

Most graduates of WHS leave Waitsburg for a while to go to college, find work, and some do not return to Waitsburg unless they have a reason to do so. Others leave for quite a while and then return. Usually, one hears a current graduate say, "I can't wait to get out of Waitsburg after high school." This graduate left for a short period of time for college and then came right back and has lived in Waitsburg ever since. His father was instrumental in helping him find his passion, and he continues to live that passion to this day. He worked in the Prescott schools, the City of Waitsburg and also at the Port of Walla Walla.

Together, he and his wife (of 41 years) have spent countless hours working on the Town Hall, Weller Library, helping with the food bank, helps set up for the Fall Festival at the Bruce House, and he has even painted lines under the bridge to measure rising river water. As a long-time member of the Lion's Club, he smoked turkeys for many years until that project ended. He continues to keep the cross on the hill by the water tower above Waitsburg shining brightly. You probably do not know that he routinely walks up to the water tower for exercise.

He truly loves to make Waitsburg a better place in which to live and go to school. If a window or door needs fixing and he hears about it, he is right there, quietly doing the repairs and then moves on to find the next project. He prides himself on keeping his chickens safe after finding a red fox in his coop. People call him a "Help-a-holic."

Home and family are very important to him and recently one of their sons moved back to Waitsburg while their other son lives and works in Walla Walla. Another passion of his is being a grandpa, helping his grandchildren, which helps his children as well.

In talking to family members, they say this about him: "He is a great brother, friend, and husband, quietly going about town fixing whatever needs to be fixed. He always knows how to fix most anything because his father taught him carpentry." His family has been in the area for six generations and to date, twenty-one of them have graduated from WHS. The Association is honored to present the Karen Huwe Mohny Alumni Association Service Award to Louie Gagnon.