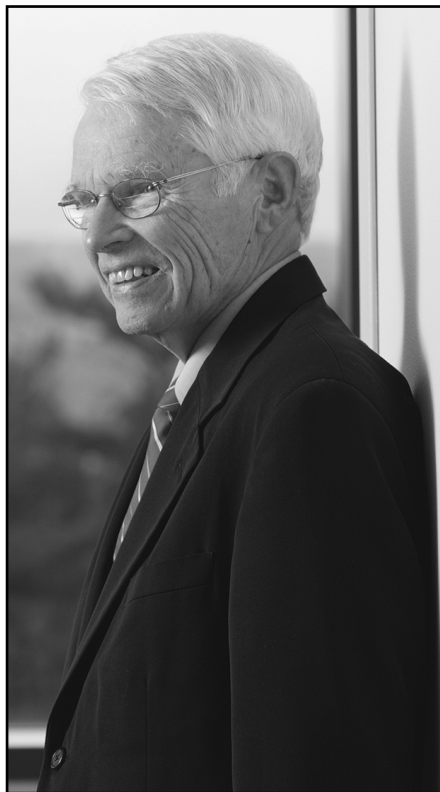


## Richard Nordgren, M.D.

I am sorry I'm not able to attend the 60-year reunion but here's a brief synopsis as to what I have been up to.

I was a real hick when I came to Washburn for my senior year, but benefited tremendously from the rigorous academic environment and made many good friends.

- ★ University of Minnesota  
1956 - 1960
- ★ U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier  
USS Shangri La CVA 38  
1960-1963
- ★ Northwestern University  
Medical School  
1963-1967
- ★ University of Rochester  
Residency in Pediatrics  
and Neurology 1967-1972
- ★ University of Rochester Neurology Department's Annual  
reward to a former resident for "Outstanding Contributions to  
the Field of Neurology" 1999
- ★ Dartmouth Medical School and Hitchcock Clinic, Professor of  
Pediatrics and Neurology 1972,-Retirement 2010. Emeritus  
faculty since then.
- ★ Lifetime Achievement Award from Child Neurology Society  
2014
- ★ Married 1965 to Sharon Huseth [from St. Louis Park],  
two children and three grandsons



**My best wishes to all – Dick Nordgren**

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- Cell phone: 603 381 2280



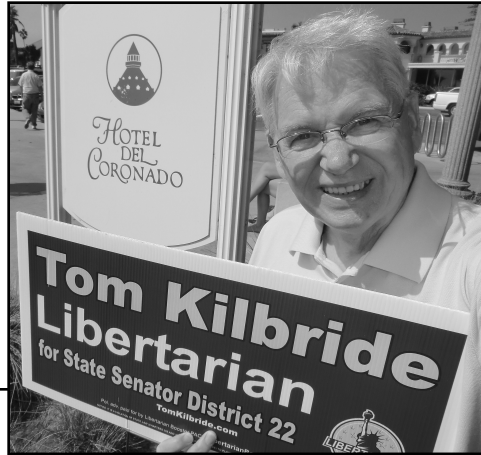
The past ten years of my life have probably been my best, certainly the most interesting. It has been the second decade that I've been going steady with Nancy Lashombe and we have had a lot of togetherness that has included driving to forty-eight states and taking cruise ships to the two others. We've even been to Wall Drug.

For six years, we volunteered for duties at the WGC Championships at Trump's Doral Blue Monster. I produced the volunteer newsletter and Nancy worked at registration and hospitality. In addition to the Hawaii and Alaska cruises, we also departed Galveston for two Caribbean cruises to Key West and the Bahamas. Another cruise, in 2012, didn't turn out as planned.

The first morning at sea, I bounded up a flight of stairs and had a heart attack. When we reached Mexico, I was put off the ship. An ambulance took me to the Progreso airport and I was picked up by a Lear Jet with a medical staff and taken to a Miami hospital. A week later I was released with two brand new stents in my heart. It was another week before I returned to Texas. My four-day cruise turned into a two week adventure. Poor Nancy, I made her stay on the ship as it seemed the best way to un-complicate the situation.

Nancy and I have visited many notable tourist attractions such as the Hearst Castle, the Thousand Islands, the Grand Canyon and Bryce

Canyon, Ben & Jerry's HQ in Vermont, Yellowstone, the Spam Museum, Niagara Falls, the Alamo, the Red Dog Saloon, the Great Smokey Mountains, Disney World, Mount Rushmore, the Apple Headquarters in Cupertino (I'm an Apple Fanboy), Four



*In 2012 I was a candidate for the Texas Senate. Although I campaigned all the way to California, I was not elected.*



*When we toured the New England States, Nancy, a lobster lover, had her first whole Maine lobster.*

Corners, the Corn Palace, the American Pickers HQ in LeClair, Iowa, and, nearby, I ran the bases on the Field of Dreams. We have also participated in ten conventions of the Four Freshmen Society in cities from Reno to Tampa. Last summer I did some Minnesota things I'd forgotten to do before leaving in 1967; wading across the Mississippi River at Lake Itasca and visiting Judy Garland's birthplace in Grand Rapids. And eating pizza at Sven & Ole's in Grand Marais.

Although I'd done quite a bit of technical writing, I'd never thought I'd write a novel, but in 2007, I heard about NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month, an event held each November. The object is to write a 50,000+ word novel in the thirty days of November. I've reached the 50,000 word goal three times and fallen short on three other occasions. I just ran out of ideas.

Last year, I bought the car shown in the photograph, a MiEV – Mitsubishi Innovative Electric Vehicle. Sure, a Tesla would have been nice, but. . .

February 2017 update: Traded MiEV for a new Nissan Leaf.

My extended family continues to extend. My four kids, Cheryl, Tommy, Susan, and Robert have given me six grandchildren, resulting, also, in seven great-grandchildren. My youngest son, Robert, will complete twenty years in the U.S. Army in October.

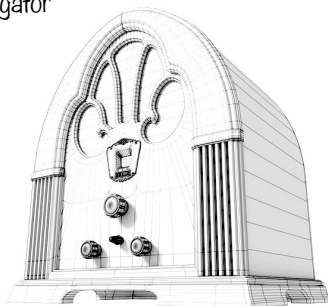
Well, here we are sixty years after high school. Who woulda thunk it?

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- Phone: 254-315-0176

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## *The Top Records of 1956 – 31-40*

31. George Cates, Moonglow and Theme From Picnic
32. Cathy Carr, Ivory Tower
33. Bill Haley and His Comets, See You Later Alligator
34. Pat Boone, I'll Be Home
35. Vic Damone, On The Street Where You Live
36. Platters, Magic Touch
37. Chordettes, Born To Be With You
38. Don Cherry, Band Of Gold
39. Perry Como, More
40. Guy Mitchell, Singing The Blues



## Sandra Havstad Edmunds

After college, I married a "Teddy" – Fritz Edmunds from the Roosevelt class of '55.

I taught junior high in the Minneapolis school district for just two years and then we had three boys in 24 months and a girl eight years later! We have five grandchildren ages four to twenty-four!

I was a home economist in the Betty Crocker kitchens at General Mills before moving to Kansas City (Home of the Royals! World champs!) almost 40 years ago.

In Overland Park, Kansas (a suburb of Kansas City) I designed and built two homes for our family. We traveled often with my husband's bank as he offered trips to the bank directors as an incentive for encouraging new business.

I worked for several years teaching classes to children with special needs at a Montessori day school and then had a fourteen year career as an interior designer for Ethan Allen.

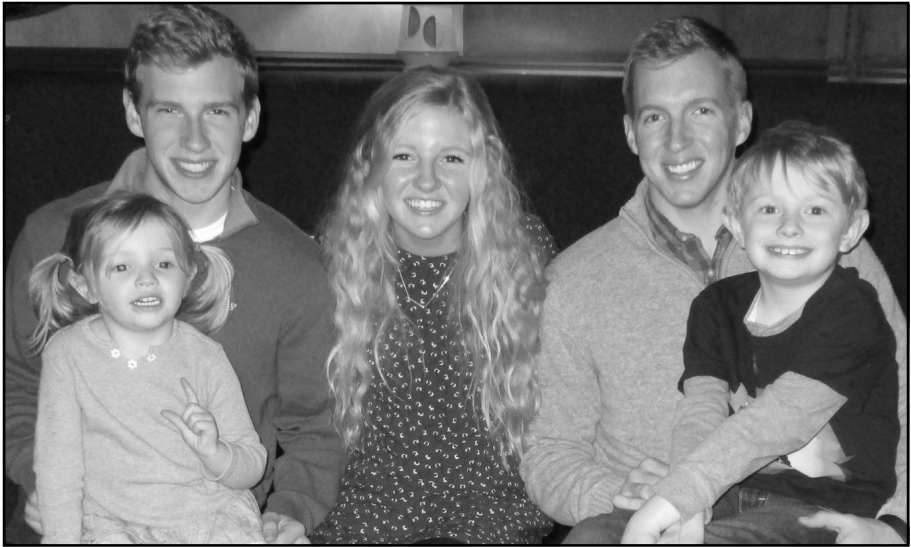
I have been involved with feeding the homeless for many years and I'm now working as meals ministry coordinator for our church. We have a full active life with all of our family living in the area.

I might mention... for anyone who may have a similar situation... that we have one son who is a quadriplegic (and a lawyer) and one son who has schizophrenia. They





are both terrific and have overcome many hurdles. We are very blessed and I would be happy to talk with anyone who is dealing with either of these issues. Looking forward to our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. Can't be!



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- Phone: 913-492-4259





**Check the ones  
you've watched**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Ten Commandments</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Eddy Duchin Story</i>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Lieutenant Wore Skirts</i>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Giant</i>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Baby Doll</i>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>War and Peace</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Zarak</i>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The King and I</i>              | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Love Me Tender</i>                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Searchers</i>               | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Between Heaven and Hell</i>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bus Stop</i>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Man Who Knew Too Much</i>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Girl Can't Help It</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Best Things in Life Are Free</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>High Society</i>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Star in the Dust</i>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Written on the Wind</i>         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Julie</i>                       |  |



**Oh No!  
Look at who  
I've turned into.**



**Hi fellow Washburn Grads!**

Here I am, 78 pushing 80, and I don't mean 80 miles per hour.

While at Washburn, I avoided any classes like advanced math, typing, or business. Talk about dumb. I could have used them after graduating from the University of Minnesota and spending forty-five years in business.

I've been married to my beautiful wife Carol for fifty-six years and we have two kids, three grandkids, and one great-grandchild.

Sold our Florida house and our lake cabin, and downsized to a townhouse in West Bloomington.

I enjoy singing karaoke and playing the sax. I have been singing for fun down at David Fong's for twenty years.

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## Dave Hennessy



My little bio is more like an addendum to the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Book with a picture shot in my small garage wood shop.

My bride of fifty-seven years, Sallie (Jones, class of '57) and I continue to thrive in our little retirement/resort community of Sunriver on the Eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains in Central Oregon.

We're still cruising the snow packed mountains in winter and digging up turf on our two pristine golf courses during the summer.

The outdoor activities command much of our time although creating heirloom furniture for our grand kids and others has become my passion.

Pictured with me in my small garage wood shop is a Three-In-One Bed for our great grandson made of Birch from our family cabin near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. I have this thing about dragging logs from Minnesota to Oregon for my creations.

Life in Central Oregon has been good, we live a full and active life, returning to Minnesota occasionally during the summer months for some fishing with my younger brother Bob and visiting with family and friends. Our prayers are for a happy, joyful 60<sup>th</sup> reunion and safe travels. I'm looking forward to reading what folks have to say about themselves in this book. We, unfortunately, will not be able to attend but we will be there in spirit as the celebrations go on. Cheers to one and all,

**Dave & Sallie Hennessy.**

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- Email: hennessy130@gmail.com

## *Memories. . .*



*Dayton's*

**WARNING – You can't get away with lying about your age at this class reunion.**

## **Jerry & Sue (Zastrow) Hedin**



Sue and I have lived in Southern California for the past forty-five years. We have three children, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild. They all live in California a short distance from us.

I have spent my entire business career in sales and marketing. . . traveling to many places throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

In 1990, Sue and I started a manufacturing rep business covering four states. . . representing manufacturer's that marketed and sold their products to the reprographic, college bookstores, art supply, and craft/hobby channels. In 2008, we sold the business and retired in Palm Desert, California.

We enjoy playing golf, cruising, taking road trips, and spending most Sundays having champagne brunch with friends.

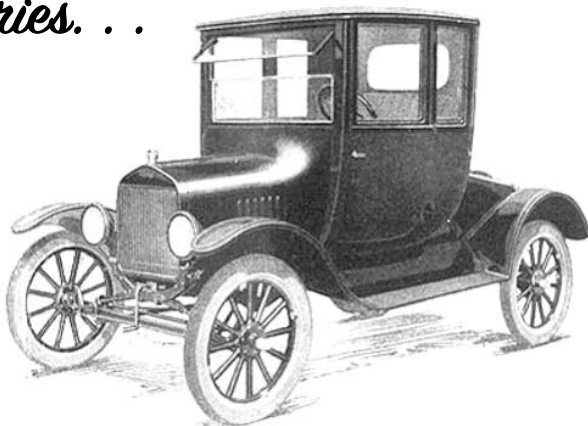
Looking forward to our 60th high school reunion and reminiscing with our fellow Washburn classmates.

Our thanks go out to Errol Kantor for his time and effort in keeping the class of '56 so well informed. Errol, you have been the "Washburn glue" and we appreciate all that you have done.

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- Jerry Cell: 714-305-1440
- Jerry Email: jerryh1216@gmail.com
- Sue Cell: 714-325-7012
- Sue Email: szhedin@gmail.com

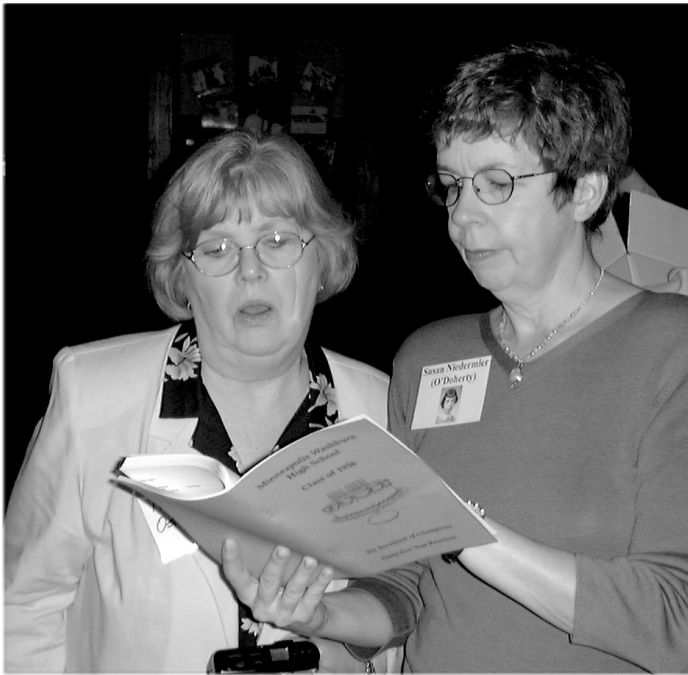
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## *Memories. . .*



### ***Susan Nyvall's coupe.***

*As the only licensed driver in 10th grade, with an extra family car, (in our group), Susan holds the title of MOST TEENAGERS RIDING IN A CAR at ONE TIME!!!! She holds the record for MOST GIRLFRIENDS IN A CAR, while driving to the basketball tournament at the Minneapolis Auditorium. Three in front with the Driver (4) and three layers of three in the back!!! (9) !!!! If you had a back seat you could not see light by DAY or NIGHT!!!! Susan deserves the Washburn Metal of Honor, for BEST DRIVER, despite the fact she was nearsighted! God was with us. – Marna Colliander*





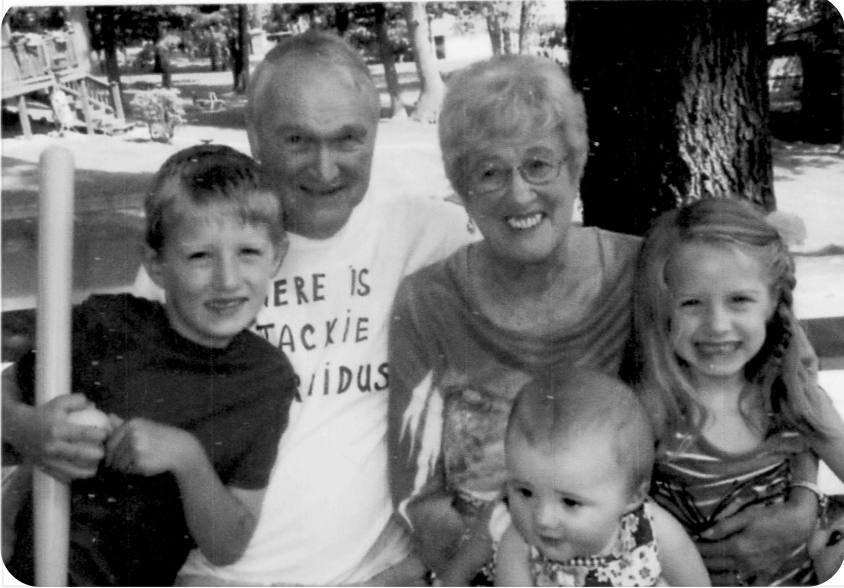


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## Bruce and Betty (Sanders) Sachs



Bruce and I are enjoying our fifty-eight years together. We have four wonderful children, nine grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

We are making the downsizing move from our lake home of forty-five years to a town house in Woodbury, Minnesota, a block from our son's home.

Always enjoyed the great class of 1956 and all of the memories. Nothing like the 50s to grow up in!!

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Frog & Owl "Reunion"  
by Molly Lawless



As I sit in a classroom at Washburn High School, the date is April, 1956. I remember the great times I had growing up and attending school. I also wondered about the future. Would I live long enough to retire at age 65, would I see our fifty-year high school class reunion?

Fast forward to April 2016. Just a couple of months until our sixty-year class reunion. We have all been blessed. We have seen a multitude of advancements in medicine, technology, and industry.

So many others have remained good friends through the last sixty years. I have a number of close friends from our class and one class friend that goes back seventy-five years.

During the last ten years, I continued to work for a large construction company. I was fortunate to estimate and project manage a few classified government jobs that were exciting and rewarding.

I am particularly proud of my family. My three sons and six grandchildren are such a delight. We enjoyed visiting them now that I am retired. My sons continue the tradition of coaching their kids in sports and I have a twelve-year-old granddaughter that was chosen from the Columbus, Ohio children's choir to sing with the Columbus Opera Company in the production of *La Bohème*. I am so proud of all of them. I continue to stay in good health with very few aches or pains. The Elmer boys and grandsons continue to hunt and fish in Minnesota.

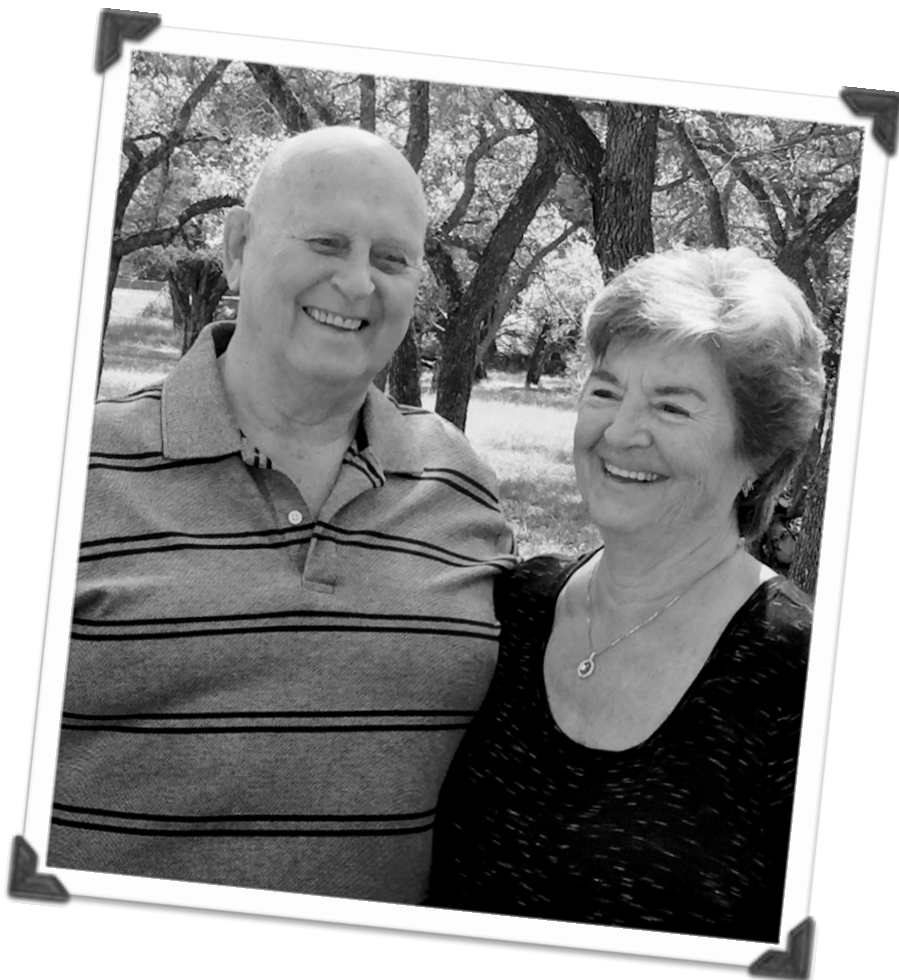


**Front row:** Brady Elmer (son of Tom; 13 in picture, now 14)  
Timmy Elmer II (son of Tim; 10 years old)  
**Middle row:** Todd Elmer (oldest son), Tim Elmer (youngest son)  
Tom Elmer (middle son)  
**Back row:** Paul Elmer

I have a wonderful lady to share my retirement years with. Her name is Cheryl and she hails from a town in the middle of Kansas. She also has a great family. Her two sons and two grandchildren live in the Austin, Texas area and are also very active families.

We enjoy traveling the country by car – visiting family, friends, and National Parks. We also enjoy country dancing, golf, and the theater. A few places that we would still like to visit are Canada, Alaska, and the Caribbean.

To my classmates, I will wish you good health, prosperity, and happiness. Remember, attitude is everything so be sure to hold a PhD in friendliness.



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- Phone: 512-699-4893
- Email: [cherylstranahan@hotmail.com](mailto:cherylstranahan@hotmail.com)

*You can't help getting older. .  
but you don't have to get old.*

**George Burns**  
**1896-1996**

## *Memories. . .*

### ***Dear Diary,***

*Although during the Eisenhower era in the 1950s, the stage was being set for some mighty dramatic periods in U.S. history – the Soviet Union’s beginning march, the nuclear showdown, the cold war, Joe McCarthy from next door in Wisconsin, rising social and civil rights tension – we look back nostalgically, considering our time lived in almost a pinnacle of Golden Age in our world.*



*Born at the end of the depression, and soon after, seeing some of our fathers off to war (while we collected tin cans for the “war effort,” and packed soap and washcloths to send to “the boys” overseas, we were safe and happy in Minnesota, in our homes, and during our Washburn years.*

*After the war our families enjoyed prosperity, good economic times, consumerism (along with advertising for refrigerators with little freezer compartments and for cigarettes that 9 out of 10 doctors smoked).*

*If we had summer or vacation jobs we got to keep our earnings and not help out the family struggling on a farmstead. We had T-Birds and TV consoles. We had rock ‘n roll. At school we carried our books in the crook of our arms and wrote our Shakespeare term-paper outlines after the paper was done, (typed on manual machines).*

*We peered into microscopes, dissected frogs, grumbled in gym class, nailed and sawed in shop; we staged “The Man Who Came to Dinner,” wrote copy, worked on paste-ups, sang on auditorium risers, joined clubs, and everyone all together buffed white buck shoes with little chalk bags. In our junior year, pride rang high for top sports championships.*

*In 1956, in the world outside of school, Southdale opened – the first enclosed mall in the country, and Dear Abby began her column. Yogi Berra hit a home run in the World Series, while golfer Patty Berg, a Washburn grad, won two LPGA tournaments, the Arkansas Open and the Dallas Open. And up in the iron range young Bobby Zimmerman was preparing to become Bob Dylan.*

*As we gather now in our Golden Years we take time to pause, to drift in memories, to consider how deeply we cherish those we love and to treasure those whom we have lost. – Nancy Levinson*

***The Summer Day*** by Mary Oliver

*Who made the world?*

*Who made the swan, and the black bear?*

*Who made the grasshopper?*

*This grasshopper, I mean-*

*the one who has flung herself out of the grass,*

*the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,*

*who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-*

*who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.*

*Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.*

*Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.*

*I don't know exactly what a prayer is.*

*I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down*

*into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,*

*how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,*

*which is what I have been doing all day.*

*Tell me, what else should I have done?*

*Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?*

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do*

*with your one wild and precious life?*

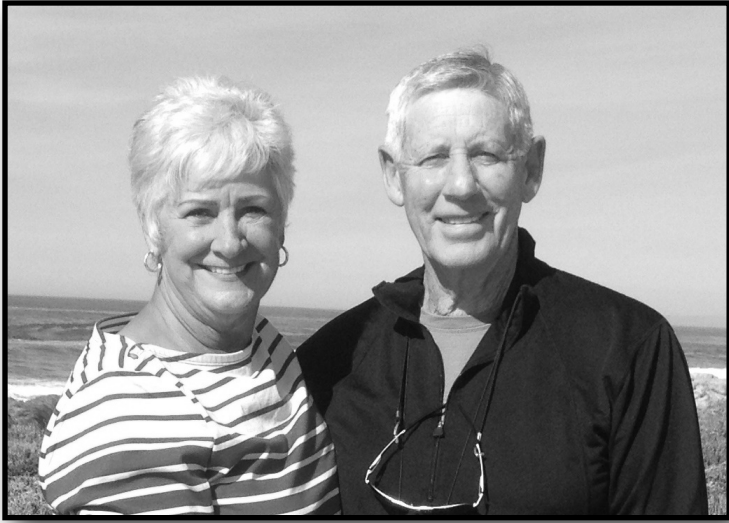


## John Councilman



Linda and I are retired and live in Port Orange, Florida about eight miles south of the Daytona Speedway. We have eight children, but we lost Linda's daughter and one of her sons during the fall of 2014 in a four month period. We are blessed with fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren – with another on the way. Our children live in Alabama, Texas, Colorado, and California so we try to travel to see them every year.

We still are in decent health and keep busy here in Florida playing a lot of tennis and pickleball. Three or four times between December and May, I get out and play golf with Tom Woldum who comes down to Ponce Inlet for the Winter. In the Summer we rent a small house at three thousand feet altitude in the North Carolina mountains near Brevard, North Carolina. Here we play more tennis and pickleball



and go hiking on one of the prettiest trails in the state that's right in the community where we stay.

THANK YOU to all of you classmates who plan and make our reunions happen. We have a special class, for sure!!

- Email: [jcatscreek@aol.com](mailto:jcatscreek@aol.com)

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### *The Top Records of 1956 - 41-50*

41. Fats Domino, Blueberry Hill
42. Sanford Clark, The Fool
43. Don Robertson, The Happy Whistler
44. Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly, True Love
45. Little Richard, Long Tall Sally
46. Teresa Brewer, Sweet Old Fashioned Girl
47. Nervous Norvus, Transfusion
48. Ames Brothers, It Only Hurts For A Little While
49. Teresa Brewer, A Tear Fell
50. Lonnie Donegan, Rock Island Line





## Lee Johnson



How time flies when you retire. It has now been fourteen years since I retired from 3M after working in various sales and marketing positions for thirty-eight years. Since our last reunion, Colleen and I spend more time in Hawaii where we are residents. We still have a lake house at Birch Island Lake in Webster, Wisconsin where we spend the summer months, but move to The Big Island for the winter. Our house overlooks Kailua-Kona. If you come to Kona please let us know we would love to see WHS friends.

I'm still a big Gopher and Viking fan. It's great to have the *Star and*

*Tribune* delivered to my computer every morning so I stay current with the Twin Cities and the local sports scene. Since I had my right hip replaced two years ago I'm again playing tennis and golf. Modern medicine is fantastic! I do miss skiing, but it is now a memory as there isn't much snow in Hawaii.

Paddling outrigger canoes with the Keauhou Canoe Club is another sport I participate in. Our goal when paddling is to try and spot whales and dolphins.



Music has been a big part of my life as I sing in church choirs in Wisconsin and Hawaii. I now have learned to play the Ukulele, and play three times a week with different groups in Hawaii. It's a lot of fun, and you meet a new group of great people.

We do like to travel. Two years Colleen and I toured Scandinavia to see the old country. Sweden for me, and Norway for Colleen. Last year we took a Viking River Cruise down the Rhine River leaving from Amsterdam and departing in Switzerland. Both trips were great. Next winter we plan to visit Australia and New Zealand, celebrating our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Our daughter Carrie's family lives in Alabama. We have two grandsons in college, and a granddaughter in the first grade. We were able to spend time with them on our trips to Hawaii.

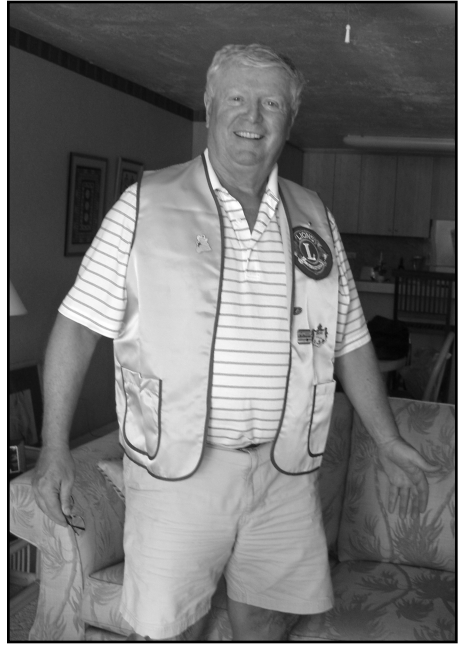
We drive to Alabama from Wisconsin



in the fall, and return in the spring, spending valuable time with them. Our car sits in a barn during the winter! Our two unmarried sons live in Minnesota and we see them in the summer.

My days in Minneapolis and Washburn have provided me fond memories of a great place to live and grow up. God willing I will have many more memories in the years ahead.

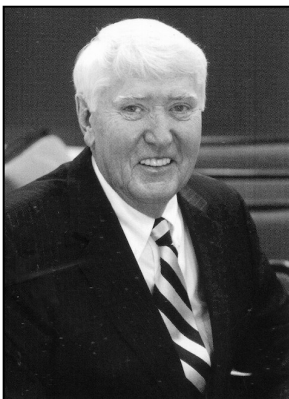
- Summer: 3118 Killstrom Road  
Webster, WI 54893
- Phone: 715 635-2501
- Cell: 715 566-1656
- Winter: 75-5808 Lupa Place  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
- Phone: 808 315-7821
- Email: collee@centurytel.net





My wife Judy (who is a graduate of Holy Angels Academy) and I have been married for fifty-six years. We have five children and eight grandchildren.

I've been practicing law for forty-six years, almost thirty of those years with the law firm of Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben, P.A. in Minneapolis, where I am a partner.



## WILLIAM A. CRANDALL

All of us at Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben, P.A. congratulate William A. Crandall, who was recently named one of Minnesota's "Top 40 Personal Injury Attorneys" by *Law & Politics Magazine* and one of Minnesota's "Super Lawyers" by *Minneapolis - St. Paul Magazine* as voted by his peers. A member of the American Association of Justice and the American Board of Trial Advocates, Bill is also qualified as neutral or "mediator" under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice and under the Supreme Court of Minnesota. We extend our appreciation to Bill for strengthening the foundation and integrity of Minnesota's top personal injury law firm.



PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

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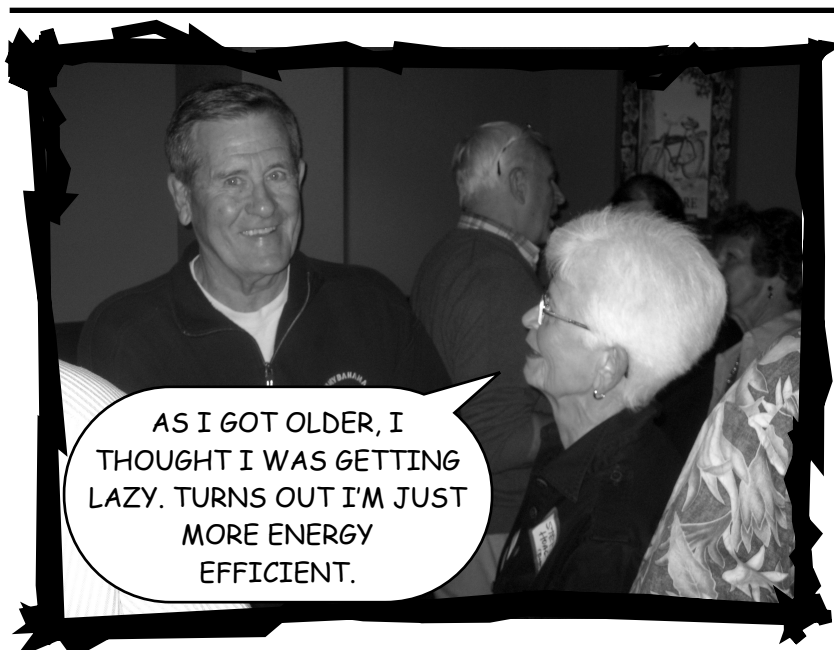
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[schwebel.com](http://schwebel.com)

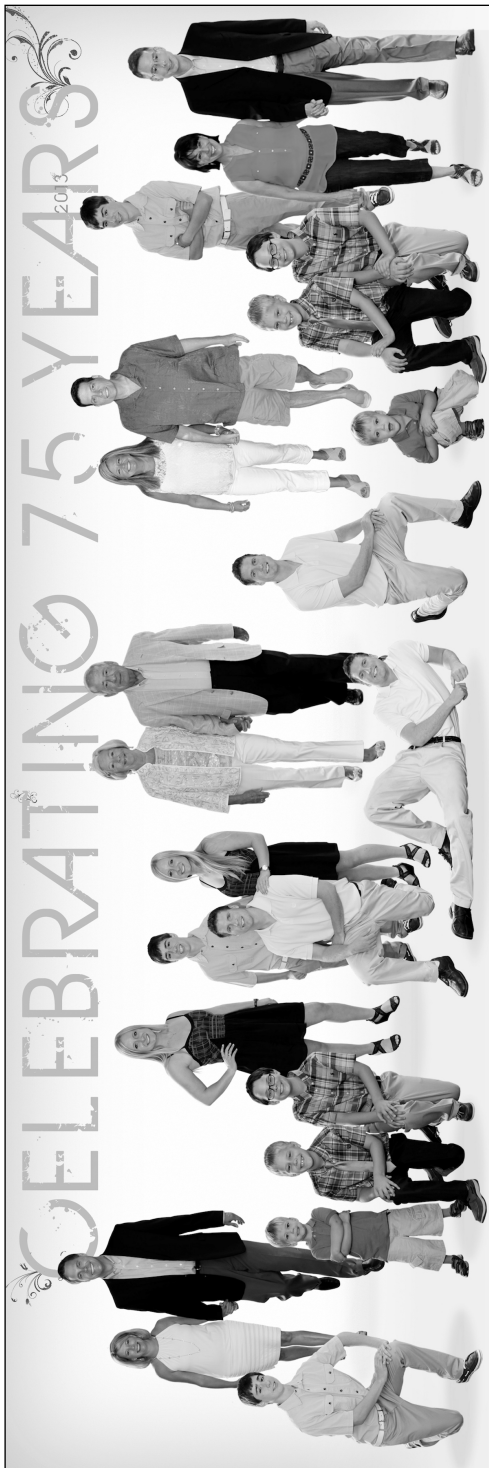


Judy and I enjoy travel and have visited many parts of the world. Our favorite mode of travel is cruises. We have been on thirty-one of them so far. I'm still a golfer and continue to be a participant in many other activities as well.

- Phone: 612-344-0321
- Email: [wcrandall@schwebel.com](mailto:wcrandall@schwebel.com)







**Nancy Peterson Snyder**



Jim and I are still “living Each Day to the Fullest.” Some days a little slower, other days fly by too fast.

The collage was made at my 75th Birthday Party, so everyone is now three years older. Our children, Pete, Julie, and Amy, their spouses Joyce, Gary (Gary died at age 51 of colon cancer), and Dave. We have five grandsons, Nic 25, medical school University of Des Moines, Michael, 19, now a freshman at the University of Iowa, Eli, 14, Ethan, 12, Ean, 6, (our three Texas boys) and, finally, our

only Granddaughter Kelsey, 24, living in Boulder and working on her Masters in art therapy. You can tell we are very proud Grandparents. (And parents)

My thoughts to share: We are still here, there has to be a reason, so do something nice everyday for someone, maybe just a smile or positive word, and enjoy your life! We have come a long ways from 1956, looking forward to another great ten years. There is still much to do.



- Address: 1514 Matterhorn Drive N.E. Cedar Rapids,Iowa 52402
- Phone: 319-364-2901
- Cell: 319-499-8894
- Email: jandnsny@aol.com



Cheer for the orange and blue,  
waving forever.  
Pride of old Washburn High,  
may she droop never  
We'll sing a song for the flag today  
Cheer for the team at play.  
On to the goal, we'll fight all the way  
for Washburn High!



## Carole Ellingsworth Zahariades

After graduating from St. Catherine's College, I taught first grade for four years, before starting our family of five children. In the picture they are Susan, Amy, John, Jodee, and Teresa. We are so proud of their accomplishments and what great adults and parents they have become.



Gust and I thoroughly enjoy all six grandkids – three are away in New York City, Duke University, and Drake University. The other three live in Carver. Tim is a champion wrestler, and we just saw him take 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade bracket in Rochester at the state meet.

Washburn has truly changed since we were there. Our granddaughter, Anna, graduated in 2014. It now has a very diverse student body. The graduation program was printed in four languages – English, Spanish, Hmong, and Somalian. Anna took college credit classes that were offered and got a half-year credit at Drake where she is a sophomore. Washburn has raised their academic standing and even has a waiting list to attend.



We have lived in Roseville for fifty-four years, as my husband's dental practice was in St. Paul. This June we will celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

When a group of us get together at Nancy Anderson's Cass Lake cabin, our husbands dutifully listen to us sing the Washburn fight song at least once.

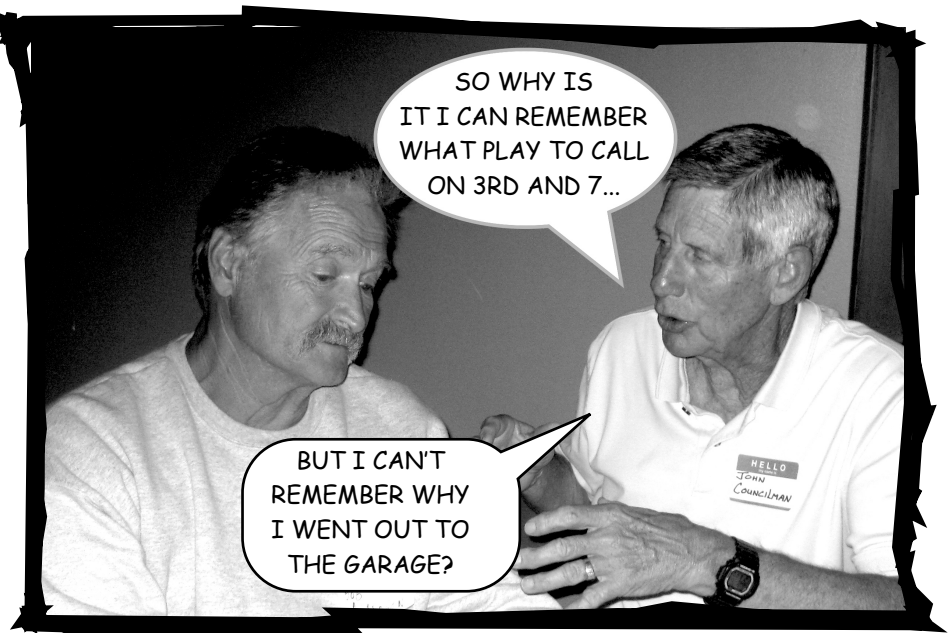
It is so great to still see friends from kindergarten through high school!!!

- Address: 25 Mid Oaks Rd., Roseville, MN 55113
- Phone: 651-646-2242
- Email: carzak@msn.com

*Some people, no matter how old they get,  
never lose their beauty. . .*

*They merely move it from  
their face into their hearts.*

**Martin Buxbaum  
1912-1991**



## *Memories. . .*

*Fred Curtis was my home room teacher in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. He taught a 12<sup>th</sup> grade class called Modern Problems (civics, mostly). He wrote quotes on the blackboard for his classes. One day when he was not in the room, I added to the things he had written, "Ignorance is for the stupid."*

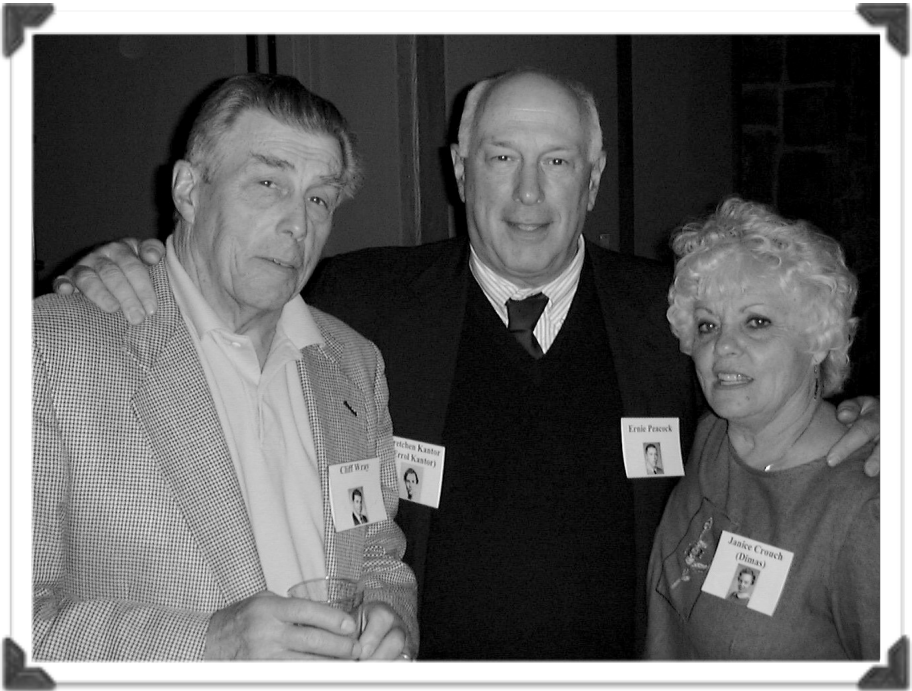
*In 12<sup>th</sup> grade, I took Modern Problems and upon entering the classroom one day, I saw my quote, attributed to me, on the blackboard. I hadn't known he knew I did it, until then.*

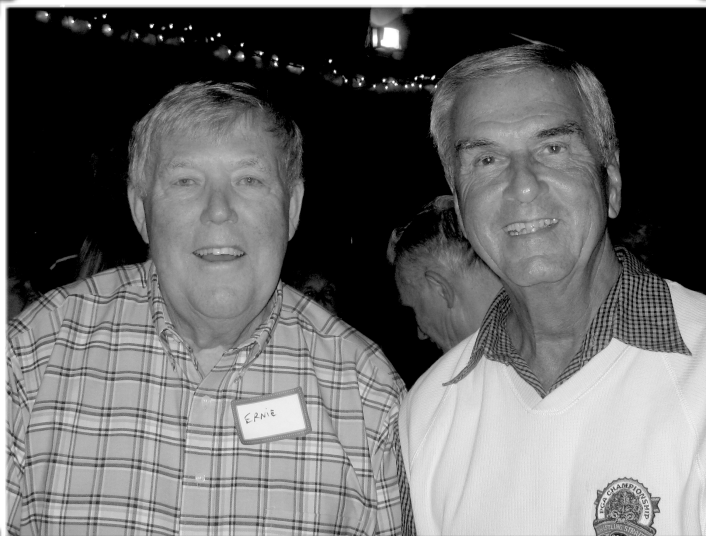
*The reason he wasn't our home room teacher for 12<sup>th</sup> grade is that he was named Senior Advisor and no longer had home room duties.*

*If Mr. Curtis was asked a question he didn't care to answer, he might respond with, "One never knows, does one?"*

*And. . . I recall him saying, "It's people like you who make people like me hate people like you."*

*Mr. Curtis was referred to, by some of us, privately, as "Friendly Fred" which was the name used by an announcer at WCCO who pitched Grain Belt Beer. — Tom Kilbride*





## *Memories. . .*

*One of the best memories I have from my year at Washburn was Ernie Peacock reciting Chaucer and being critiqued by Mrs. Mulligan in her English class. Ernie referred to her as "Mullie Mullie" though not to her face. She was my favorite teacher at Washburn. – Dick Nordgren*

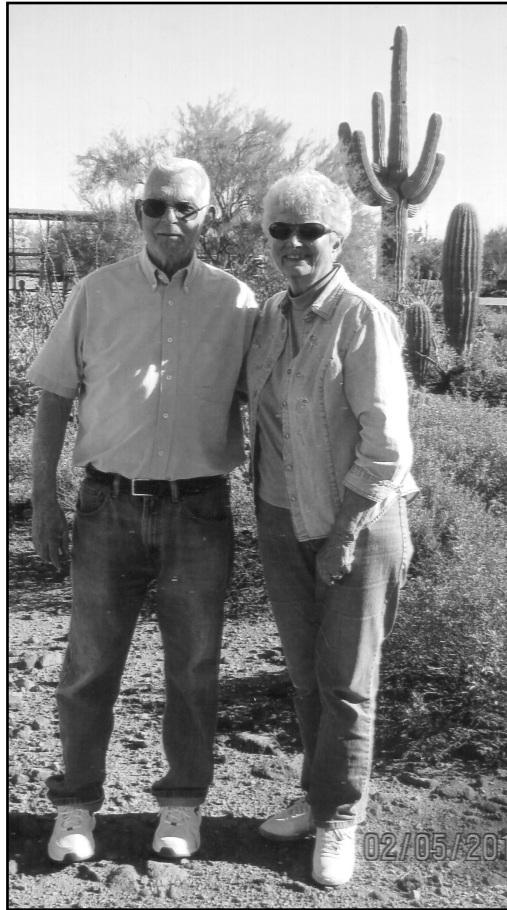


## Nancy Anderson Middleton

Yikes, 60 years! Where have they gone? **Washburn was the best!**

In the summers of '56 and '57, I worked as a nurse's aide at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis. In '58 and '59 I taught swimming at a private girls' camp near Rhinelander, Wisconsin. During the summer of '60, I swam in the Aqua Follies as part of the Minneapolis Aquatennial and Seattle Seafare.

Upon graduation from the U of M in 1961, (majoring in elementary education) two teachers and I toured Europe (rented a VW) for eight weeks, being in Berlin on August 13, when the wall was primitively being built.



Using my degree, I taught second grade in Rochester, Minnesota for five years and then moved to Grand Forks, ND.

In 1968, I married Paul Middleton (with a nine year old daughter, who spent the summers with us). We had a daughter, then boy-girl twins, and girl twins within three years (had four in diapers for a year)!



Then, four years later, we had our second son. All of our children have been involved in sports, music, plays, and all the usual kid activities, including a lot of camping in the summer. All six graduated from the University of North Dakota and have good jobs. Now, one lives in Seattle, two in the Denver area, two in the St. Cloud area, and one in Grand Forks.

We have eight grandchildren, and my step daughter is a grandma to four (which are our great-grandkids). All twenty-six of us get together at our cabin in the summer, as well as my friends and spouses from Washburn.

We spend about four months at our cabin on Cass Lake, Minnesota, four months renting a place in Mesa, Arizona, where I love to hike, bike, water-ski, knit, play bridge, and go to too many concerts and plays. The rest of the time is spent in Grand Forks, where we have lived in the same house for forty-eight years!







My mom lived to be 101 and two months and she was smart, healthy, and had all her own teeth! She said, “I’m not going to take my vitamins any more cuz I’m tired to staying healthy!” So that is my goal now, to live to 101!,

- Phone: 701-740-5808
- Address: 622 25th Ave So, Grand Forks, ND 58201
- Email: nanmittleton8@aol.com

## *Memories. . .*

*Washburn won the Twin Cities football championship in 1955. There was a victory parade. I was driving my black 1947 Mercury convertible in the parade (wish I still had it) with three of my Washburn buddies. One of them threw a Glueks Stite beer can out of the top-down backseat. Lo and behold, it landed by my homeroom teacher’s feet – Mr. Marv Helling. I made a trip to Mr. Jesse Janes’ office the next day. – Bob Pouti*

## Royanne Reed Loucks

I am a homemaker and my husband, Clarence is retired from his government job and does some farming. My daughter is an Emergency Room RN. I have four grandchildren, three boys and one girl, ages nineteen to twenty-eight years old. I am expecting my first great-grandbaby in July.

- Address: 145 Suits Lane, Hillsboro, IL 62049
- Phone: 217-532-9335



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## *The Top Records of 1956 – 51-60*

51. Dream Weavers, It's Almost Tomorrow
52. Pat Boone, Friendly Persuasion (Thee I Love)
53. Frank Sinatra, Hey Jealous Lover
54. Eddy Heywood, Soft Summer Breeze
55. Andy Williams, Canadian Sunset
56. Eddie Fisher, Dungaree Doll
57. George Hamilton IV, A Rose and a Baby Ruth
58. Eddie Fisher, Cindy Oh Cindy
59. Jerry Vale, You Don't Know Me
60. Dick Hyman, Moritat (Theme From Threepenny Opera)



## *Memories. . .*

*If it's true, what they say about the good dying young, what does that seem to suggest regarding those of us who have survived to our sixty year class reunion?. – Name withheld by request*



I am proud mother of two children, the grandmother of two, and blessed with a husband, Jerry, for over fifty-eight years.

After living in Bloomington for twenty years and retiring from the family printing business in Minneapolis, we moved to our lake home in Litchfield, Minnesota where we have lived for twenty years.

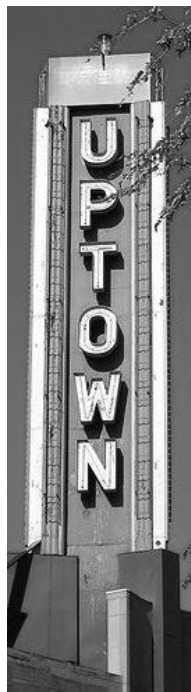
We enjoy rural Minnesota, but for the past eighteen years we have spent our winters in Arkansas.

Life is good!

- Address: 21480 587th Ave., Litchfield, MN 55355
- Phone: 320-345-0139

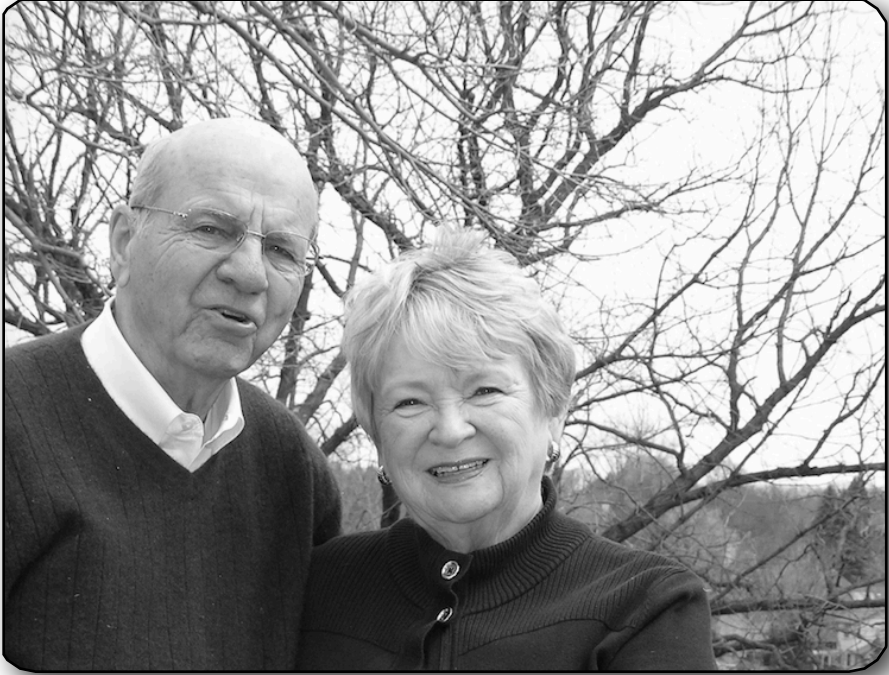
# TOP FILMS OF 1955

- ☐ *Rebel Without a Cause*
- ☐ *The Night of the Hunter*
- ☐ *Smiles of a Summer Night*
- ☐ *Diabolique*
- ☐ *Marty*
- ☐ *Rififi*
- ☐ *Kiss Me Deadly*
- ☐ *Bad Day at Black Rock*
- ☐ *Lola Montès*
- ☐ *East of Eden*
- ☐ *Bob le flambeur*
- ☐ *Ordet*
- ☐ *Picnic*
- ☐ *Summertime*
- ☐ *The Ladykillers*
- ☐ *Richard III*
- ☐ *Guys and Dolls*
- ☐ *All That Heaven Allows*
- ☐ *The Rose Tattoo*
- ☐ *Night and Fog*
- ☐ *The Man with the Golden Arm*
- ☐ *Mister Roberts*
- ☐ *The Blackboard Jungle*
- ☐ *The Trouble with Harry*
- ☐ *Princess Yang Kwei Fei*
- ☐ *To Catch a Thief*
- ☐ *Love Me or Leave Me*
- ☐ *The Man from Laramie*
- ☐ *Oklahoma!*
- ☐ *The Bridges at Toko-Ri*
- ☐ *Lady and the Tramp*



**How many have  
you seen?  
Check them.**





### **Greetings to you all.**

Denny and I will be celebrating our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this year. We are enjoying retirement and love entertaining our friends and family with Scandinavian food and traditions.

This past year we checked our DNA on “ancestry.com” and discovered that Denny is 93% Scandinavian, but I am part Scandinavian, part Western European, and even a bit of Southern Asian.

So now we serve less pickled herring and more escargot, less lutefisk and more sole meunière, less aquavit and more champagne.

Ahh. . . life is good!

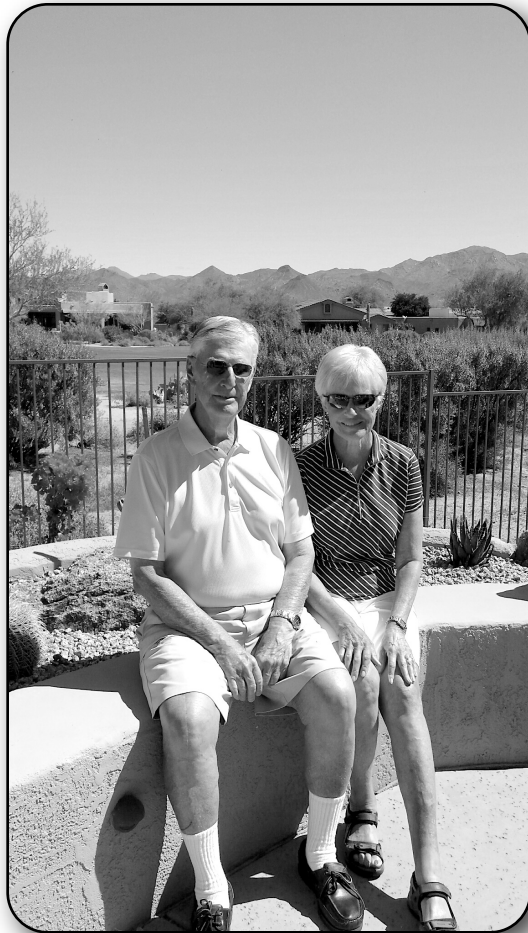
## Marian Meagher Hamilton

Lee and I have been married for twenty-seven years and spend our winters in Arizona and our summers in Minnesota.

Blessed with good health, we are still active and golf year round as well as many other activities including serving on committees in our Arizona community. We also have a lot of family time in the summers in Minnesota.

Our blended families have produced thirteen grandchildren and two greats!

I have such great memories of my high school days and still relish my friendships with our group of "*Foxes*."



We have celebrated every five-year birthday milestone since we were thirty, traveling to Marblehead, Massachusetts, Portland, Oregon, and several resorts in northern Minnesota. We have supported each other over the years through happy times and sad times!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our 60-year reunion!

- Email: [marianhamilton@cox.net](mailto:marianhamilton@cox.net)
- Summer address: 6125 Chasewood Pkwy, #209, Minnetonka, MN 55343
- Phone: 952-944-6611
- Winter address: 18508 E. Picacho Rd., Rio Verde, AZ 85263
- Phone: 480-471-3299





In the spring of my senior year, I went on a blind date with a guy from Edina High School. Three and a half years later at the start of our senior year at the U. of Minnesota, Jerry and I were married. After graduating with a teaching degree, I started my job search. At my first interview at Richfield H.S., the principal said that he would like to hire me, but because I was young and newly married, he knew I would have a family and he would have to find a replacement. That wouldn't happen today! On my second interview at Bloomington H.S., I was hired to teach English and be the Y-teen advisor. But lo and behold, the Richfield principal was right. I got pregnant and had to resign before I even started. No one could "show" and teach back then. Again, that wouldn't happen today. However, after four children and a number of years later, I did substitute teach for three years in the Bloomington school district.

Not particularly enjoying substitute teaching, I decided to become an "Avon Lady." I found that I really enjoyed sales and meeting people. My brother, a realtor, suggested that I should also become a

realtor. So I decided to try it. Thirteen and a half years later, I retired from Burnet Realty. I really enjoyed it, but found I was too busy and didn't have enough time for my family.

Now with our four children married and seven grandkids, I keep busy with their activities.

I also enjoy gardening, walking, reading, scrapbooking, and lot of other activities. I love being active at our church.

Jerry and I will be celebrating our 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall.

I fondly remember my dear friend and sister-in-law, Arlene Cunningham Raitz, who passed away four and a half years ago. She was also a member of the Washburn class of '56.

I'm sorry that a family wedding will keep me from seeing all of you at our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. However, I wish you all good health and happiness in the years ahead.



# Memories

Here are the rules we had to live by:

## GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Washburn High School September 7, 1955

The following regulations are found necessary to carry on school effectively. Both students and parents should know and follow them. Parents are urged to confer with school personnel whenever questions arise.

### ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS

When students arrive in the morning, they should report to home room. A student is tardy after 8:25 - and will be marked absent if not in home room by 8:35, the time at which classes pass. Students arriving after 8:35 should report to the office

### BRINGING CARS AND MOTOR SCOOTERS TO SCHOOL

The rules of the Board of Education prohibit students from bringing cars to school unless permission has been granted by the principal. Parking space for motor scooters and bicycles is available on the school grounds.

### CARE OF PROPERTY

Washburn students and faculty should be proud of our fine building. We have an obligation to protect all parts of the building and grounds. A broken windowpane represents a loss of two dollars of tax money.

Injured lockers, desks, chairs, and other properties soon represent large repair bills. Students must expect to pay for willful or accidental destruction of school property.

### BOOKS

Text books are furnished in all subject departments. Students are expected to be responsible for their return, and must pay for their loss or abuse.

### LOCKERS

Lockers are assigned by number. They are to be used for storing books, lunches and necessary clothing. Money, tickets and other personal valuables should never be left in the locker. Lockers are subject to inspection

at any time and should be kept in a presentable condition. Locks are not required or furnished, but students are advised to provide a lock for locking it at all times. The school exercises care in protecting loss of books, clothing and lunches from lockers but accepts no responsibility for such losses. A student should report promptly losses from his locker or damages to his locker. Injury to the lockers may be charged to the student.

#### LUNCHES

The Board of Education requires that all lunches be eaten in the lunchroom. Students living near the school may secure permission from the office to go home for lunch. Lunches are to be kept in lockers until the proper lunch period, then taken to the lunchroom. Eating lunches between classes and in places other than the lunchroom creates an unsanitary condition in the building and cannot be tolerated. See special bulletin for schedule of lunch periods.

#### LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

No student should leave school during the day for any reason without checking out through the nurse's office or through the main office. Students will save themselves and parents annoyance and delay by complying with this regulation. Any one of several people in the office may be consulted.

If a student goes home regularly at the lunch period and becomes ill while at home, the parent should immediately notify the attendance clerk by telephone that the student is ill, and will not return.

If a student plans to be excused before the end of the day, he should bring a written request signed by a parent.

#### CANCELLED PROGRAMS

Students who do not attend classes or who leave the building without proper arrangements with the office, automatically cancel their programs.

#### SEVENTH HOUR

A seventh hour study hall will be held in Room 314 Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. Students may be assigned to seventh hour for tardiness and non-conformance with school regulations.

### PASSES

Students who have business to transact in the office during school hours should obtain a pass from their class period teacher before coming to the office. Only in an emergency should a student come to the office without a pass.

Students in the halls during class hours should have passes from the teachers or the office. Passes from the study hall (except Library) must be given to the study hall teacher at the beginning of the period.

### LIBRARY

Before using the library, a student must obtain a library pass from the teacher making the assignment. The pass should indicate the kind of assignment and should be presented to the library instead of the regular study hall for the entire period. The library is open before and after school.

### SMOKING

Smoking is primarily a student-parent problem. However, the Board of Education rules prohibit smoking at all times in the school building and on immediate school grounds. Students who violate the smoking rule may expect to have their programs cancelled.

### LOST AND FOUND

Books and articles found in or about the buildings should be turned in to the office at once. Students may inquire in Room 209 at 3 o'clock for lost articles.

### USE OF TELEPHONES

Three trunk telephone lines are kept busy transacting the necessary school business. It is impossible to take and deliver personal messages to students. Parents should restrict such calls to emergencies. Students may use either of two pay telephones that are available.

### ACCIDENTS

In case of an accident at school, the office should be notified. The nurse or someone in the office will give assistance.

### FAILURES

For any one of several reasons, a student may fail one or more subjects. The first step is to recognize the cause. The student should evaluate his own efforts and

confer with the subject teacher. The counselors are available for conference and in unusual cases the visiting teacher and principal are available. Parents are invited to contact the teacher or counselor in case of failure.

#### REPORT CARDS

A report card is issued two times per semester. At the end of the first report period, it is to be taken home, signed by a parent, and returned to the home room teacher.

#### TRESPASSING

Students are to occupy only school property during the school day. We have ample space for all students and no property owners should be subject to students trespassing on yards, walls, walks, or in garages and similar buildings.

#### CLOTHING

School is considered a place for work. In general, play clothes are not conducive to good school work. We expect parents and students to exercise good judgment in the choice of school apparel.

### *Memories. . .*



**Kae Elias Watkins**



I re-married three years ago. Bill and I are blessed with minimal health issues and so are free to travel when we choose.

We live in Florida from October until June and then spend summers at our home in Rhode Island.

We love duplicate bridge, walks by the ocean, golf (Bill), volunteer work, family, friends, and travel.

This year will take us to Aruba, Bermuda, Cape Cod, Washington, D.C., and New York City.

We will not be able to attend the reunion as we will be opening our summer place that week.

My best regards to all classmates.

- Address: 5789 Ferrara Drive, Sarasota, FL 34238
- Cell Phone: 941-350-7483
- Email: colrn81@aol.com





## INSIDE SCOOP

The Fall of 1955 started a new era in Washburn football. We had a new coach and what turned out to be a new beginning. No one on the football team knew what to expect. Was he tough? Knowledgeable? Driven? Enthusiastic? As it turned out, he was all of these things and much more. For years the "cake eaters" were just a mediocre football team. Not really good, but just a run-of-the-mill team — but that was all about to change.

There was no doubt that our new coach, Marv Helling, was in charge and he was determined to make us into an effective, functioning unit. Practices were hard, but we could feel a new excitement growing in all of the players. There were a number of good athletes, but Marv wanted great athletes. He set out to motivate each player to be the best he could be. Pat Sweeney, John Spolum, Gordy Sundin, Bernie Palmer, and the other seniors encouraged the underclassmen to bust their butts and help us develop a team that worked like a well oiled machine. We were proud and took no prisoners and as I recall, we went undefeated in the Minneapolis conference.

We played in the Twin Cities Championship against St. Paul Central. We were big favorites and were supposed to win easily. Our line averaged 200 pounds per man which was great for a high school team. At game time, however, the results were different. We must have spent too much time reading our newspaper clippings. St. Paul Central had a running back by the name of Blackley who was something to be reckoned with. He ran like a deer all through the entire game and when it was

over, we were on the short end of the score. After the game we had a dinner where we broke bread with the opposition. It wasn't fun but I regard the experience as having learned one of life's important lessons.

The Fall of 1956 came and with it came a group of energized football players — John Councilman, Dave Hennessey, and others — we were all in excellent shape and we all shared a great attitude. We also had a chip on our shoulder and were cruising for a fight. We played well all season and again won the city championship.

Because we had played in the Twin Cities Championship Game the previous year another school was allowed to take the Twin Cities challenge. It was sad when our senior year football season came to an end, but many of our various teams were considered to be the best in the Twin Cities.

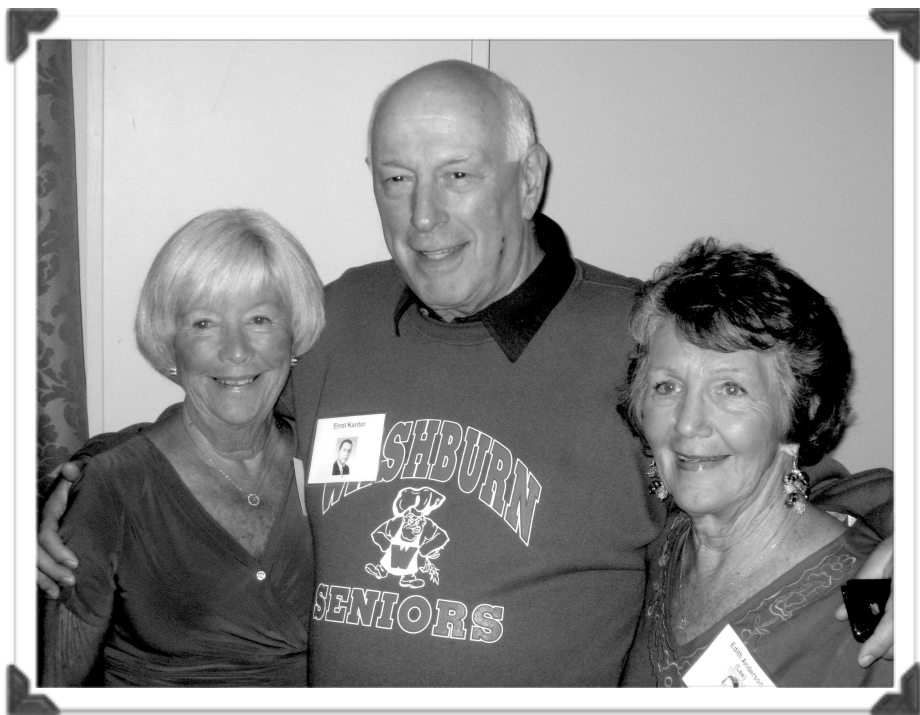
In those two years, Washburn teams won two city football championships, a state baseball championship, we were city champs in wrestling, and we had a State basketball championship.

As I reflect back, it started with the influence of Marv Helling and his passionate attitude. He inspired our attitudes and the effect permeated throughout the entire student body. We were cocky, proud, and enthusiastic. Our heads were held high and this attitude was passed down to the classes that followed us. We felt good and this good feeling was expressed in our pride for good old Washburn High.

*The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm.*

**Aldous Huxley**  
1894-1963



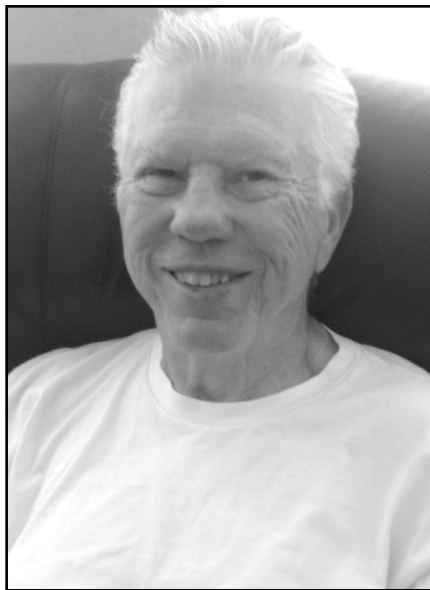


## Eugene Gibson

*By Howard Blitzler*

This is the story of a Washburn High School Dropout. His name is Eugene “Gene” Gibson. You may have known him in grade school or at Ramsey. . . but not so much at Washburn, because after a week (Gene says it might have been ten days) he left to go out into the world to seek his fortune.

He was fifteen years old and believed he had enough education to begin fending for himself. He was hired by a friend, a businessman,



and worked at the job until he was old enough to join the Navy.

So, while most of us were preparing for the Senior Prom, Gene had completed boot camp, received technical training, and was repairing military aircraft and learning the finer points of maintaining fighter jets and other equipment. He later acquired the skills of an Air Traffic Controller, a job he held in the military and also as a civilian.

He met and married Kitty, a woman who had performed professionally in the popular ice skating shows. They had a daughter, Kristie, who has become a prominent attorney, specializing in intellectual property law, and qualified to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. She is also LL. M. Program Director at the University of Oregon School of Law. Gene is very proud of Kristie and her achievements. As for Kristie, she says, “I couldn’t have been blessed with a better father - he’s a gem!”

One of Gene’s passions was to gain recognition for his grandfather, Elmer Eugene Dobbins, a pioneer of the oil industry whose invention of a screen that filtered sand from oil as it gushed from the ground revolutionized the industry. Others have claimed to have invented the screen, but in a book he wrote about his grandfather,



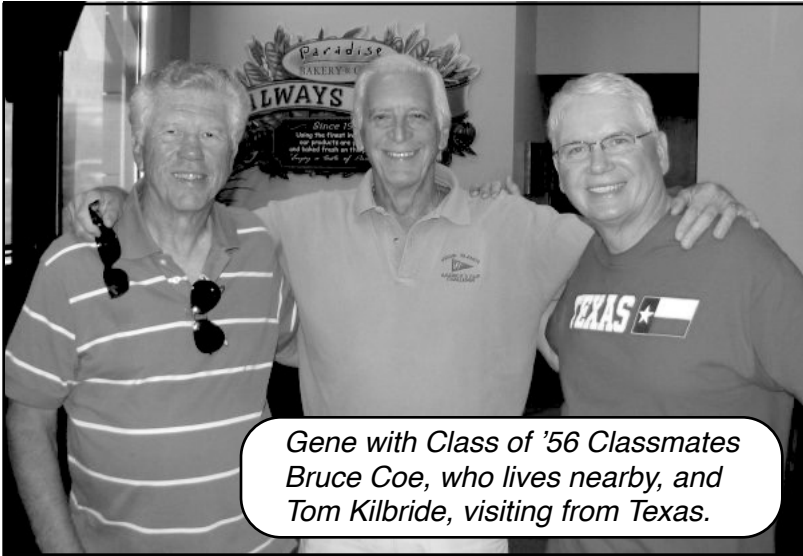
Gene has documented the facts that show the device was his grandfather's innovation.

As an entrepreneur, Gene became owner-operator of a store fixture manufacturing business in Minneapolis. Under his watch and his careful guidance, the business grew from a small enterprise into a manufacturing facility that served numerous clients internationally.

While in the Navy and as an air traffic controller, Gene and Kitty moved from place to place around the country. They eventually settled in Eugene, Oregon when Gene moved his manufacturing business there.



*In the top photo, Gene and Kitty at home. Below, with classmates after breakfast at the Gold Canyon Country Club.*



*Gene with Class of '56 Classmates  
Bruce Coe, who lives nearby, and  
Tom Kilbride, visiting from Texas.*

As the years passed, Kitty's health began to decline. Concerned for her health, Gene bought a spacious and beautiful home in Gold Canyon, Arizona, in the foothills of the Superstition Mountains, where the climate was better suited to Kitty's comfort and well being. His wife and family have always been Gene's number one concern.

Kitty's health continued to fade over several years. Gene cared for her at home by himself as long as he could and then hired professionals to provide care and comfort in a small health care facility, where Gene visited her each day for several years until she passed away.

Gene keeps in touch with many classmates who make their homes in Arizona, either part-time or all of the year. He is active in supporting local businesses and community groups including the Salvation Army, an Annual Holiday Party for the children of Apache Junction, and the Commemorative Air Force Museum in Mesa.

Gene regrets that concerns about his own health and other circumstances have prevented him from participating in this year's reunion, but he will be with us in spirit.

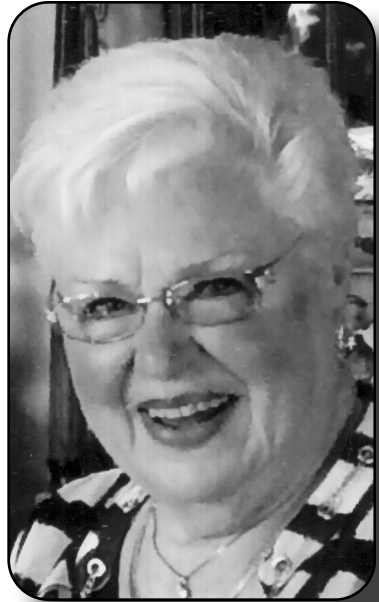
- Address: 8586 Twisted Leaf Drive, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
- Phone: 541-729-2844
- Email: eugenegibson1919@hotmail.com



## Nancy Wissmiller Moland (Wissy)

How amazing is it that we are gathering for our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion, as it seems just a bit ago we were filling the halls of WHS with fun and laughter! Such GREAT memories!

In my twenty-six years here in Portland, Oregon, I have been blessed to have been close to all of my family, to be present at my grandchildren's births, their graduations from high school and college, and all their activities in between! I've also been very happily involved in many activities other than family. I have done a lot of traveling, and have some more places I would like to go when our world settles down some!

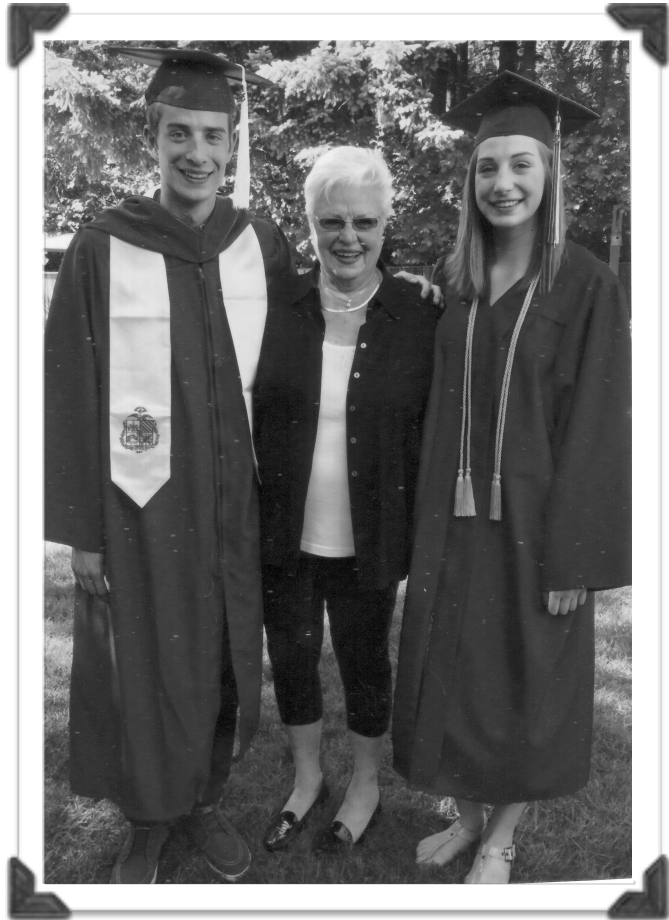


After eight years of selling real estate in Nashville, I began selling again when I moved here and had a career which was kind to me for about twenty-six years.

In addition to real estate, I have been involved in the Garden club (gardener's paradise here, as in England), a book club, frequent bridge games, singing in a wonderful

sixty voice church choir, and embossing stationery (Christmas cards, notecards, and gift tags) among many other miscellaneous things to keep me busy!

Life has treated me well and I am grateful for good health and the ability to keep on enjoying life. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our reunion in June.



- Address: 15455 SW Gleneden Drive, Beaverton, OR 97007

**WHS56.COM**



I moved into a condo in Eden Prairie in 2003, so life is easy.

After working for the Minnesota Vikings for 24 years, I retired without a Super Bowl ring in 2010.

Now I enjoy reading and oil painting.



The day after Christmas I fell and broke my arm. That was not fun.

I have five children, ten grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

I am blessed.

- Address: 8317 Townsend Dr. #107, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
- Email: mwnevers@gmail.com

## Claudine Taylor Coughlin



I became a widow in January 2009. Tom and I had been married for forty-eight wonderful years. It has created a big void in my life.

I have three sons, two daughters-in-law, three granddaughters, and two step great-granddaughters. They range in age from seven to fourteen years of age.

I enjoy attending all of their sporting events. I loved watching my fourteen-year-old, Alison, play on the Burnsville Blaze girls junior varsity hockey team this last winter. She is currently on the Junior Varsity girls golf team too. The other girls play hockey, soccer, and gymnastics – and my nine year old granddaughter has a horse.

I am a three-year survivor of breast cancer. I volunteer at my church in the Mission Outpost which deals with clothing, household items, and food for people in need. I also volunteer once a week in the kindergarten class at the school across the street from my home.

Important things in my life, besides my family, are being a fifty year member of the PEO Sisterhood, being active in Bible studies, and

I love getting together with friends. I am also a hockey fanatic – I love watching the University of Minnesota Men’s Gopher hockey team as well as Minnesota Wild hockey games.

For the past twelve years Nancy Anderson Middleton and her husband Paul have hosted my high school girlfriends and their husbands at their lake place on Cass Lake. We all look forward to spending several days being together. There is lots of game playing, boating, eating, and sharing about our children and grandchildren.

I am on Facebook and I enjoy keeping in touch with classmates and I’m looking forward to seeing lots of classmates at the reunion.



*Nancy Anderson Middleton, Judy Beyer Jenkins, and  
Janice Crouch Dimas Mary Brisbane Sommer and me*

- Address: 2901 East 117th Street, Burnsville, MN 55337
- Phone: 952-890-6727
- Email: [claudinecoughlin@comcast.net](mailto:claudinecoughlin@comcast.net)

## *Memories*



Some people say living in the past was cheaper, but it's all relative to what you earn, which in 1956 averaged \$4,454.00 a year.

Here are a few typical 1956 prices that, perhaps more than anything, show the effects of inflation.

- ★ House: \$22,000
- ★ Ford car: \$1748 – \$3151
- ★ Milk: 97¢ a gallon
- ★ Gas: 23¢ a gallon
- ★ Bread 18¢
- ★ Postage stamp: 3¢
- ★ Chuck Pot Roast: 33¢ a pound
- ★ Spareribs: 39¢ a pound
- ★ Cabbage: 4¢ a pound
- ★ Eggs, 45¢ a dozen
- ★ Coffee: 69¢ a pound.
- ★ Carnation Instant Chocolate Drink, 10oz.: 33¢
- ★ Beer: \$1.20 for a six-pack



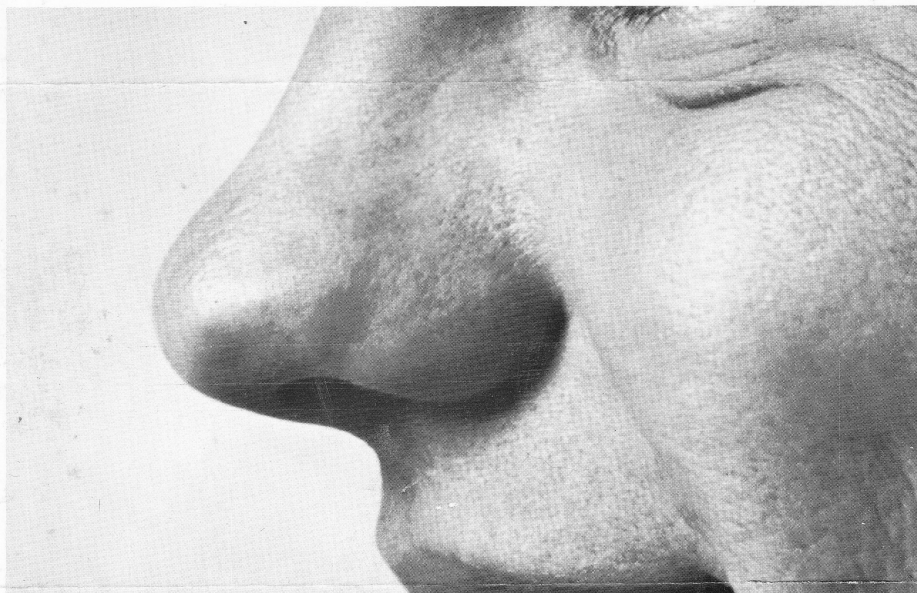


*Hi All!*  
*I have re-retired (from part time position with*  
*financial planning group), re-located (sold house*  
*and bought condo), re-fitted and re-vitalized*  
*(aerobic dance, yoga and Tai Chi).*

*Really!*  
*Love, Steph*



# This is Harold Wahlquist's nose.



His is a nose for business! Harry is new in our Correspondent Bank Department, but he isn't new to banking or to Northwestern. For the past nine years, Harry has worked in several departments and divisions, an excellent background for a full-service correspondent banker.

In his new assignment, Harry is responsible for deposits and loans of all banks in the metropolitan area.

Nice to know you have somebody working for you who keeps his nose to the grindstone, isn't it?

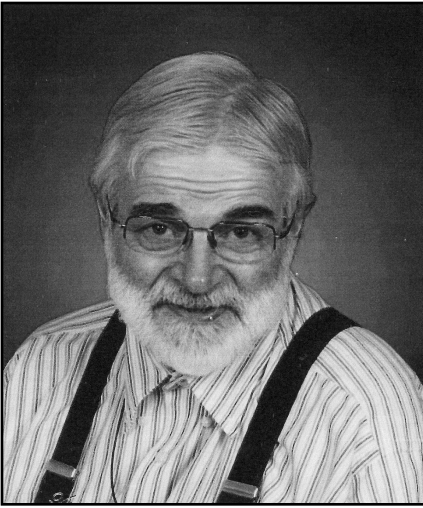


Department of Banks and Bankers

**Northwestern  
National**

**Bank of Minneapolis**

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

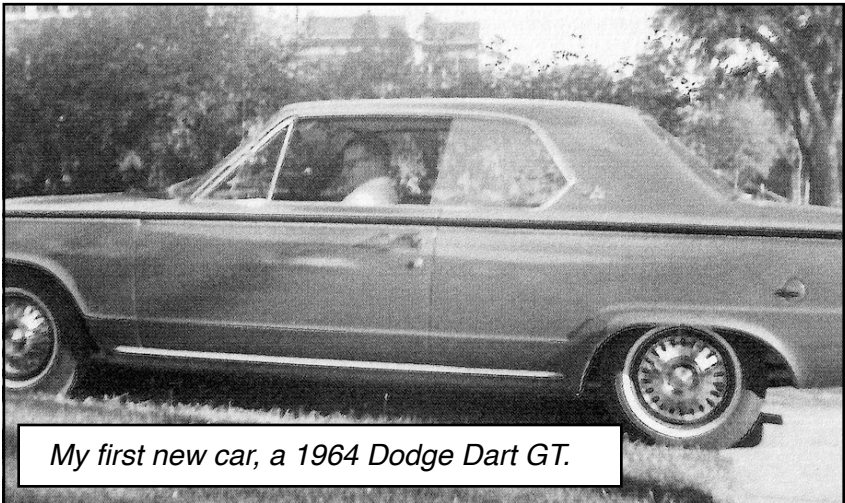


Two or three years ago, or so, I was at my aunt and uncle's gravesite which was located close to where my parents are buried. I looked up the hillside and discovered a marker for John Rachie. Elias Rachie, John's dad, and my parents were good friends. Elias and his wife played cards, cribbage, etc. with my mom and dad. Since my dad passed away in

1945 this was long ago. Almost all of the graves had wreaths and the vases of winter flowers.

I then drove to 36<sup>th</sup> and Bryant Avenue, to a nursery, and bought a vase of winter flowers and placed them next to the Rachie family monument. I was very saddened and felt I had to do something for all of the Rachie family and for John as he was a very special person for anyone who met him.

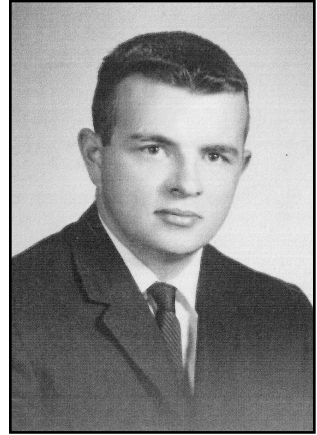
My health is not the best. I have a bad back and need a wheelchair. I will try to get to some of the reunion events but it may depend on whether or not I can get a ride.



*My first new car, a 1964 Dodge Dart GT.*



*A first grade Birthday Party for me. I'm the rather chunky plaid guy – lower-right. In 1944 or 1945*

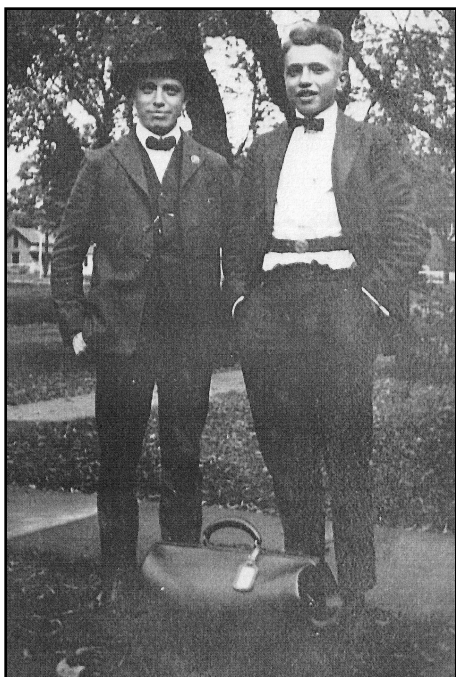


*Graduation from St. Olaf, 1960*



*Bill Franzell and me at his folk's cabin near Cold Spring, Minnesota, about 1970. Bill passed away about three years ago.*

- Address:  
5788 County Road C,  
Webster WI 54893
- Phone: 715-866-4411



*A few old photographs: Above-left, My uncle the left and my dad on the right, in their single years. Dad became a banker, my uncle, a doctor. The photo from the Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin studio is my mother's Swedish father, John Edming. Below is a picture of Lutheran School graduates, 1916. My mother is in the center.*



## Memories



Unlike generations that followed us, television hadn't been a part of our early lives, but by the time you were a teen, you probably had a TV set in your home. . . unless your father was going to wait until they had color and 3-D. In the 1955-56 season, these were the most watched TV shows.

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. The \$64,000 Question     | 16. Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts         |
| 2. I Love Lucy               | 17. The Lineup                             |
| 3. The Ed Sullivan Show      | 18. The Perry Como Show                    |
| 4. Disneyland                | 19. The Honeymooners                       |
| 5. The Jack Benny Show       | 20. The Adventures of Robin Hood           |
| 6. December Bride            | 21. The Life of Riley                      |
| 7. You Bet Your Life         | 22. Climax                                 |
| 8. Dragnet                   | 23. Your Hit Parade                        |
| 9. The Millionaire           | 24. Fireside Theatre                       |
| 10. I've Got a Secret        | 25. Lux Video Theatre                      |
| 11. General Electric Theatre | 26. This Is Your Life                      |
| 12. Private Secretary        | 27. People are Funny                       |
| 13. Ford Theatre             | 28. The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show |
| 14. The Red Skelton Show     | 29. The Chevy Show                         |
| 15. The George Gobel Show    | 30. The Phil Silvers Show                  |

*Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and look back, you'll be able to enjoy it a second time.*

**Dalai Lama**



## Events that occurred during our senior year (September 1955-June 1956)

- ★ The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above \$500 for the first time.
- ★ The Broadway musical "My Fair Lady" opened in New York.
- ★ Pakistan became the first Islamic republic.
- ★ The first episode of "As the World Turns" was broadcast on CBS TV.
- ★ Videotape was first demonstrated by Ampex at the 1956 broadcaster's convention in Chicago.
- ★ American actress Grace Kelly married Rainier III, Prince of Monaco.
- ★ Margaret Truman married Clifton Daniel.
- ★ Heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano retired – undefeated.
- ★ Elvis Presley performed "Hound Dog", on The Milton Berle Show, scandalizing the audience with his suggestive hip movements.
- ★ General Electric/Telechron introduced model 7H241 "The Snooz Alarm," the first snooze alarm clock ever.

*Sometimes when I open my mouth, my  
mother comes out.*

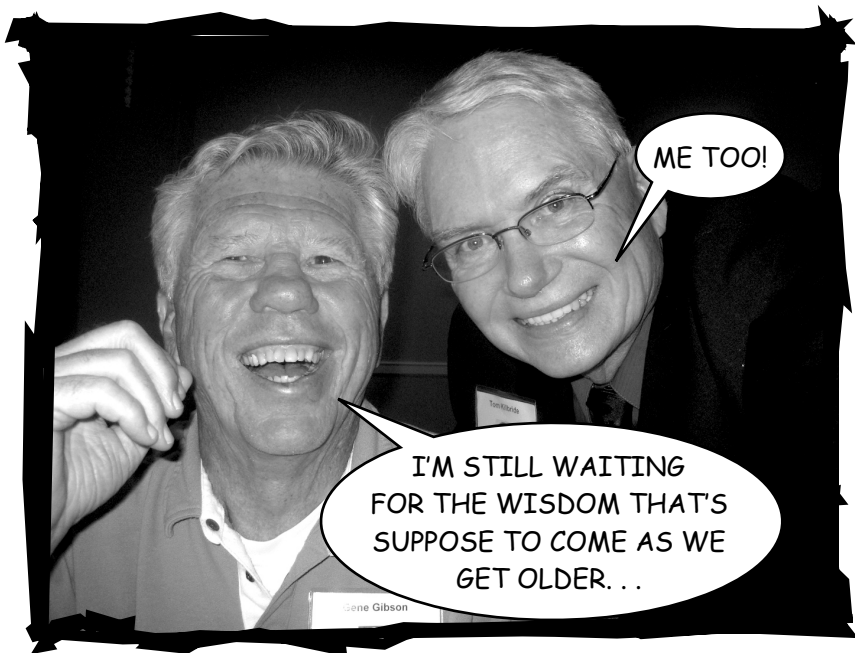
**Anonymous**

## *The Top Records of 1956 – 61-70*

61. Gale Storm, Ivory Tower
62. Joe Valino, Garden of Eden
63. Vince Martin and the Tarriers, Cindy Oh Cindy
64. Otis Williams and the Charms, Ivory Tower
65. Crew Cuts, Angels in the Sky
66. Mitch Miller, Song For a Summer Night
67. Gale Storm, Why Do Fools Fall in Love
68. Gale Storm, Teen Age Prayer
69. McGuire Sisters, Picnic
70. Al Hibbler, After the Lights Go Down Low









# Ernie's



## INSIDE SCOOP

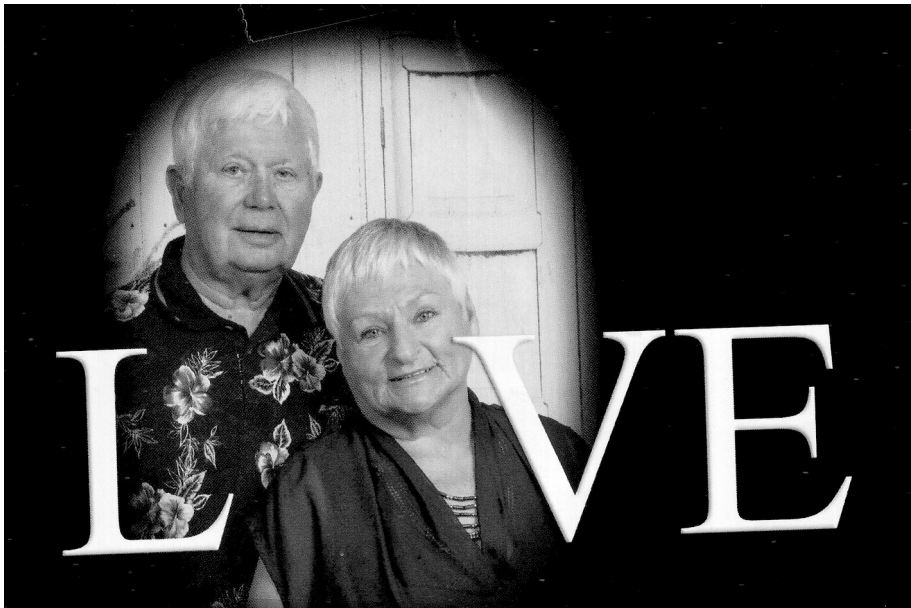
Betty Sachs was in one of the classes I had to take. We were required to memorize poetry. My learning retention was very short and I needed help to successfully recite the required poems. With my great mind, I devised a scheme that would help me as well as some other mentally challenged students. There were aisles between the rows of desks and there was enough room for cue cards. Enter helpful Betty, our cue card girl.

I got several pieces of cardboard upon which I printed in large letters the lines of poetry I was required to recite. They were like billboards that could easily be read, but the teacher could not see them when they were held close to the floor. On behalf of Betty and our fellow students who needed help, I want to take time to personally thank you for helping me pass this class, making me the scholar I am today. I could not have done it without you.

*"We start our sometimes tedious, sometimes exciting, often times sad and stressful march to the grave the moment we're born, so it might as well be a march worth remembering."*

**Donna Lynn Hope**

John Sorenson



*John and his wife Leah*

- Address: 9545 Spillman Lane, Tomahawk, WI 54487
- Phone: 239-994-8220
- Email: [captainstump@hotmail.com](mailto:captainstump@hotmail.com)





After John and I had lived in the same house in Spring Valley, Minnesota, for thirty-six years, we decided it was time to downsize, and so in July of 2006, we moved to a townhome in Rochester, Minnesota. We found a new one, built on a slab with no stairs, and with farm fields behind us. Deer and turkeys are often seen out in the farm fields and sometimes are seen in our backyard. Time goes by fast as we have been in this home for almost ten years now.

Both John and I are still involved in Kiwanis. Once we moved to Rochester, we joined the Rochester Day Makers Kiwanis Club. As members, we keep busy volunteering in the community to better the lives of our local youth and elderly. I served as president of our club during 2014-2015. Two years before becoming president, I was vice-president/membership chairperson and then the next year I was president-elect/program chairperson. Following my presidency, I am now past-president/operations chairperson.

John and I enjoy retirement, but often say, "How did we find time to work?" We stay busy!! We have traveled around Minnesota as well as out of state, spending time with family and friends. We attended some Twins games, took in some plays at Chanhassen, and traveled to Kiwanis meetings, and district and international conventions.



*Granddaughter Abby, Daughter-in-law Shelly, John, Judy, Grandson Aaron, Son Jeffrey*

## *Memories. . .*

*Soft-spoken Washburn math teacher Harvey Jackson was explaining a principle of geometry to the class. He stopped mid-sentence when he saw the expression on Joanie's face as she stared up at him from her desk. "Joanie, he inquired, do you have a question?" She replied, "I was just thinking. . ."* Mr. Jackson said, "Good. Good." – Tom Kilbride

*Daughter-in-law Ginger and Son Jonathan*



- Address: 914 Southern Pine Lane SW, Rochester, MN 55902
- Phone: 507-289-7012
- Cell: 507-696-0829
- Email: judycz38@icloud.com

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*The Top Records of 1956 – 71-80*

71. Patti Page, Mama From the Train
72. Nat King Cole, That's All There Is to That
73. Kit Carson, Band of Gold
74. Tony Martin, Walk Hand in Hand
75. Diamonds, Why Do Fools Fall in Love
76. Perry Como, Juke Box Baby
77. Rusty Draper, Are You Satisfied
78. Jo Stafford, It's Almost Tomorrow
79. Platters, You'll Never Never Know
80. Perry Como, Glendora



*Memories. . .*



*Errol Kantor and Mary Jo  
at the Senior Prom.*

*The closing years of life are like the  
end of a masquerade party, when  
the masks are dropped.*

**Charles  
Schopenhauer  
1788-1860**





In the Class of 1956 Wahian, my stated senior goal was “To be an M.D.” My Physics teacher Harry Pulver turned out to be right when he predicted, in front of the class, that I’d never make it – and in retrospect, I’m glad he was!

Following graduation, I studied four years at Carleton College where I met and married my wife Mabs fifty-six years ago. Upon graduation, I began a banking career that continues to this day, starting at Northwestern Bank in Minneapolis where I learned and practiced the banking business for twenty-three years before resigning my position as a senior officer. I then moved on to other opportunities, not all of them as positive as I would have liked.

In 1985, I underwent open heart surgery, correcting a condition brought on in part by a stressful business period.

Now, in 2016, I am still having fun building and managing Star Bank in Minnesota. In spite of Congress’ attempt to kill the small

banks by producing the Dodd-Frank laws, we have been able to expand the business to ten locations,

I started a bank from scratch in Eden Prairie in 2010 and purchased another bank next door to Annandale, Minnesota in 2012, and I'm considering the acquisition of another property as I write this.

Mabs and I have raised three sons and a daughter and are now the proud grandparents of nine wonderful grandchildren

I feel as though I have been extremely blessed with my family and being my own boss has enabled me to work , play, and volunteer according to my own priorities. Two of our four kids are working with me in management and marketing.

In my spare time, I am still on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross in Minnesota, and I was recently elected Chairman of the Board of the Independent Community Bankers Association in Minnesota by my fellow bankers who represent about 250 banks.

Hunting birds in the fall with my black lab puppy, Samantha, and other outdoor activities, plus lots of family time, fills the calendar—  
Still **NO** desire to retire. . .

• Email: hgwahl@aol.com

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## *The Top Records of 1956 - 81-90*

81. Johnny Cash, I Walk the Line
82. Tony Bennett, Can You Find It in Your Heart
83. Pat Boone, Tutti-Frutti
84. Fontane Sisters, Eddie My Love
85. Don Rondo, Two Different Worlds
86. Jane Powell, True Love
87. Richard Hayman and Jan August, Moritat
88. Nat King Cole, Night Lights
89. Cadillacs, Speedoo
90. Diamonds, The Church Bells May Ring

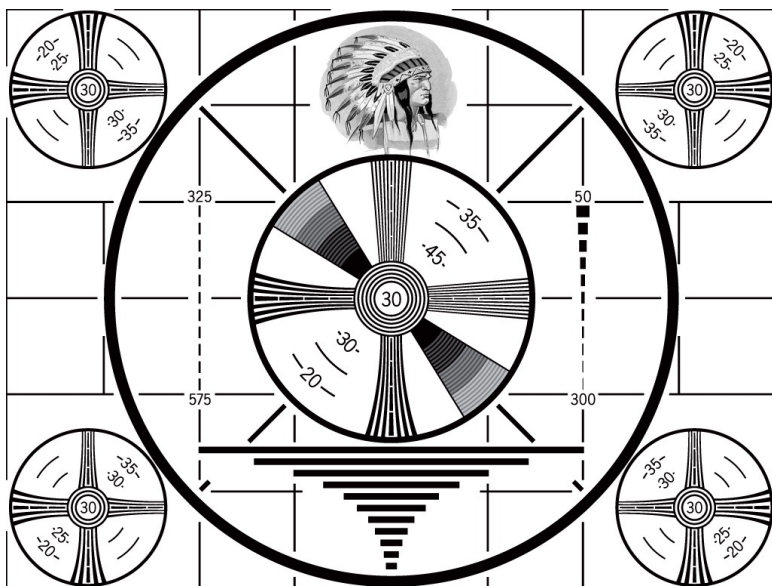




## Events that occurred during our senior year (September 1955-June 1956)

- ★ In Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks refused to obey a bus driver's order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger. Her arrest led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- ★ The American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merge to become the AFL-CIO.
- ★ American cytogeneticist Joe Hin Tjio discovered the correct number of human chromosomes, forty-six.
- ★ General Motors became the first American corporation to make a profit of over one billion dollars in one year.
- ★ The 1956 Winter Olympics were held in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.
- ★ Elvis Presley entered the United States music charts for the first time, with "Heartbreak Hotel."
- ★ Norma Jean Mortenson legally changed her name to Marilyn Monroe.
- ★ Doris Day recorded her most famous song, "Que Sera, Sera" (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)
- ★ Bo Diddley made his television debut on Ed Sullivan's Toast Of The Town show.

## *Memories. . .*





In November 2014, my wife, Mary, and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by going on back-to-back river cruises in France.

We started out in Marseille working our way to Paris on the Saone and Rhone rivers. At Paris we changed to another ship and went up to Normandy on the Seine river.

We spent two days at Normandy and surrounding area. What an experience!, Then we returned to Paris, spending three extra days before returning home here in Florida. We have been doing a lot of traveling since moving to Florida. This France cruise had to be the best of all.

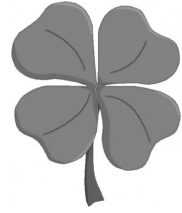
We are both in very good health. We try to keep in good physical condition. We love traveling and most of our trips require lots of physical activity.

Hope we get to talk about other classmates experiences at the reunion.

- Email: [jctmct2@comcast.net](mailto:jctmct2@comcast.net)
- Address: 20513 Queen Alexandra Dr., Leesburg, FL 34748
- Phone: 352-315-0516

“I’m a lucky guy,” was the comment I heard last summer after waking up in the ICU having been stung by over a hundred hornets.

A similar statement was made decades ago when, as a charter member of the Fort Stewart skydiving team, I hit the third floor of the barracks rather than getting tangled up in high tension wires.



As kids we used to jump out of the street car windows before entering the Minnesota State fair to save the price of admission. This was the first year of buses and windows were smaller. I made it safely, however the bus ran over Leroy Siegel’s leg and foot. A bone was sticking through the hole in Leroy’s jeans, but he was concerned about what his parents would say about his torn pants. The EMT said I was a lucky guy.

I think back on those times: Florida trips, pin-setting, paper routes, buying a half-pints of booze at the Edina liquor store with my brother’s ID, working at the Green Giant, newspaper headlines about the tipped over tombstones, and “It was risky, but they got the whiskey.” We did lots of crazy and, I admit, stupid things.

Just last month, my wife Bonnie had to remind me it was our fifty-second wedding anniversary. Years before, our daughter Julie was going through a divorce. She and our two youngest grandkids, Sam and Hannah, have lived with us for almost seven years. This time it has been most rewarding and I’ve discovered the small stuff means the most.

Then, low and behold, our son’s wife announced that she wanted out after twenty-three years of marriage. Our oldest grandkids, Stephanie and Caroline, have both completed their education and are on their own while our son Tom has been living with us for the past year and a half. As you can imagine, life on Chamfers Farm Road is weird and wonderful.

Like I said, “I’m a lucky guy!”

- Address: 15966 Chamfers Farm Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63005
- Phone: 636-532-2015
- Email: [pugh.rt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pugh.rt@sbcglobal.net)



I'm still working as president of Investment Rarities Inc. in Bloomington. You can see our ads on Fox News.

I collect art including Saturday Evening Post cover paintings that depict our era, 1945-1970.

We live in Bearpath in the summer and Boca Grande, Florida in the winter. Our kids are all in Minnesota. Several of them run or manage software companies.

Years ago, we were bringing little kids from Ethiopia to get their hearts fixed. One boy couldn't go back because he had a pacemaker. We adopted him at age eleven. Our reward is two beautiful granddaughters.

If you ever want to tour my private art museum, you are welcome to call Alecia at 952-853-0700.

- Phone: 952-853-0700
- Email: [jcook@investmentrarities.com](mailto:jcook@investmentrarities.com)



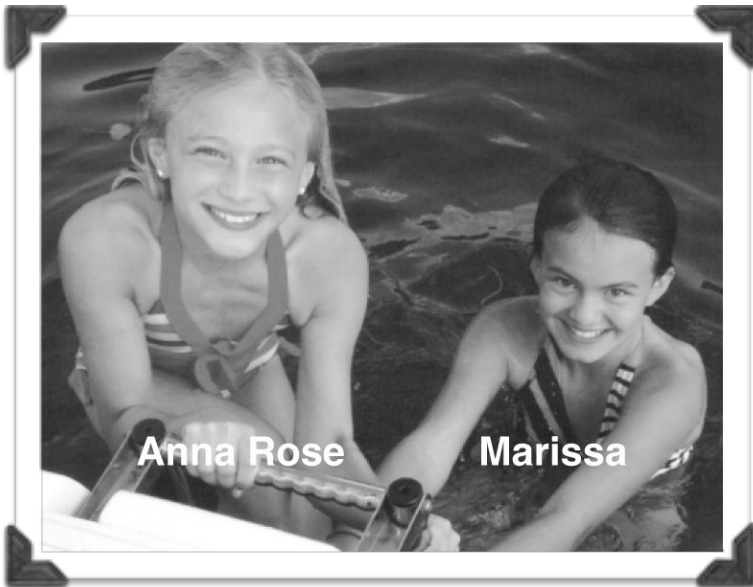


*Jim and Diane Cook with children and grandchildren*

## Diane Mesker Woelm



Little did I know when I graduated that I would end up owning the Flame Bar on 15<sup>th</sup> and Nicollet. We turned it into a media production company which our son Max and another partner now run. He has done well and Jim and I are very proud of him.



We have two granddaughters Marissa, the oldest, shot her second deer last year on a hunting trip with her dad. Max. Anna Rose, the youngest, is into gymnastics.



Max & Nicole's wedding



View from Sam's Hong Kong apartment

Sam, our oldest son, is fluent in Japanese and Chinese. He currently lives in Shanghai where he runs an export company.

In 1997, Sam arranged for us to walk on the Great wall near Beijing. I never thought I would do that!



We are living in Arizona, and loving it. I do volunteering at the church and at the Banner Hospital Rehab center where I am known as the "comfort Lady."

- Address: 10317 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351
- Phone: 612-718-2674
- Email: [diane2greatapes.com](mailto:diane2greatapes.com)

*Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps on learning stays young.*

**Henry Ford**  
1863-1947



Life is good. Still living at the lake and loving it.

With me in the picture is my granddaughter Elise Einhorn.

I have two sons and three grandchildren. The boys are here almost every weekend to help with yard work, etc.

Between them they have five labradors and I have one, so it gets pretty lively around here.

I treasure my Washburn friends. They are like an extended family.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion!

- Address: 2241 Big Deep Lake Drive NW,  
Hackensack, MN 56452
- Phone: 218-682-2690



## Jon Westlake



While attending the U of M, in the summers, I worked for Cargill in San Francisco. After graduating from the U, I worked for a Landscape Consulting Firm.

From there, I began my career working for Municipal and County Governments in the metro area, managing the planning, inspection, and environmental health division.

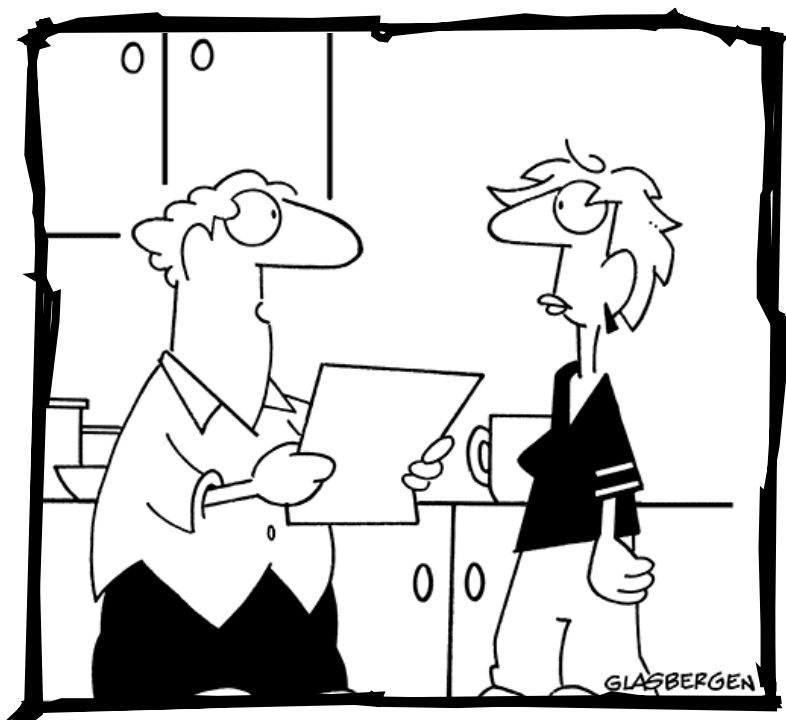
Some of the significant projects I was involved in, were Metro Interstate 394, Establishment of Water Shed Districts, Metro 911 System, Bloomington Ferry Bridge, and Canterbury-Downs Race Track.

I also served as an advisor to various boards and commissions such as the Soil And Water Conservation District, three River Park Districts, Orderly Annexation Areas, and assisted elected officials, etc.

After retiring, for a short period of time, I consulted on Environmental Projects and sold commercial real estate.

My wife Marianne and I lived in Edina for a number of years. We now enjoy summers in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. and winters in Fountain Hills, Arizona.

- Email: [jmwestlake9@gmail.com](mailto:jmwestlake9@gmail.com)
- Address: 915 Pembina Trail, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- Phone: 952-826-9539



*I feel kind of weird about going to the class reunion.  
There are 40 pounds of me never went to that school.*

## *The Top Records of 1956 - 91-100*

91. Peggy Lee, Mr. Wonderful
92. Fats Domino, My Blue Heaven
93. Clyde McPhatter, Treasure of Love
94. Eileen Rodgers, Miracle of Love
95. Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers, I Want You to Be My Girl
96. Lawrence Welk, Tonight You Belong to Me
97. Chordettes, Lay Down Your Arms
98. Richard Maltby, Theme From the Man with the Golden Arm
99. Teresa Brewer, Bo Weevil
100. Blue Stars of France, Lullaby of Birdland





## Patti Carlson Francis

In the last ten years, I managed to start a little company called Racquette River Designs. My products consist of quilted purses (similar to Vera Bradley purses), aprons, microwave bowl cozies and other cotton items, all made by me using quilters high quality cotton material.

I have four grandchildren. The oldest girl, Lauren, is a graphic artist of tee shirt designs and works in New York City. The oldest and only boy, Tyler, is a senior next fall at Cal-Poly Tech in California. His sister, Rachel, is graduating from high school this spring and entering the University of Arizona in

the fall. Their sister, Hannah, will be a junior in high school next fall. These three grandkids live in Danville, California.

My youngest son, Jeff, remarried about six years ago – to his high school sweetheart. They currently live in Woodstock, New York. My other, older son, Chris, and his wife, Leah, live in Danville, California and Chris is employed by IBM.

I have two step-daughters, Stephanie (Spanish teacher) and Alison (Children's Librarian), who live in the Hudson Valley, New York.

Lee and I are now spending winters in Gulf Shores, Alabama – the best-kept secret vacation getaway for snowbirds, all 12,000 of them.



Gulf Shores has **EVERYTHING** you could ask for as far as restaurants, entertainment, culture activities, etc. plus great fishing and sporting events, such as tennis and golf, etc. We sold our place in Tucson, last spring.

I continue to sing with my barbershop, a cappella chorus in Sweet Adelines; something I have been doing since the 70s. As long as I don't sound like a frog, I will continue to sing in S.A.'s.

We are blessed with fairly good health and able to do the activities we love to do.

We are looking forward to seeing all of my classmates from the 1956 graduating class.

- Address: P.O. Box 114, Hannawa Falls, NY 13647
- Phone: 315-244-0814
- Email: lpfrancis2001@yahoo.com

*Ernie's*



## INSIDE SCOOP

The drive-in on 58th and Lyndale was a great hangout. A guy by the name of Trolson owned the establishment. It was all he could do to maintain order in the evening. You met friends, fell in love, got dumped, and ate greasy food at the Lyndale Drive-in. The girls played hard to get and the guys tried to show their best plumage. Bobby Anderson worked there and we always got "extra nourishment" when he was on duty. If you had a convertible you made sure the top was down so you could see and be seen. Mr. Trolson was constantly roaming the parking lot, looking for troublemakers, and kicking them out.

## Frances Wolff Bateman

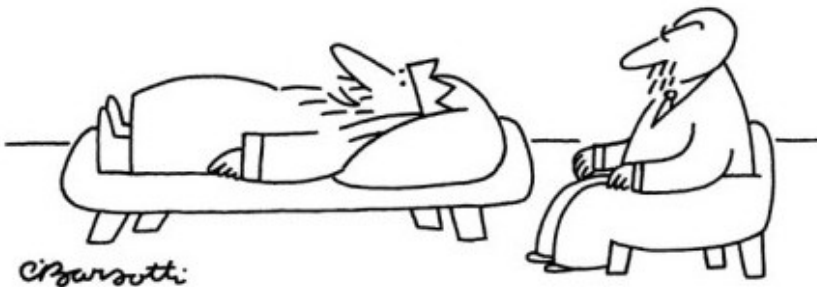


My husband, Bob and I have been married for fifty-four years. We have lived in LaCrosse, Wisconsin for forty-five years.

Since we retired from teaching we have spent our winters in Ft. Myers, Florida. We have been fortunate to have our three children and grandchildren visit us here also.

Sorry, we can't make the reunion, but give all the classmates our best!

- Email: [rb2210@aol.com](mailto:rb2210@aol.com)



*"My high-school reunion went very well, thank you."*

In 2006, I was facing a grim medical diagnosis. The happy news is that it turned out to be wrong.

Life is good. I have a daughter and grandsons living in Minneapolis, and a son in upstate New York. I have seven grandchildren, six grandsons, and one granddaughter – and three great-granddaughters in Colorado.

I do some traveling, eat out as often as possible, dabble at rosemaling, read, and am active in some outreach programs at my church in Robbinsdale.

I'm amazed and grateful to be here.



## *Dabbling at Rosemaling*

- Address: 5275 Grandview Square, 3107, Minneapolis, MN 55436
- Phone: 952-922-2062
- Email: [Karen.dahlen@comcast.net](mailto:Karen.dahlen@comcast.net)

*We grow neither better or worse as we get old. . . but more like ourselves.*

May L. Becker

## Ruth Hortelius Sidhom

What's happened since 2011? Well in 2011 after the reunion, I moved to Ohio to live with a dear friend. He subsequently passed away from cancer in 2014. So then I moved back to Minneapolis to live with my oldest son, David.

There have been some encounters with the medical community along the way – a stent in a coronary artery plus open-heart surgery to correct a floppy mitral valve.

But the biggest happening was the marriage of my son Sam to the lovely Emily in 2013 followed by the birth of my first grandchild Maxwell Daniel Sidhom in late 2014.

Life has been interesting and wonderful. My warmest good wishes go out to all my remaining classmates.

- Email: [sidhomrs@hotmail.com](mailto:sidhomrs@hotmail.com)



*Here is the light of my life, Max on his Dad's shoulders and standing (somewhat defiantly) by himself.*



*The wedding photo with (from right to left) my oldest son David, me, Sam, Emily, my daughter Amira and her companion Lance.*





## Nancy Bradford Harrer



*Dave, Maggie, and Me.*

Since our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion... there have been few changes. . . other than the aging process... I am riding my bike, doing some travel, and working at selling Irish pennies.

We enjoy our three grandchildren and this fall, our son Tim will be inducted into the University of Minnesota Athletic Hall of Fame for hockey.

So life is good.

- Address: 2201 Dixon Dr., Bloomington, MN 55431
- Phone: 952-888-3677

*The love we have in our youth is  
superficial compared to the love  
an old man has for his wife.*

**Will Durant  
1885-1982**



Life is good as a retired and single person. My doctor husband and I were divorced in 1994.

I took up international travel, and experienced many wonderful trips to faraway places. I also enjoy golfing, playing bridge, lunching with my friends, and attending Bible studies.

My one and only grandchild is a very active six-year-old girl, who lives close to me. I enjoy spending time with her.

I have spent my summers for the last twenty-two years in Frisco, Colorado (9,100 feet) at my mountain house. I sold it in 2015.

In January 2016 I had knee replacement surgery, so have been recuperating since then.

Now I may settle down unless someone temps me to go somewhere.

The last reunion that I attended was the 20<sup>th</sup> so I am looking forward to our 60<sup>th</sup>.

## Lois Johnson Cooper

- ★ 2011 - Joined St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville as a recent widow.
  - ★ 2012 - Birth of seventh grandchild.
  - ★ 2013 - Began staff position as piano accompanist for two children's choirs at St. Michael's.
  - ★ 2014 - Temporarily joined St. Michael's adult choir and their trip to Switzerland and Italy and participated in performing concerts in five churches including St. Mark's in Venice.
  - ★ 2015 - Temporarily rejoined the choir to perform the Faure "Requiem" with orchestra on All Saints' Day.
  - ★ 2016 - Looking forward to upcoming trip to Philadelphia to attend my granddaughter's college graduation. All three of my children will be there.
- Address: 485 Southhill Drive, Roseville, Minnesota 55113
  - Phone: 651-765-1793
  - Email: C5P15R@msn.com



*Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy person has no time to form.*

**Andre Maurois**

### *Memories. . .*

██████████ told me her mother always said the quickest way to a boy's heart is through his stomach. . . but one night, down at Lake Harriet, near the Rose Gardens, she says she discovered a shortcut. –



What has my life been like since our previous reunion in 2011? I spend time with my two sons, Jamie & Mike and their families. I have two grandkids, granddaughter Zoe, eleven, and grandson Max, fifteen, in Shorewood (suburb of Milwaukee).

I am on the Board of the Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games and am in charge of the British Car & Motorcycle Display at the Games. (You should come to the Games held at the Faithful Shepherd Catholic School grounds in Eagan on July 9<sup>th</sup> this year.) I sing in the Mount Olivet Lutheran Church Senior Choir (They haven't



kicked me out yet.) I have three old British right hand drive cars and enjoy taking them to various vintage car events.

I enjoy maintaining the information on my website, [www.LutfiskLoversLifeline.com](http://www.LutfiskLoversLifeline.com), about where to go to have a lutfisk dinner, as well as actually eating the lutfisk myself. However, I have slowed down on my lutfisk eating in recent years. I had lutfisk only twelve times this past season. A few years ago, it was thirty dinners in a season.



I have decided to go back to work and do something useful. I have just completed the training to be a Metro Mobility (paratransit) driver. By the time that you read this, I will have been driving for about a month. I had no idea that it was so involved when I started. I find it quite satisfying helping folks expand their universe. Besides, I will have a lot of knowledge about how it works if I become a client myself in the future.

Finding relatives has always been a big thing with this only child. In recent years I have connected with a ton of second cousins on my mother's side, and am enjoying doing things with them while not being upset about all the years we missed. But my dad's side was always a mystery. My dad had only one brother and he was childless. My grandfather Harris came from Ottawa of Scottish parents. He had a brother, Alexander Harris, who "stayed in the East" and the family lost track of him. I'll make a long story short (tough for me to do). I found what looked like my family tree in Ancestry.com. It turned out to be my second cousin, Jim Harris, the grandson of Alexander. He is two years older than I am. I travelled to their home in Barrie, Ontario.

two summers ago and met what felt like a long lost brother. I had a great time meeting his family. We spent three days in Ottawa looking up our common heritage. We really confused the Ottawans who met the two Jim Harris.



Relatives aren't the only people with whom I enjoy connecting. I'm very much looking forward to re-connecting with you, my former classmates, this June.

- 13607 Harwell Ct., Apple Valley, MN 55124 USA
- Email: [Harris-EDI@usa.net](mailto:Harris-EDI@usa.net)
- Phone: 952-891-8176
- Cell: 612-803-5530
- Lutfisk: [Info@LutfiskLoversLifeline.com](mailto:Info@LutfiskLoversLifeline.com)
- Scottish Fair: [JHarris@MNScottishFair.org](mailto:JHarris@MNScottishFair.org)

*A man knows when he is growing old  
because he begins to look like his father.*

**Gabriel Garcia Marquez**





### **CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '56 – WELL DONE!**

Mona and I have been retired since 2002 and enjoy every moment of it – exclusive of several stops at Methodist Hospital for a couple of repair jobs.

Our travels have taken us from the East Coast to the West Coast visiting family and friends, weddings, fishing whenever, meeting new friends, and some funerals along the way.

We purchased a home in a 55+ mobile home park near McAllen, Texas, close to the border and the Rio Grande River. We love the community and all the activities, i.e. woodworking, quilting, and lots of entertainment in the Las Vegas-style shows. I'm not sure we could handle the Summer heat in Texas (100° – 120°) so we're back in Minnesota for the summer.

Our children are great! Vicki is a director at Allina Hospitals, and Linda continues her rehab from her riding accident.

The Grandkids are spread across the U.S. from California to Anchorage, Plymouth, and Rochester, which gives us the incentive to stay active and keep the wheels turning. AND we now have five great-grandchildren!

- Address: 15709 Maple Island Court, Burnsville, MN 55306
- Phone: 952-892-0196

*I never thought I'd reach 21. I used to feel that was old, but growing old doesn't scare me anymore. I just want to have done something super special and have had someone to do it with.*

**Edward Furlong**



**WHS56.COM**

## Raleigh Kane Kent

### *Life after WHS:*

I received my BS in nursing from the U of M, and worked as a pediatric nurse in New York City and Washington DC until marrying and returning to Minneapolis.

My husband, Paul Kent, and I had three children, and I was widowed while the kids were young. My two sons, Benj and Josh, now live in Minneapolis, with kids of their own, and my daughter, Anna, has lived with her husband and six kids in Israel for twenty-three years.

As the kids left home, I did foster care for teens for a number of years. Since then have done volunteer work with The Minneapolis Crisis Nursery; STEP, our local food shelf; Shalom Hospice; The Mental Health Education Project, Alzheimer Task Force, and currently most time is given to overnights and other work with St. Stephen's Shelter, for homeless men, in Minneapolis. Full, good, very special days....no complaints for all these seventy-seven years!

Great respect, gratitude, and fondest memories of Ms. Kathleen Dowling, our homeroom and Common Learnings teacher, for three years. From a ragged bunch, she saw us off to better futures!

My very sorry performance in Phys-Ed. and G.A.A., where Sue Nyvall and many others excelled...it seems those skills skip a generation, as my sons are over-achievers in soccer, biking, running, skiing, and other such endeavors, all foreign to me.

Always remember The Law of the Human Jungle: Remain Calm, and Share Your Bananas.

- Email: [raleigh.kent@yahoo.com](mailto:raleigh.kent@yahoo.com)



My husband Lanny and I no longer go on long trips but do enjoy riding around our local area because the scenery is so beautiful here in the Stillwater area.

Our wonderful family and very biblical church are among numerous blessings to us from the Lord.

I regret being unable to attend our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Washburn class of 1956 but send best wishes to all of our classmates.



- Address: 2860 Icerose Ln., Stillwater, MN 55082
- Phone: 651-439-9087



## Marge Heath Axell

I usually get away for part of the Minnesota winter months to vacation at some of the islands in Hawaii, at The Villages in Florida, and in Sun City, Arizona.

I am still working part-time at Macy's when I am home and keep busy with my two children, Sheryl and Scott and their family functions, weddings, graduations from high school and colleges, and family reunions.

In the summer months I go to my daughter's cabin near Hayward, Wisconsin, Also, spend a lot of time outside enjoying the nice weather. It's a great place.

See you soon !



- Address: 16230 49th Place North, Plymouth, MN 55426
- Phone: 763-559-1998



## Q & A

What would you advise your classmates if you could go back to MacQuarrie Field, sixty years ago, and give the graduation address?

I would tell them about the future.

For example, I would say that I have in my pocket a device that gives me access to all of the known information in the entire world – and I use it for looking at pictures of cats and arguing with people I don't know.

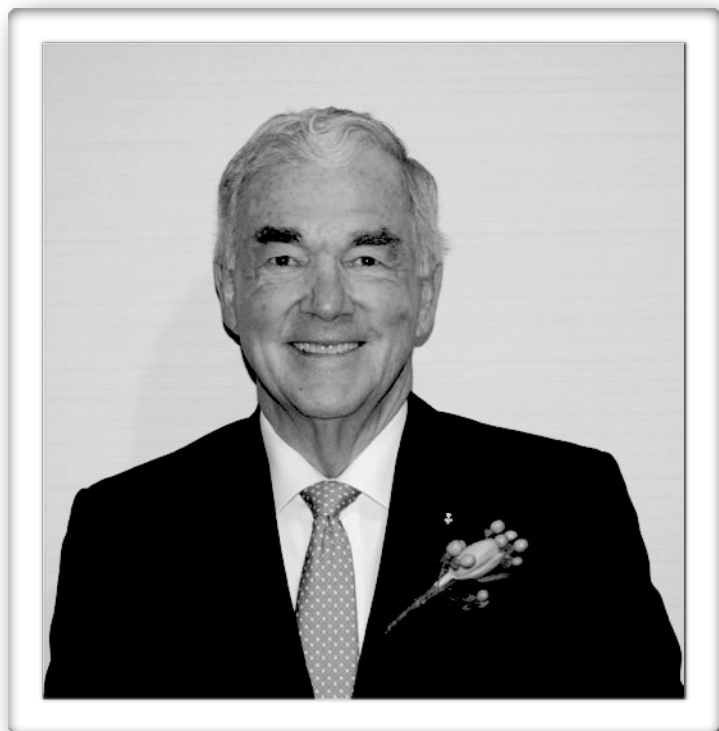
Anything else?

Yes, I'd tell them, "Buy low – Sell high."

*The other day a man asked me what I thought was the best time of life. "Why" I answered without a thought, "NOW."*

**David Grayson**

## Jim Lentz



Deanne (Chadwick) and I have been married for fifty-three years. We have both enjoyed successful careers in real estate and I am still running an international packaging company.

We have three married children and six grandsons (two now in college) all living in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

We spend our time in Winston, and at a beach home we have in Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

Quality time is devoted to feeding the hungry and poor in the Southeast, in a weekly federal prison ministry for hispanic inmates and internationally with the *Order of Malta* defending the faith and caring for the hungry and poor.

- Address: 195 Shamrock Tr. Rd., Lewisville, NC 27023
- Cell: 336-945-2223
- Phone: 336-945-2223
- Email: [jlentz@triad.rr.com](mailto:jlentz@triad.rr.com)





*A photo taken Mother's Day at an Anchorage middle school, above the gym on a track as we walked a mile before church.*

### ***Do One Thing Every Day That Scares You***

I think that's why we chose to stay in Alaska – we arrived here over twenty years ago with me working as a pilot for Northwest Airlines. I started working for NWA July 5<sup>th</sup> 1966 and retired September 13<sup>th</sup> 1998 after thirty-two years.

In addition, and concurrent with flying, my wife and I ran a cash grain farming operation situated between Mound and St. Bonifacius Minnesota. However, heading back there after retirement to continue the operation just didn't seem to have the same cachet it once did. Somehow, farming was just not fun anymore as the dismal farm economy was taking a huge toll on the whole sector and especially on many of our farm friends.

Moose, caribou and bear hunting along with assistant guiding, salmon fishing, hiking, exploring in general, and entertaining friends and relatives seemed to make more sense than picking rocks in a farm field. Seemed we should just stay in Alaska.

We eventually sold our Hennepin County farm in 2011 to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District but still own farmland in Chippewa County north of Montevideo. Being a landlord and owning shares in an Ethanol Coop near Winthrop, also helps to keep our head in the game. We also sold our cabin near Carlton. Presently we're mustering enthusiasm to build a cabin two hours north of Anchorage on the Kashwitna River just south of Talkeetna. We have a 2006 Chevy pickup truck and camper and a side-by-side 4-wheeler and snow machine which are replacing our Minnesota Harley.

This reminds me: during my senior year, the Washburn choir teacher literally "kicked" me out of choir one day when he made us close our song books for some perceived affront and I said "good" – it felt like a size fourteen!

My wife Janice has three children and eight grandchildren and one great grandchild and I have three children and eight grandchildren – all from both families feel they are indeed exceptional. The oldest of our sixteen grandkids is twenty-nine and our youngest is eight. Six have graduated from college and by next fall, three more will be in college with more to go.

Here's more scary stuff – losing weight, exercise, quality of life and end of life planning, which brings up Errol – while occasionally staying at our Edina condo we cautiously try his latest culinary recommendations. In addition, please ask us about Friendship Village of Bloomington ... just looking ahead – you understand.

Guided a friend from Portland on his first Alaska bow and arrow Bull Moose hunt last fall. Done!

Went to Nathan Hale and Ramsey Junior High and had a paper route with Jack Westlake – a big major plus in my life. Also, through the Boy Scouts of Hale School, for many years in the early '50s we ushered University of Minnesota Football, Basketball and Hockey games. With the same Troop, I went along on two 10-day, 100 mile canoe trips into the Superior and Quetico areas of the US and Canada.

And then this: I represented my homeroom in the Ramsey school wide yo-yo contest and at the last moment the winner in my homeroom didn't show up so now I'm on stage at the Auditorium in front of the whole school – I completely froze and couldn't even “walk the doggie”??? It hasn't gotten much better!

I think I was firmly entrenched in the bottom third of our class but that didn't keep me from trying to help the Class Play people – someone came around to classrooms asking for props. Jim Cook, Dave Brude, and I were Bus Boys at the Edina Country Club so I volunteered to bring a needed empty Champagne bottle. They never picked it up and during a school locker inspection, when I was absent, the bottle was still there and I was permanently expelled from school.

Constantly parking my green '51 Plymouth in the teacher's parking lot didn't help much either. It took weeks to get back into school and this all precariously close to graduation.

Finally, I weaseled my way back into school by depositing parking-fees into the Red Cross jar of Frank Janes.

I taught secondary math for a year at Forest Lake, Minnesota and two years at Penn Junior High in Bloomington. Almost funny!

We have had our 1929 Model A pickup truck mechanically restored and left the body original – it's mainly to show the grandchildren a thing or two.

Joined the Army Reserve November of 1956 and left for six months active duty Basic Training at Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri and next to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina for Advanced Basic in Heavy Weapons and then seven and a half years in the Active Reserve back in Minnesota one weekend a month and two weeks of summer camp at Fort McCoy near Sparta, Wisconsin.

Recently, I was fortunate to serve on the Medafor Inc. Board of Directors which exited in a sale of our hemostat to CR Bard, Inc. and I currently serve as an Outside Director for another series of medical devices in product development and a medically related product in development.

Did I mention the St. Cloud State College Flying Club or my grandparents taking my sister and me to the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota about 1951? Later in June we will attend our Indian



Wars History group in Hardin, Montana. – we spend a day in class and a day touring part of Indian War battle areas.

We attend the First Covenant Church in Anchorage as many Alaskan Natives call this their worship home.

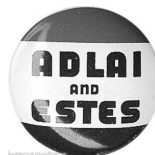
Blessings and good health to all. – Bob

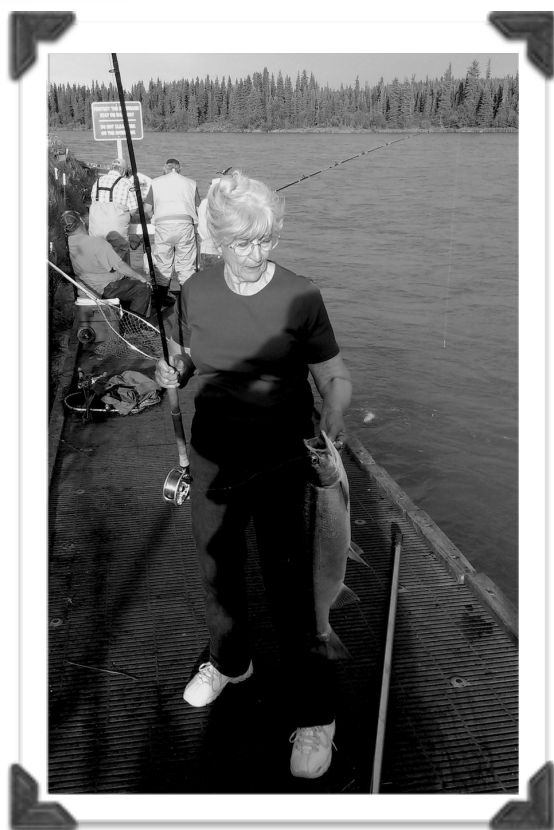
- Bob's Cell: 907.227.7076
- Jan's Cell: 612.747.8125
- Email: [rhalvr@aol.com](mailto:rhalvr@aol.com)
- AK Address: 1371 Hillcrest Dr., Unit 303, Anchorage AK 99503
- MN Address: 5501 Village Dr., Unit 301, Edina MN 55439

## *Memories. . .*

*If the law had been then as it is now, most of us would have been able to vote in the 1956 election.*

*Who would have gotten your vote, President Dwight Eisenhower and V.P. Richard Nixon or Challengers Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver?*

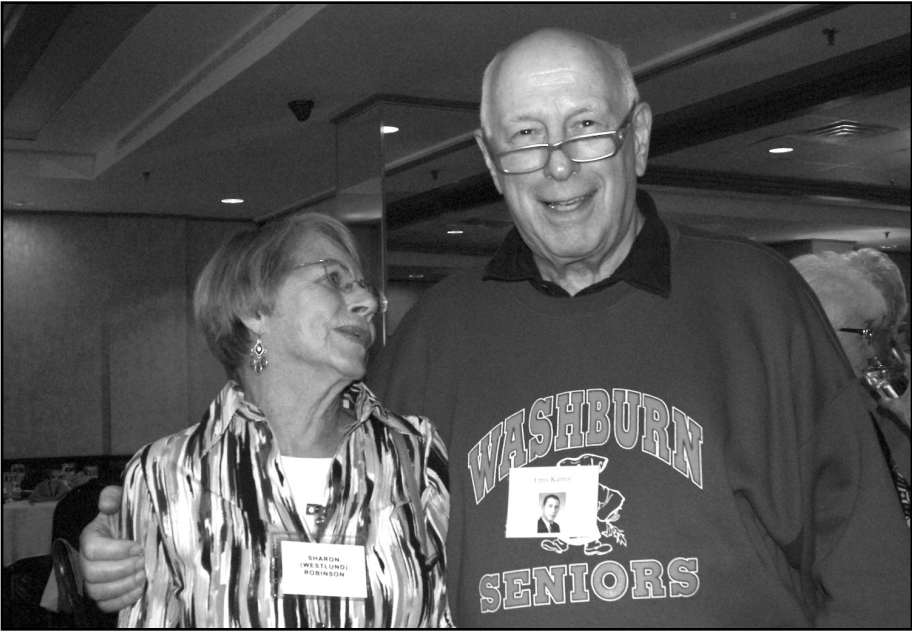




# 2016 Reunion Photos

## Benjamin Kantor Photos



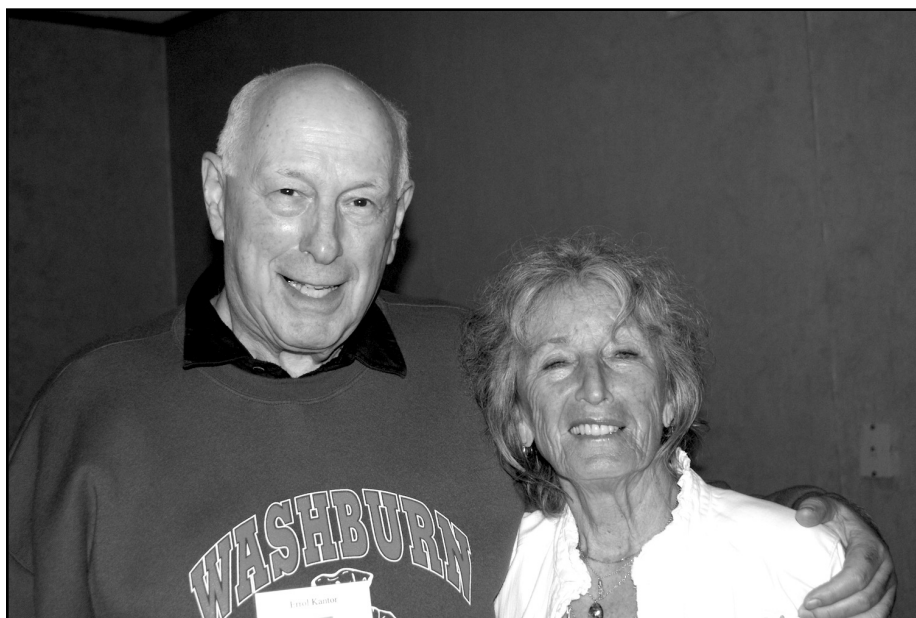




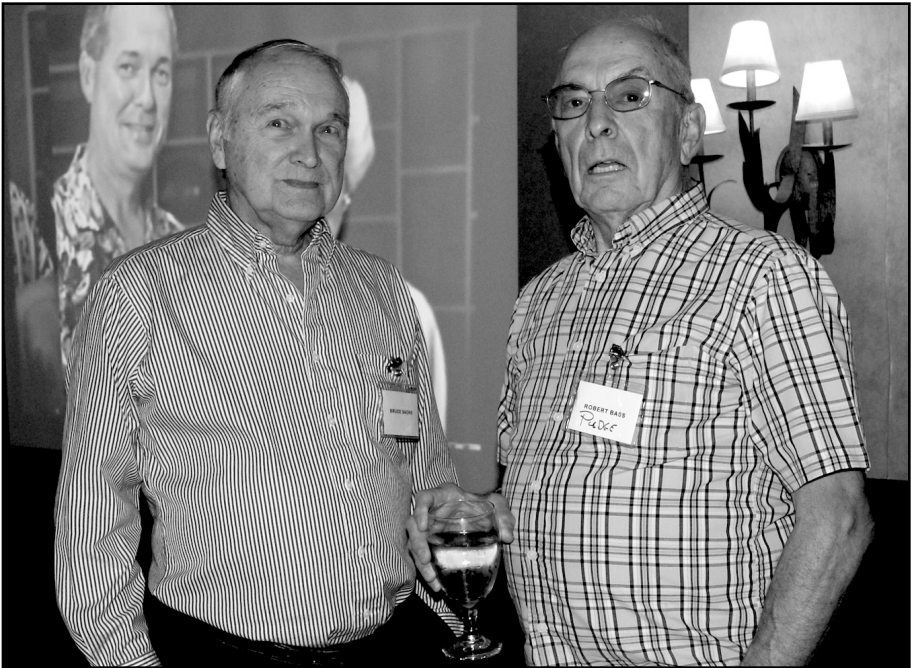








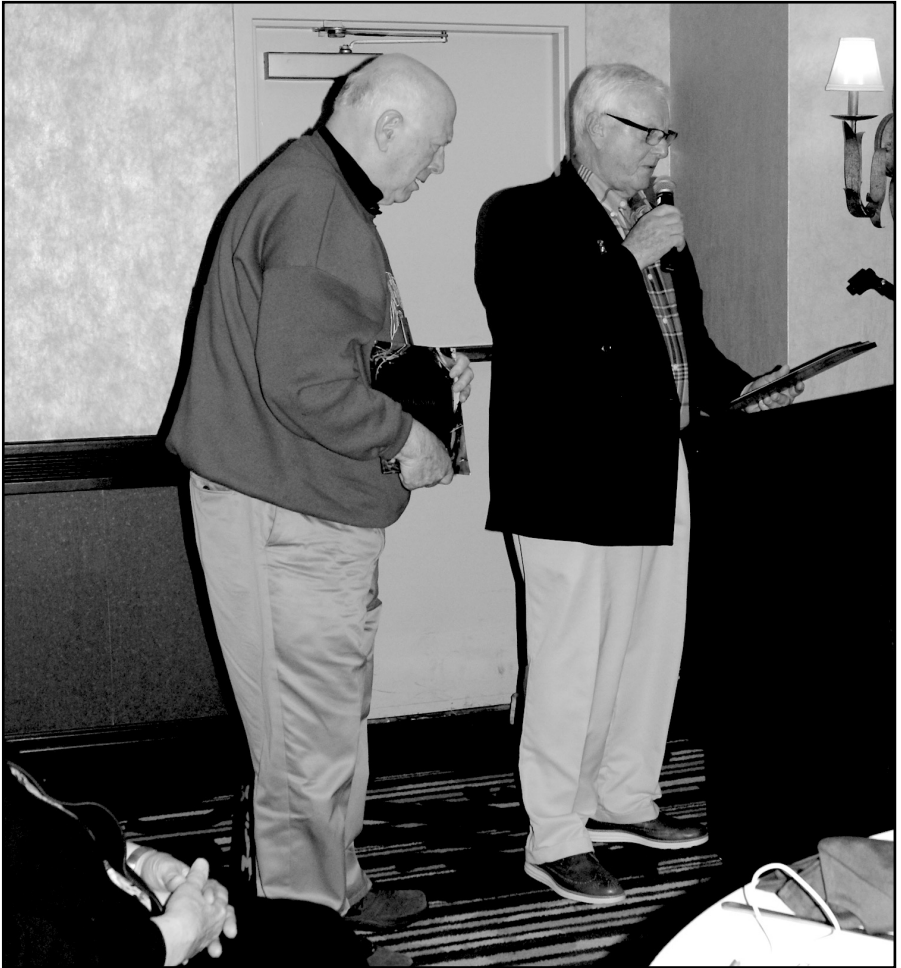
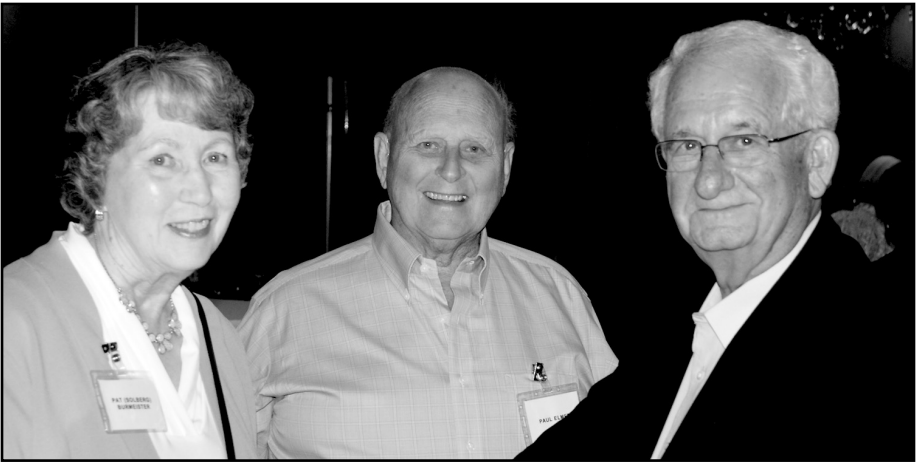












Tom Kilbride Photos





**McDONALD'S**

**All American—45c**

Hamburger — French Fries — Shake

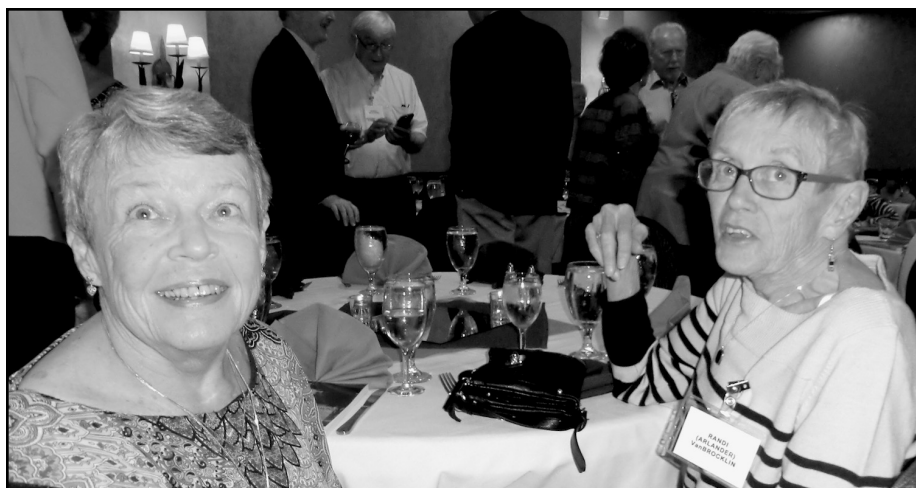
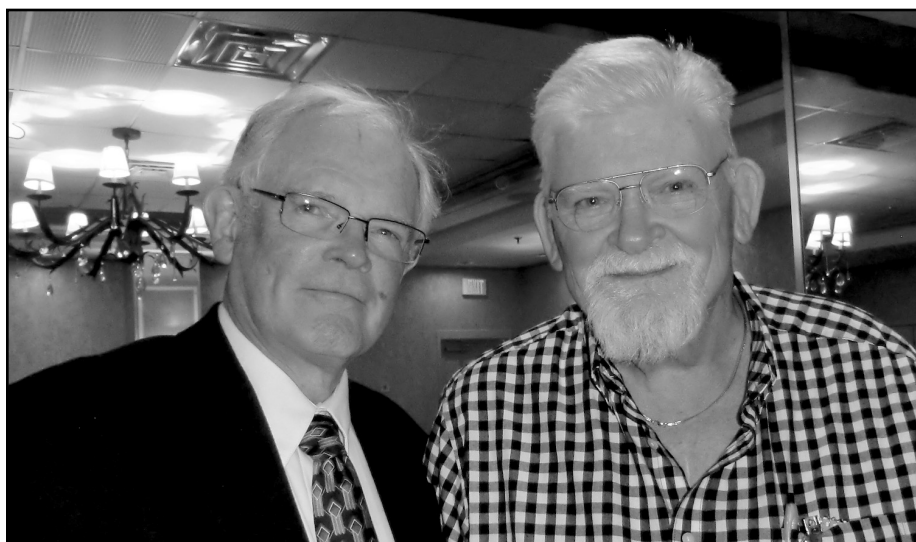
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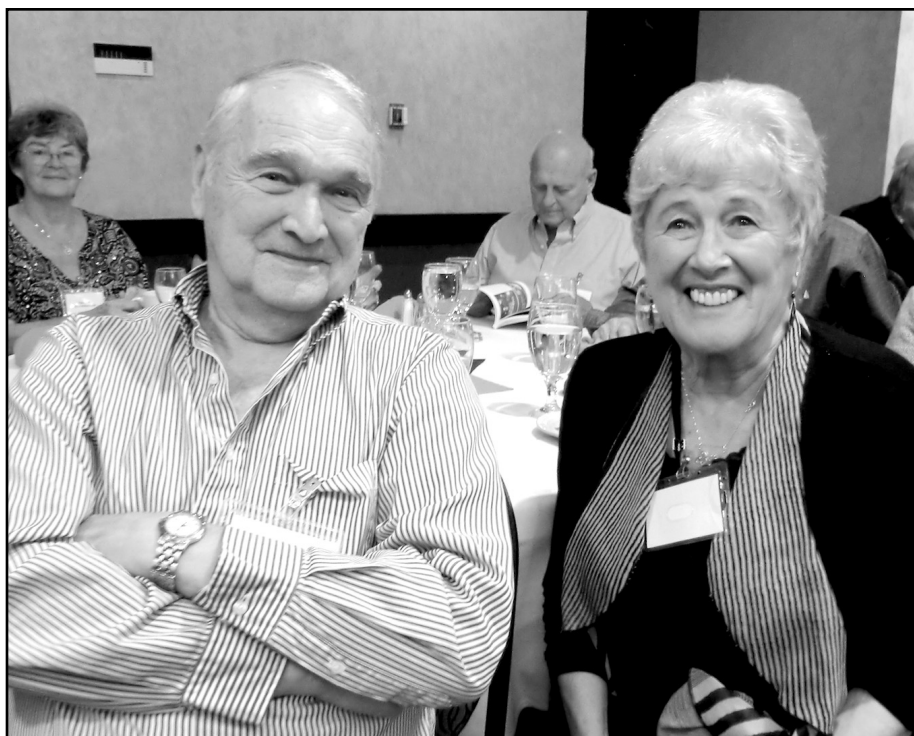


















**You're grounded here at home!  
Go to your bedroom!  
No going to the party for you!**

**My childhood  
punishments have  
become by adult  
goals.**



*Tempus Fugit* When you were a kid, the time from one birthday to another seemed an eternity. But as we grow older, don't the years seem to fly by? Our perception of time changes. Experts say the perceived time from age 40 to 80 will seem to pass as quickly as the years from age 20 to 40.



*Promise me you'll always remember: You're  
braver than you believe, and stronger than you  
seem, and smarter than you think.*

**A.A. Milne**













## Warren “Swede” Sausele



After graduation, I went to the University of Minnesota for a year. In December 1957, I joined the Navy with my classmate Don Goldsbury. Had a great time.

In 1961, I got married and started a family – three children, and now five grandchildren too.

I am now retired from my job with the Washington State Department of Transportation. Enjoying life and traveling.

- Phone: 509-926-4124
- P.O. Box 394, Valleyford, WA 99036-0394

**Happy 60th  
Celebration  
to all**



It would be fun to see all of you, but it is not convenient for me to make the trek to Minnesota in June. I recently moved and I am still working on fixing up my new and last home!

It is hard for me to believe that I will have been in Florida for fourteen years as of July 4th. I have lived in Florida the second longest time period of my nomadic life. (I lived in Maryland for over twenty-five years.) Many times, I have wished that I had not moved to this “crazy” state, but overall it is the best place for me to be at this time of my life.

About a year and a half ago, I moved from Melbourne, south about 45 miles to Vero Beach. It is a quieter smaller town, but there is enough to do to keep me busy. I am only fifteen minutes from the ocean and I enjoy being able to be outside all year long.

I do enjoy visitors so please keep that in mind if you happen to be passing by.

- Email: [gigifrenchcat62@gmail.com](mailto:gigifrenchcat62@gmail.com)
- Address is: 2519 Stockbridge, Square SW, Vero Beach, FL 32962





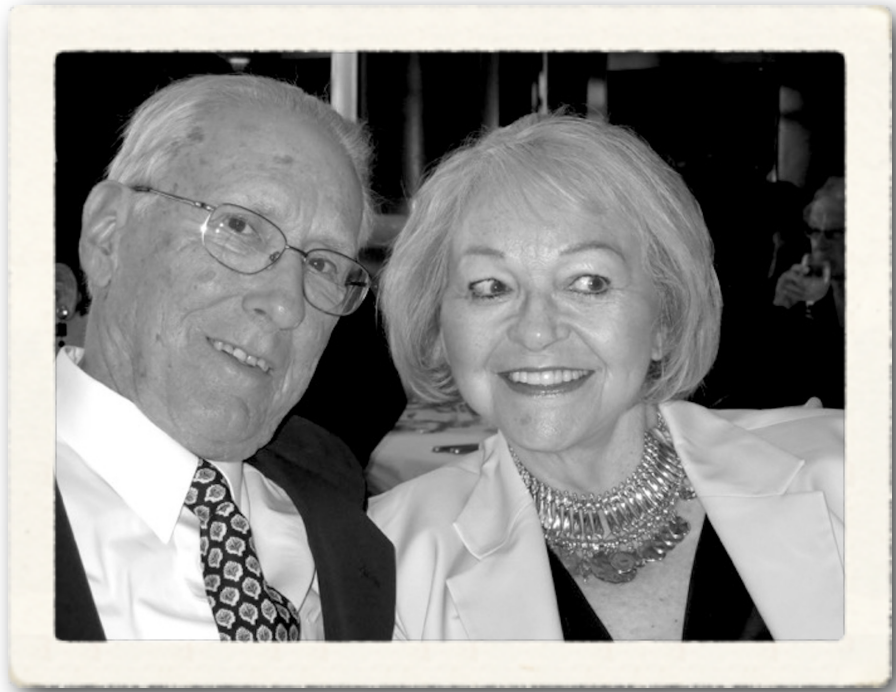
*This photo was taken at the recent Macy's Flower Show. That's my daughter on the left and my granddaughter on the right.*

I retired from Medtronic, Inc. in June, 2009, then returned to Medtronic Inc. as a contractor in 2010. I'm currently working in the Statistical Dept. and Clinical Dept.

I'm the mother of three sons and a daughter, and I have two granddaughters and two grandsons.

I fill my spare hours with several hobbies – Reading, Gardening, and Traveling

- Address: 7417 Edgewood Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
- Email: [pproell@usfamily.net](mailto:pproell@usfamily.net)



*Kate and me, taken while we were on a cruise in Norway.*

I graduated from Medical school in 1965, and interned at LA County Harbor General Hospital. Then did residencies at the Minneapolis VA Hospital in Internal Medicine and in Endocrinology.

I started practice with St. Paul Internists in 1970. After fifteen years, I changed to Aspen Medical Group in Maplewood.

I married Kate Anderson of Moose Lake, Minnesota. Our son Jim works for Apple in Cupertino, California, creating images that are used in promoting their products. Our daughter Lindsay works for Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity. She has two kids age thirteen and seventeen.

In 1999 we moved to Waterloo, Iowa to be close to our newborn granddaughter. I finished my career there with Covenant Clinic. My professional honors include Board Certification in Internal Medicine





***Here's a photo of my family taken on a visit to San Francisco. (L-R) My son in law John Pieters, daughter Lindsay, Jack, Kate, Summer, and son Jym.***

and in Endocrinology, Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota, President of the Twin Cities Diabetes Association, and President of the St. Paul Society of Internal Medicine.

Currently I still play a lot of golf and have an interest in duplicate bridge, playing in our local club and online. And, of course, we enjoy being involved in the activities of our grandchildren.

We've taken trips and cruises to various parts of the world. We have spent a couple of months each winter in Naples, Florida.

I volunteer with the State of Iowa SHIP program involved with giving information to people about the Medicare Program.

I'm grateful for health and life, especially when thinking of all our classmates who have passed on.

- Email: [dickkate@gmail.com](mailto:dickkate@gmail.com)



My life has changed dramatically in the ten years since our 50th class reunion. On August 14, 2012, my beloved husband of fifty-two years passed away. Dermot died of brain cancer eight months after being diagnosed. Happier news, my eleventh grandchild, Tommy, was born November 20, 2006.

I continue to spend time in Florida during the winter months where I play golf at Treviso Bay Country Club. I still spend much of my time playing bridge, knitting, reading, painting, and taking photos on my travels abroad. I feel fortunate to have all of my children living close to me here in the Twin Cities.

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- Email: [dermnhelen@yahoo.com](mailto:dermnhelen@yahoo.com)

## Janet Nimmerfroh Daras

*This information was supplied by Janet's daughter, Cynthia Lehr.*

My mother Janet (she preferred Jan) worked in business, property management, and eventually became the comptroller of a large travel business.

She has been in a memory-care facility since January 2016, but still enjoys visiting with family members.

Mom married four times, and she still has a "gentleman friend."

She has three surviving children. One of her adult children, a son, died in a tragic accident. She has seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

Unfortunately, Mom has always hated to have her picture taken and she would not be happy if I shared one of the few I have.



- Janet Nimmerfroh Daras  
c/o Cynthia Lehr  
7668 Iverson Ave. So.  
Cottage Grove, MN 55016-2129

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*In the summer of 1956, the ten-year comedy partnership of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis came to an end. They went their separate ways and neither was ever heard from again.*



# Washburn Confidential

*The following are real incidents that occurred (for the most part unnoticed) during our years at Washburn. Names have been changed to protect the guilty. These acts were performed by members of our class who have gone on to become successful attorneys, ministers, public officials, businesspeople, teachers, community leaders, etc. These deeds were often devious in nature and most likely questionable from a legal aspect. If you recognize yourself or someone you know in these descriptions, please do not tell as we are not sure whether or not the statute of limitations is still in effect. Under no circumstances should you discuss any of these incidents with law-enforcement officials.*

## **The Secret Tunnel**

We are not sure how many of our classmates, as well as other classes of Washburn students, were aware of the underground tunnel running from Ramsey Junior High to Washburn high school. According to legend, way back when the two schools were built, the tunnel was dug so the buildings could be operated with one heating plant and share electrical lines. The tunnel runs east to west (or west to east if you're facing the other direction) directly under the football field. The tunnel was off-limits to all students. But if you were curious and could reach the bowels of either school you could find entrances to it. It took guts to make

*Continued on page 190*

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## **Some of the famous people born in 1956**

Mel Gibson · Tom Hanks · Larry Bird · Bryan Cranston · Carrie Fisher · Randy Jackson · Mookie Wilson · Geena Davis · Kim Cattrall · Theresa May · Dana Delany · Ann Curry · Andy Garcia · Joe Montana · Linda Hamilton · Sugar Ray Leonard · Mimi Rogers · Dan Patrick · David Copperfield · Carol Leifer · Paul Molitor · La Toya Jackson · Michele Bachmann · Kenny G · Nathan Lane · Bill Mahar · Bo Derek · James Lofton · Sela Ward · Dwight Yoakam · David Caruso · Sinbad · Debby Boone · Arsenio Hall · Bob Saget · Christine Lagarde · Dale Murphy · Valerie Jarrett · Björn Borg

## Susan Niedermeier O'Doherty



Hello to Washburn 1956, and I wish I could have been there at our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion! I was ready to make plane reservations when I found out that I needed to be here in the San Francisco Bay Area on June 4.

This is because the choir I sing in has been invited to Gloucester Cathedral in England to sing services for a week in the summer of 2017. This will require extensive preparation

before we leave, and it turned out that the first mandatory four-hour

rehearsal was on June 4. If I didn't attend, I would not be able to go to England with the choir next summer.

So I stayed here, but thought of you all on June 4 and wished I were there.

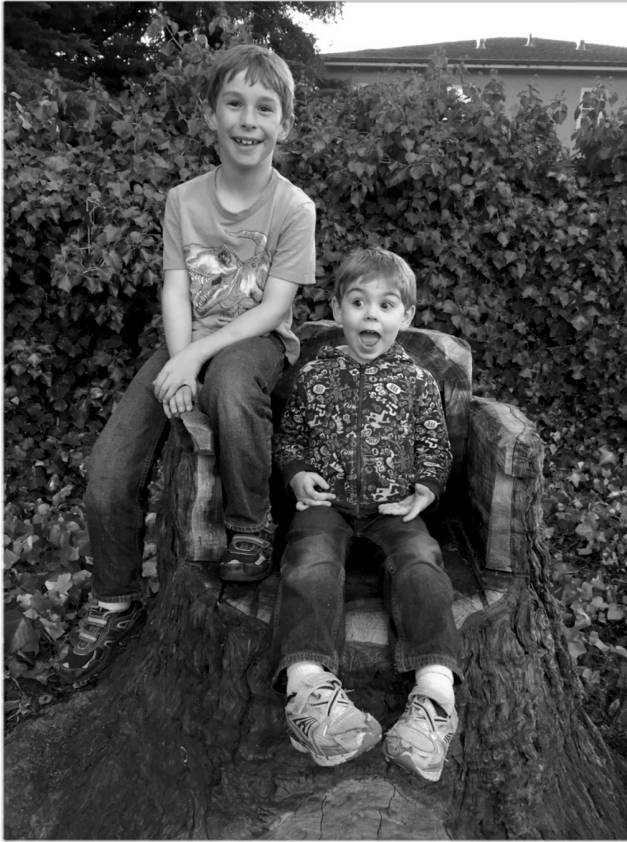
I've been living in an apartment since I moved to the Bay Area eight years ago, after my daughter had her first child. We live only a few minutes from each other, and I've been doing a lot of child care, especially after Jacob (now four-going-on-five) was born. I take care of both boys when they're not in school or preschool. John is a very loving older brother, and they are so much fun!

For some time my daughter Anne and I have been talking about and planning to build a "granny house" for me in her back yard. Construction is now finally underway, and I should be able to move in in a few months. We are all excited about it.

I feel really fortunate to be close to my family and to have made some good friends here—we get together to knit, go to the theater, etc.

I send great thanks to Errol and all of you who have kept these gatherings going for 60 years. I hope to get there in two years for the next get-together. And I'm remembering all who have passed away, especially so many in the past year.

*Here's a photo of my grandsons. You can guess who's the clown in the family.*



*John, age 9, and Jacob, age 4*

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- Email: [susanod@wordwizard.us](mailto:susanod@wordwizard.us)
- Phone: 650-400-5495



the trip because getting caught meant you had to do hard time at one of the two schools.

### **Chet's Gas Station**

There used to be a gas station on 56th and Lyndale owned by Chet somebody or other. As you may recall, when you first got a car it was a mixed blessing. You had freedom, but you never had enough money for gas. Well, some of your ingenious classmates found a way to raise a little money to offset the cost of the gas they used. Gas cost about 30¢ a gallon back then. Chet sold pop in bottles and an empty bottle had a return value of 3¢ per bottle. Chet stored the empty bottles behind the station in cases that each held 24 bottles.

Some of your devious classmates would, in the dark of night, sneak behind the station, procure a couple of cases of bottles, and turn them in for cash.

Now here's how the math works: 48 bottles times 3¢ is \$1.44, or roughly 4.8 gallons of gas. That's enough to run your car for several days. The beauty of this operation was that we 'borrowed' the empty bottles from Chet and then bought Chet's gas with the ill-gotten proceeds from the empty bottles.

### **Seventh Hour**

Almost all of us at one time or another had to go to detention (we know you didn't, but some of us did), more commonly known as Seventh Hour. Seventh Hour was usually held in one of the larger classrooms after the regular classes were over. In the front of the classroom was a black chalkboard the full-width of the classroom. In the center of the chalkboard was a pull-down screen that was used when movies or slides were shown.

Prior to the start of Seventh Hour, some of your fellow classmates would gather in the classroom and would write clever things, draw illustrations, or post materials of dubious value on the chalkboard where they could be covered by the pull-down screen. Our sense of decency prevents us from disclosing, specifically, the things that wound up on the

chalkboard. Such things are best left to your imagination. Once the board was adequately decorated, the movie screen was pulled down, concealing the illustrations and clever sayings.

Normally, any teacher in charge of Seventh Hour would enter the room and shortly after their arrival, would pull up the movie screen which seemed to be out of place at this time. Bingo! When the screen was retracted the messages and/or drawings would appear for all in attendance to observe. Hilarity abounded, although some days there were some anxious moments. But the word got around and the teachers got smart quickly. From then on, before the screen was raised, teachers peeked behind the screen to be sure they weren't caught unaware and exposing materials of a socially, and possibly morally, undesirable nature

### **April Fools' Day**

April First was a fun day! You had a broad range of pranks you could pull and you were always trying to be original. One such prank was so great.

The main entrance to Washburn was on 50th Street. The students who entered the school at the front door on one April First were in for a shock. Some person or persons, unknown to all, arrived early with chalk in hand. The chalk was but an instrument to prepare what would appear to be a crime scene.

As students begin to arrive for the school day, to their disbelief, they saw chalk outlines of three bodies and a couple of guns. It appeared that a vicious killing had occurred at the main entrance to the school. The outlines indicated police had investigated and bodies had been removed. Rumors spread throughout the day that a shooting had occurred at the entry as the hoax took on a life of its own.

### **Alex the Mechanic**

Alex Metcalf (not a real name) was one of our class's different individuals who did, however, have a knack for fixing cars and if you had a problem with your car you went to see Alex. The cost of repairs was very reasonable if he did even charge you. The big

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## Patricia Ruth Maher

I am a writer. I live in Salida, a charming town of 5,000 on the high Plains of south-central Colorado (the upper Arkansas River Valley), surrounded by mountains. This is an arts community – and a nature community. International river-rafting competitions, kayaking, skiing, hiking, and biking (major mountain bike competitions!). I moved into town ten years ago from my mountain land and cabin because of "bad vision."

I now bike miles with friends on a three-wheeler – no more driving America for me (as a travel writer and just plain adventure).

I am President of the Board of Directors for a volunteer organization which, among other projects, operates shuttle buses not only around town, but between Alamosa, Salida, and Pueblo.



I still do publicity for several Historic Hotels of the Rockies, and I'm putting together a new book about my fifteen years as Director of Public Relations, Fine Arts, Marketing, and a nonprofit at the historic Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colorado.

Despite Colorado state awards such as Best Small Business in the Arts, many are more interested in Stephen King and *The Shining*!

As for family, my kid brother, Dennis, has passed away, as has my second husband. My travels have given me

fascinating friends around the world. They are my family. (The long-distance phone bills are interesting.) Now, I am only, as Isak Dinesen once commented about herself, a “mental traveler”

My family moved to Palo Alto, California within a month after our 1956 graduation from Washburn – and I’ve never returned to Minneapolis!

Life took me to many places but, unfortunately, Minneapolis was not one of them.

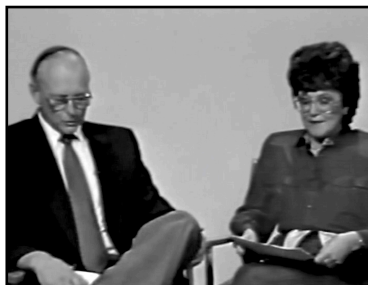
A few years ago, Ronda Havstad Roberts began an e-mail correspondence with me, and we still e-mail from time to time. She kindly let me know about the passing of my former step-sister, Joanne Maher Hackett.

I was fascinated to read Joanne’s obituary which stated that she loved a cup of coffee and the latest Joyce Carol Oates novel, as I once had a fascinating conversation with Joyce Carol Oates on a visit back to New York City.

We will, no doubt, hear of more and more classmates passing on, but I have still been saddened to hear of Doug Hackett, Kay Slinde and others.

A long time since I’ve written those names. I wish all of you good health – and joy!

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**Be sure to visit our website at**  
**[www.WHS56.com](http://www.WHS56.com)**

**And the Washburn Class of**  
**1956 page on Facebook**

***Now you can watch the Class Movie on our website.***

thing to do - at the age we were then - was to show off your car. Often we did this by trying to "burn rubber." This was a process whereby you would rev up your engine and pop the clutch. When the power went right to the rear wheels, the tires would spin on the pavement, squeal, and send up a cloud of smoke.

Lots of classmates didn't have fast or powerful cars so when they'd pop the clutch, the engine would kill. But, every now and again, something else would happen. The car's driveshaft would break. The driveshaft is connected to the transmission and without a driveshaft the car can't move. To the rescue comes Alex.

The neighborhood was scoured until a car of the same make and model was located. Alex would be sent on a mission, in the dark of night, tools in hand. He would slide under the selected car and with his tools, remove the car's driveshaft. In a flash the deed was done. Alex was skilled at this maneuver. The newly acquired driveshaft was soon installed in the classmate's damaged car and it became drivable again. We've often wondered what happened the next morning when the owner of the victimized vehicle started his car and let out the clutch.

### **A Streetcar Named Desire**

As you will well remember the streetcar was the main source of public transportation in our era. The street cars ran from South Minneapolis and took you to downtown Minneapolis. One of these lines ran from 54th and Chicago to downtown. 54th St. was the end of the line and as such the street car had to be turned around at that point and headed back downtown.

Almost always the streetcar would be backed into the turnaround, have its brakes set, and the driver, called a motorman, got out and headed to the nearby drugstore for a refreshment and probably because he needed to pee.

This meant that for a few minutes a streetcar was unattended — an ideal opportunity for someone with a

burning desire to drive a streetcar and to thus, fulfill his wildest dreams.

Such an event did take place one evening. An unnamed individual was able to obtain control of a streetcar through cunning and dedicated planning. To fulfill his desire, several mechanical processes had to be mastered. The first thing was to acquire the vacant street car by gaining entry to it. He stealthily watched as the motorman pulled a lever that opened the car's front doors. Then the motorman departed and walked toward the drug store. As soon as he entered the store and was out of sight, our classmate, without evil intent, only curiosity, slipped through the doors and into the seat behind the controls. There was only one lever to master and that controlled the speed. There was also a parking brake and a foot break that slowed and stopped the streetcar.

By releasing the parking brake and holding a foot on the foot break, he was ready to move the speed control arm... and the streetcar lurched forward. In moments he was off and running. The car crossed over Minnehaha Creek, onto 48th Street, and down Chicago Avenue. When he reached the intersection of Chicago and Lake Street, the perpetrator stopped the car, applied the parking brake, opened the doors, and calmly walked from the scene. He was never caught, but the dream he had dreamed for so very long was fulfilled.

### **Is Fred There?**

Telephones were a great source of entertainment, even before iPhones. There were numbers to call for special messages and some songs that played over the phone, even conversations with friends, especially girls, and so on. And the phone was good for pranks. ("Is your radio on? How does it fit? or "Do you have Prince Albert in the can?")

One of the funniest gags we pulled was making a late night call, usually after midnight. It went like this: We'd pick a number, usually at random, and call it. Someone, usually sounding sleepy, would answer and we would ask, "Is Fred there?" Our victim would reply "You have the wrong number, there's no Fred here" and hang up. We would wait five minutes and call again - "Is Fred there?" we asked. Now a

slightly agitated reply would be, "I told you Fred is not at this number; don't call again!" Five minutes later we called again. This time the recipient was even madder than before - madder than hell - and his language included words that couldn't be said on the radio. Another five minutes and we made one last call, only this time we said, "Hello, this is Fred. Have I had any calls?"

### **Be careful where you run**

Over by 54th and Lyndale there are a number of two-lane Streets. We'd pick one of the streets for engaging in some ingenious tomfoolery. The scenario went like this: There were two players, guys that could run fast, really fast. You probably watched them play football or basketball or run track. We did this in the evening, so it was dark with the exception of street lights. The two players would stand on opposite sides of the street and, as a car approached, pretend they were holding a rope across the road. Cars slowed down as their headlights caught what appeared to be two guys blocking the street with a rope. As they got closer and slowed to only a few miles per hour, they could see there was no rope and they would speed up again. Just a practical joke they thought.

However sometimes we would get some younger guys to shout obscenities as the cars resumed normal speed.

Other times when a car was about to continue on its way we would all yell, "Hey Mister! You lost your hubcap!" and one of us would roll a hubcap down the street so they could hear and see it. The car would stop and someone would get out to retrieve the hubcap. Here's where our runners took over. One of them would pick up the hubcap and hold it up for all to see. Then he and the other runner would start running down the street with the hubcap. This usually brought another person or two from the car to join the chase. Soon the race was on, with two or three guys in hot pursuit to retrieve what they thought was their stolen hubcap.

Now prior to all of this fiasco, a rope was tied in a dark place between two trees, about a foot off the



ground, usually between two houses. With the angry guys shouting and chasing at our heels, we would cut between the two houses and lead them into our trap. We knew where we had to jump or step over the rope and keep on running. A few seconds later we always heard a loud thump or two as they tripped and hit the ground, followed by excessive cursing. "If we catch you %#@!&% we're going to kill you!" was a threat we heard as they tried to get back on their feet.

You could only use this trick once at a location for obvious reasons. I'm sure if they'd ever caught us we'd have had several black and blue spots on our bodies. Genius? Probably not, but as pranksters, we thought it was a lot of fun.

### **Body in the trunk**

These stories from our past shows that the school should have provided us with more extracurricular activities. Idle time provides opportunities for young minds to find trouble.

Once you passed your driver's license test you were set free. Free to explore, free to come and go with no limitations. Some of us had our own cars and others used their parents' cars. Either way, we became more independent. Sometimes this new-found freedom led to unexpected events. It's rumored that some of our classmates took part in the following escapades...

The premise goes like this... we take a car, some ketchup, and a willing group of guys. You put all three of these essential ingredients together and you have an event.

Just drive down almost any street, usually a well-traveled one. Then select one of the group to get into the car's trunk and smear ketchup on his hand. The "ketchuppued" hand is left hanging out of the partially open trunk. To a casual observer walking or driving by, it looks as if there's a dead body in the trunk.

When traffic came to a stop, a driver in a following car would inevitably see the "bloody hand" and start honking his horn while pointing wildly at the "bloody hand" hanging the trunk. This drew the

*Continued on page 199*

## **Delores Johnson Smithey**

You won't find my picture in the Wahian because I refused to have my picture taken.

My best friend at Washburn was Janet Nimmerfroh and she asked me to become her daughter's Godmother when Cindy was born. Cindy has always called me "Aunt Dee."

As I have aged, my eyesight has gotten so bad that I had to get rid of my computer, and boy do I miss it.

- Address: 607 No. 22nd Street, Quincy. IL 62301
  - Phone: 217-228-9186
- 

### **Famous People who died in 1956**

**Babe Didrikson Zaharias** — Athlete (Track & Field – Golf)

**Jackson Pollock** — Painter

**Art Tatum** — Jazz Pianist

**Dr. Alfred Kinsey** — Author of the Kinsey Report

**Tommy Dorsey** — Bandleader

**A. A. Milne** — Author/Creator of Winnie the Pooh

**Connie Mack** (Cornelius McGillicuddy) — Baseball Player, Manager, Owner of the Philadelphia Athletics

**Bela Lugosi** — Actor, died during filming of "Plan 9 from Outer Space," known as the worst movie ever made (but it isn't)

**Bertolt Brecht** — Playwright & Lyricist (Three Penny Opera)

**Clarence Birdseye** — Inventor of Frozen Food

**Alben Barkley** — Harry Truman's Vice President

**H. L. Mencken** — Writer - Newspaper Reporter - Cynic

**Fred Allen** — Radio Actor-Comedian "You can take all the sincerity in Hollywood, put it in a flea's navel, and still have enough room left over for three caraway seeds and an agent's heart."

**Victor Young** — Composer-Arranger (Composed music for hundreds of movies including Around the World in 80 Days)

**Jean Hersholt** — Actor (Dr. Christian on the radio)

attention of other drivers nearby. Then the driver of the "bloody hand" car would get out and quickly walk to the trunk, give the guy in the honking horn car a menacing look, lift the trunk lid slightly, push the bloody hand back into the trunk, and drive off very rapidly.

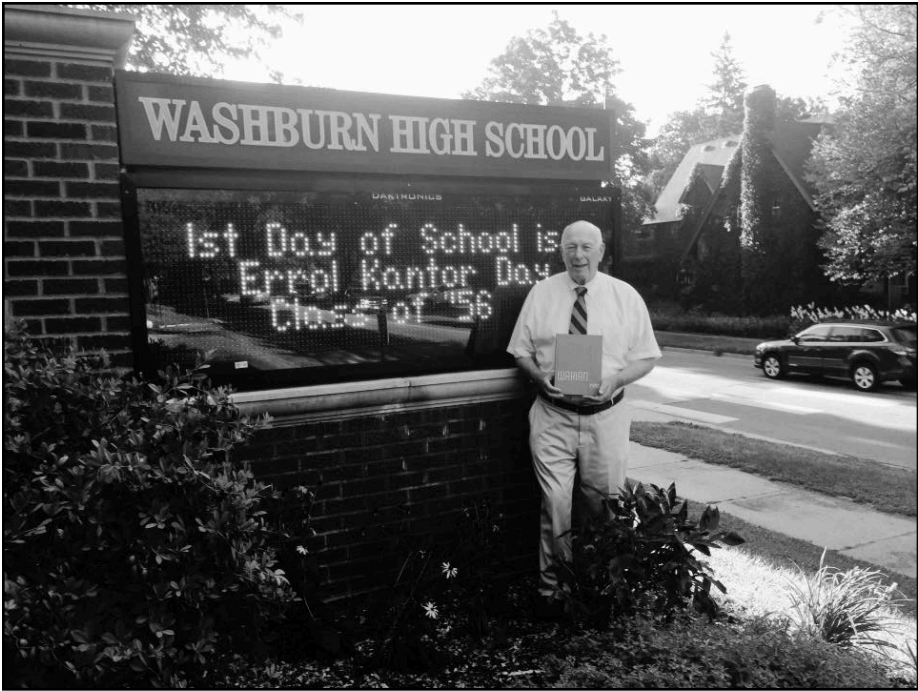
This would leave drivers in nearby cars in some form of shock. I imagine they were thinking, "What did I just see? Is there a dead body in the trunk of that car? What should I do" Oh my god, the car is gone and I didn't get the license number." I assume some of the witnesses notified the police, but they had no proof of what had just taken place, no car description, no plate number, and they could give only the very flimsiest description of the man they'd seen in the first car - but they knew what they had just seen.

The second version of this perverted prank went like this: Some guys, probably in the same car, find a bus stop where several people are waiting for a bus. They'd pull up near the bench where the commuters were sitting. One of our guys would jump out of the car and start running away and yelling, "They're trying to kill me!" One of the others would jump out of the car and start shooting a .22 pistol (loaded with blanks) at the guy who was running away. The "victim" would fall to the ground holding his hands to his face — hands holding enough ketchup to get the desired effect. Two guys would quickly grab the "victim" on the ground and throw him into the trunk, and then race off. You can imagine what the people waiting for the bus were thinking after this performance — and they didn't have to spend \$80-\$100 at an amusement park to see the action.

Now don't let your grandkids read about these incidents. Hide this book because it might give them some ideas. There was an article in the paper a number of years ago where the police arrested a young guy for doing something very similar to the pranks described in these stories. The perpetrators were fined \$1,000.00 for their participation in this type of behavior.

**"An idle and perverted mind is  
a dangerous thing" – Anonymous**

*Our thanks to everyone who contributed to this book. It's a success because you took the time to send your stories and pictures.*



I want to thank the whole Class of 1956 for the wonderful honor that they bestowed me for the first day of school. I've attach a picture of that event on the 25th of August. Note I'm holding our year book. I did make it to the school at around 7 am. Stood outside on the east side of the building admiring the Class Poplar trees while greeting all of the students getting their assignments for the year and greeting the teachers. My neighbor down the block came there with me. He was the assistant superintendent and hired many of the staff. He introduced me to many. At around 8:30 that morning there was an auditorium in the main gym where all 1700 students and staff were introduced. The Principal was the emcee. She then introduced me. It was most fun. Another neighbor took a video of this.

There are about 500 Freshman students this year and the school is busting at the seams. The old Woman's gym on the first floor has been turned into four new classrooms and the alumni room has also

been turned into a classroom, but they are still hurting for class space. The students were well behaved and interacted with the staff nicely. Some of the staff looked as if they were students. Young. There are at least two that I know who are Washburn Grads. As indicated, the Class Poplar Trees are in fine shape and the Class rock is still there although the shade tree near it has been taken down. I've been trying to get someone to plant a new one soon.

Summer is almost over and the Fair has been shut down. Did see some of you there. It was a good Fair with nice weather and great attendance. Next year will be our 35th year there. Go figure.

Again thanks for the wonderful honor.

That's it for now. Let me know your thoughts. See you all in two years. — Errol



June 2016

**Humanitarian Award**

**Errol Kantor**

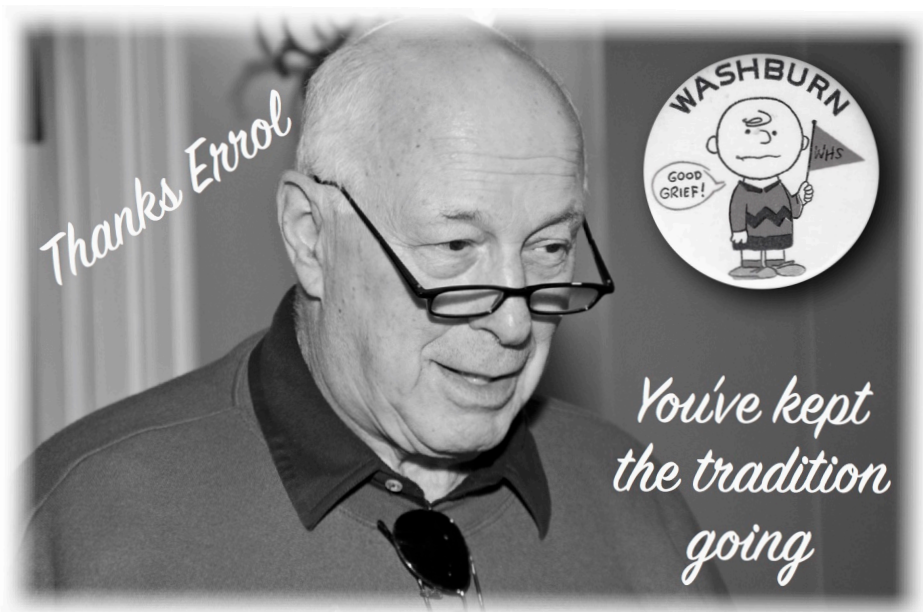
The Washburn High School Class of 1956 recognizes the lifelong contributions and tireless commitment of Errol K. Kantor. As an esteemed Washburn alumni, Errol demonstrates the impact one can have on supporting the future of Washburn, its students and community. He did this by strengthening the relationships among alumni and ensuring that his graduating class of 1956 remained connected over the years. Through all of Errol's efforts, he inspired others to give back to the school in ways that truly made a difference. For all of these reasons, we are proud to honor him with the Washburn Humanitarian Award.

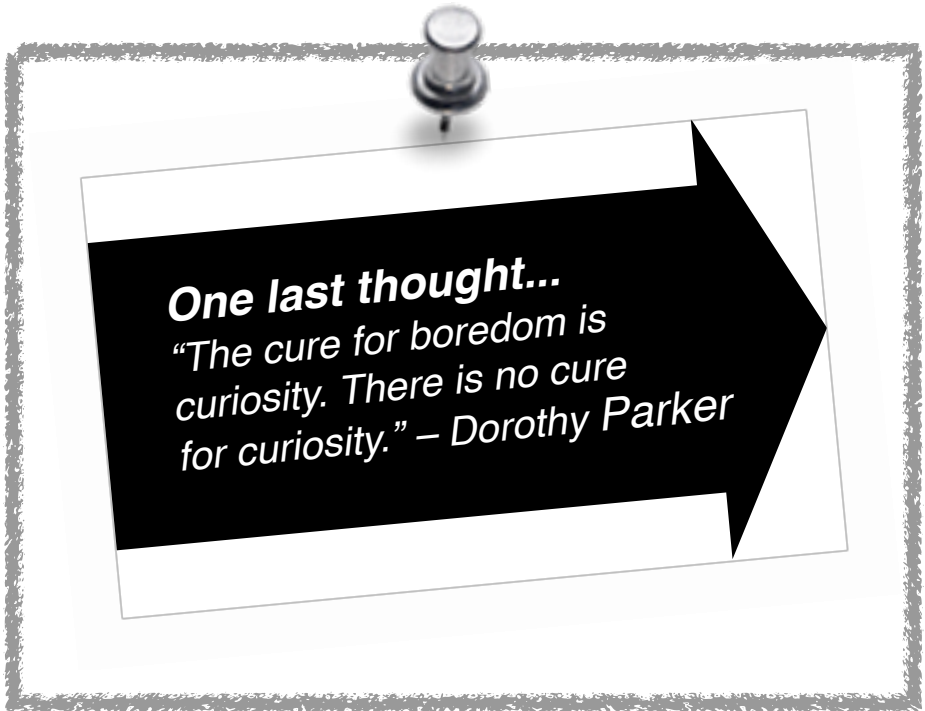
We are also proud to announce the first day of school, August 29, 2016 will be "Errol Kantor Day" at Washburn High School in honor of his 60 year graduation anniversary.



Rhonda Dean  
Principal







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