

# WAITSBURG HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Purpose: To promote WHS and its graduates

Volume 2, (1) March, 2015

## *Updates & Highlights*



**DUES ARE INCREASED TO \$10.00/YEAR.** A reminder—when you send in your dues for 2015, they are \$10.00 and can be paid at any time to: PO Box 834; Waitsburg, WA 99361

- **Your WHS Alumni Association is selling bricks to be placed outside the entrance to the WHS Gym as a fundraiser for the Alumni Scholarship** (see article in the newsletter)
- **Has your address, phone number, or email changed since the 2014 banquet invitation? If so, please email the changes to:**

[pjmantz@charter.net](mailto:pjmantz@charter.net)

Dues-paying members (without an email) will need a first-class Mailing Subscription that will cost \$12.00/year **for all newsletters.**

## **March 2015**

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*The Alumni Board  
provides newsletter articles  
and all edits*

## Message from WHS Current ASB President—Owen Lanning

Things at Waitsburg High School have been going very well as of late. We recently had our own Tristan Newman compete at State Wrestling, taking 5<sup>th</sup> place!



The Knowledge Bowl team competed at the regional meet on Feb. 23, 2015. Congratulations to the following students who will be representing WHS at state: Emma Phillbrook, Stuart Walsh, Gillie Pope, Cade Branson, Robert Walsh, and Korben Duffy.

Our very own Emma Phillbrook is a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship and the Elks Foundation Scholarship. We are very hopeful that Emma will come away with both scholarships. We also had our ACT activity a couple weeks ago where we reward those students who have stayed out of trouble by taking them to a movie at the Liberty Theater in Dayton for an entire afternoon. We had over 80% of the student body attend! The ASB is now preparing for the latter half of the year and it should be a great one.

### Alumnae Wyatt Withers ( 2010) is Honored as Sailor of the Year



BREMERTON, Wash. – Waitsburg native Wyatt Withers, son of Laurie Withers and the late Ian Withers, and grandson of Jack McCaw and the late Laurette McCaw, received recognition as the 2014 Sailor of the Year for Submarine Squadron 5 out of Bremerton. Wyatt has pursued a career in nuclear engineering while in the Navy. He excelled early on, finishing 13th among 320 students in the Navy's Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C. Today, 2nd Class Petty Officer Withers is stationed on the USS Connecticut, a Seawolf Class submarine, where he works in the Machinery Division, maintaining the fluid systems of his boat's reactor plant.

Withers currently resides in Bremerton with his wife Amanda. He has a year-and-a-half left in his six-year enlistment.

### Larry Weir (1979) Receives Award



Larry was honored in 2014 as the **National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association Washington Sportscaster of the Year**. While growing up in Waitsburg, he often listened to Bob Robertson, the Voice of the WSU Cougars.

Larry has been EWU's play-by-play Football announcer for over twenty years. He perfected his announcing skills by listening to Bob Robertson. When he was interviewed by *The Times*, he said that he tells kids at every opportunity to "go to college and get a degree." He also told *The Times* that as a kid, he was not very motivated and just wanted to move on with his life as a high school student. Move on he did!



## Reflections on Growing Up in Waitsburg

James Elmo Tuttle, Class of 1965

As I sit in my home office watching the snow lightly fall outside my window, I am drawn back to Waitsburg in the late 1950s and '60s. How enchanting downtown was at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The lights of Main Street, reflecting off the wet street and in the fresh snow, light streaming from windows of the businesses. How safe we felt at that time and how warm and nurturing the community seemed. As a product of this great little city, I feel compelled to express my appreciation for the environment in which I grew up. If I have been successful, honest and committed to a high ethical standard, I must attribute the acquisition of those qualities to Waitsburg and the people who lived there and to my parents who raised me. Waitsburg has changed much from those days and like most small towns in the U. S., sadly, the downtown area appears to be different from it's former self. There were so many business owners and teachers who served as mentors and models of behavior. First, were Herman and Kenneth Golhman of Golhman's Grocery, I can still hear Herman's laugh and see Kenneth slicing meat at the back of the store. Harold and Ben Bloor, of Bloor's Market cut up all of the cattle we butchered. E.B. Lee gave me my first haircut and countless haircuts after that. Further, Howard and Agnes Packer, of Packer's Dry Goods, were also memorable, as my mother would only buy clothing at Packers. At the Waitsburg Hardware store, Miles Brunton and Howard (Red) Davis were important role models. To this day, I can remember the smell of the store and I visit there each time I come home. Ernest and Dorothy Kison of Kison's Jewelry, served as another source of good advice. I don't think there were many, if any, adults that we didn't know and respect. These people were small

truly blessed to have grown up in Waitsburg. Further, we were successful because we did grow up in Waitsburg. Count yourselves lucky to have been a product of such a wonderful village. One huge advantage in growing up in a rural environment is that you always have work.

I had to work all year long as we had many livestock that needed attention. Milking was done, eggs were gathered and hay hauled and chopped. In the summer, I worked in wheat harvest for Lowell and Jim Burris, Bill Zuger (for a short time) and my Dad. I hauled pea hay and worked in pea harvest for Hollis Hawks. I don't think there is a better way to instill a positive work ethic and teach financial responsibility than through the jobs we had as kids.

My biological father (Elmo Tuttle) had a blacksmith shop in Dixie before moving his shop to Waitsburg. I know it was after 1930, because my sister Joyce was born in Dawson Creek, BC in 1930 and Elmo was a ranch manager there at that time. I also know that they lived in Waitsburg before 1942 since Joyce had Mrs. Jenson for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, just as those in my class did. My parents were well established and my father owned the blacksmith shop in town when I was born in 1947. At the While in the Navy, I was a substitute 5<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher in San Jose, California, and then in early 1969 the Navy decided

town business owners who were successful, thoughtful and nurturing people. I believe we were time of his death in 1954, my father was heavily involved in Waitsburg activities including the city council and school board, as well as the Commercial Club.

In August of 1957 my mother married Ralph Danielson, a local rancher who had never been married before. I cannot think of a more wonderful gift that my mother could have given me. From that day forward he was my Dad. He was kind, strict, successful, funny, honest, ethical and a great parent. He was and still is my hero. If I am honest and ethical, it is because of the values he instilled in me. I believe also that at the time I grew up in Waitsburg, every business owner was honest and ethical. My honesty and success in life resulted from the environment my Dad and the people who surrounded me provided during these formative years.

I began school in Waitsburg by attending a kindergarten run by Mrs. Moore, whose classes were held in the basement of the high school. I attended both grade and high school in Waitsburg with the exception of ½ of third grade and all of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, which I spent in Spokane with my sister and brother-in-law and their children. My favorite teacher in grade school was Mrs. Aleta Combs. In my opinion, she was the best first grade teacher in the state and quite possibly in the entire nation. She got all of us who had her as a teacher off to a great start. My favorite high school teacher was George Fisher, the Ag teacher. He was knowledgeable, entertaining and really cared about educating his students. I learned much from him about electrical wiring and especially about working with metal, such as how to use a forge and to temper steel. I must say though, the most useful class was Mrs. Fisher's typing class. I owe her a special thanks, since that skill was paramount in my chosen profession(s). Even today, I am still an excellent touch typist.

Before graduation from high school in 1965 I hadn't really decided what I wanted to study in college. My brother-in-law, Lloyd Beckley, also a Waitsburg High School graduate, my dad and I toured Spokane Community College. As we walked by a glassed in "computer class room." Lloyd pointed to the computer behind the glass and stated, "now that is the future". Then

I applied and was accepted into the "Data Processing" major at SCC. After graduation in March 1967, I

to send me to San Diego to teach programming and operations at a United States Navy Training Center (USNTC). While there, the Univac Education Institute contacted the computer school at USNTC seeking an instructor who was or could be licensed by the state to teach at their facility. I was asked if I would be willing to work two teaching positions and I was.

I spent 3 years at USNTC and two years at Univac Education Institute. However, after my discharge from the Navy in 1971, there were very few if any teaching positions to be had in San Diego and I decided to come back to Walla Walla County and look for work there. I had married while in San Diego and had not yet met my new parents-in-law who lived in Boulder, Colorado. Three days after getting to Boulder, I was teaching computer science at Midwest Business Colleges in Boulder where I stayed for one year.

I worked a number of programmer and programmer/ analyst jobs until 1976 when I went to work for Burlington Northern Railroad as a clerk in the Denver yard offices. I was interviewed by Information Services managers who wanted me to go to headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota, as a programmer/analyst. I asked to be left alone for two years to learn the railroad from the ground up and they agreed. However, two years later they came calling and I was transferred to headquarters in St. Paul. I had the good fortune to work on a new project with other programmers, all of whom had come up through the ranks and knew the railroad very well. We built and installed a yard office management system and then began installing it in major BN rail yards across the system.

enrolled at Whitworth College. Before I could complete my studies there, I was drafted. I was fortunate to be able to enlist in the Navy where I could continue working in my field and extend my education. However, that action postponed my Whitworth graduation until 1969.

As a clerk in Denver, I worked as a “crew caller”, and assembled crews for local and road trips. This was a manual operation, which was made to order for computerization. I began designing an automated system to call crews and in 1982 and prepared a business plan which would support an automated crew management project. Our system was the first fully automated crew management system implemented and was so successful that it paid for itself in three months instead of one year as stated in my business plan. That automated plan, after many upgrades, has become a railroad industry standard.

I left BN in 1987 and began teaching at Wang Laboratories, a midrange computer manufacturer. I was with Wang Labs for a year before being recruited by IBM in 1988 to manage IBM customer’s program conversions from Wang Labs, Univac and IBM mainframes to IBM’s new mid-range product called the AS400. In 1992 IBM dissolved the conversion centers and I joined an IBM subsidiary, which eventually became IBM Global Services. This service managed teams of technicians who analyzed customer’s Information Services departments for outsourcing. From that point until my retirement in 2005, my teams signed 17 billion dollars of outsourcing business for IBM. In 2006, IBM asked me to return for a special project. I continued working on this project until 2008 when I finally retired permanently.



My early environment in Waitsburg, and my association with people I believed were honest and successful, led to my success in life after Waitsburg. The most important influence of all was my Dad, as he epitomized everything good about Waitsburg and he was everything I ever wanted to be.

Feedback is always appreciated. Please email feedback to:  
[katie.leid@gmail.com](mailto:katie.leid@gmail.com)

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Please take a look at the Waitsburg School District WEB Site to see all of the exciting happenings:

<http://www.waitsburgsd.org>

## Alumni Association has two (2) Funds

- **Lloyd Memorial Loan Fund:** a loan specifically for any WHS student in their last semester, quarter of their educational program.
- Assets (including this year's banquet) exceed \$41,000. Applications are available through Jeff Broom—See Board Member Page for email.
- The newest is the **Alumni Scholarship:** it is for any student just graduating from WHS, or alumni either entering the next phase of or continuing their education.  
(Whether you are a WHS senior, or entering graduate school, you are eligible to apply through Blue Mountain Community Foundation, PO BOX 603, Walla Walla, WA 99362.)

The current balance is over \$50,000.

The Alumni Association encourages seniors or college/ career students to apply for one, or both! There is NO competition between these two funds. They are for separate purposes.

Thank You for Donating!

FACEBOOK members: Check out the WHS Alumni page—feel free to contribute information on our page.

## Reflections from a Lloyd Memorial Fund Recipient

The Lloyd Memorial Loan Fund is a precious jewel in the educational loan arena. It is a well-kept secret that this loan is available for use by any Waitsburg High School

alumnus entering the final year of a post-secondary course of study. During the course of my college education I was fortunate enough to utilize the Lloyd Fund twice. In 1972-73 I was completing my BS degree from Washington State University. I remember hearing about this fund when I attended my first Waitsburg Alumni Banquet following graduation with the class of 1969. I was able to borrow funds to assist with tuition expense with little paperwork required and none of the hassles that go along with securing federal loans. Four years later, as I entered my senior year of dental school, I secured a second loan to help obtain my professional degree from the University of Washington. After graduation I found the repayment terms to be very flexible to meet the financial demands encountered when a broke college graduate is trying to establish a business. I felt very blessed to have been able to access these funds.

We are all aware of the rising cost of college tuition. Most college students, by the time they reach their last year, are burdened with college loan debt and all the red tape that comes with federal funds. The simplicity of the Lloyd Memorial Loan Fund and the local people who administer it are refreshing. It is my understanding that these funds are not often utilized, but I strongly feel that any Waitsburg High School graduate relying on loans to help finance their education should look to their Alumni Association for help. Again, any Waitsburg graduate entering the last year of any college or training program is eligible to apply for the loans. Please pass the word to friends and family who can, as I did over forty years ago, enjoy another one of the benefits of being a Waitsburg High School Alumnus.

Respectfully,

Randy Pearson, WHS Class of 1969



### **WHS Reunion Planning for 2015 has Begun**

**Several Alumni have agreed to be the contact person for their class reunions. If you graduated in the years ending in 5 or 10 and would be willing to be that contact person, please let President Darleen Dozier know as soon as possible.**

Class of 1950: **Meredith Huwe**, [mini@gotvc.net](mailto:mini@gotvc.net) phone: 509-337-6716

Class of 1955: **Jo Hall Wolfe**, PO Box 14, Dixie, 99329, phone: 509-529-5859

Class of 1960: **Betty Collingwood Hofer**, PO BOX 667, Waitsburg, 99361, phone: 509-337-6300

Class of 1965: **Claudia Moberly Allen**, [cgallen01@gmail.com](mailto:cgallen01@gmail.com) 541-938-5861

Class of 1970: **Becky Kenney Maki**, [rebeccamakil@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccamakil@gmail.com) 1207 Fugi Way, Richland, 99352,

phone: 509-627-1937, and **J.E. McCaw**, [jemc70@hotmail.com](mailto:jemc70@hotmail.com) 625 Wolf Fork Rd, Dayton, 99328, phone: 509-382-8974

Class of 1975: **Laurie Smith McKinley**, [mjohn391@yahoo.com](mailto:mjohn391@yahoo.com) 113 Eager Rd., Dayton, 99328, phone: 509-382-2848

Class of 1985: **Liz Shea Alleman**, [hairedresserliz@hotmail.com](mailto:hairedresserliz@hotmail.com) 600 E 6<sup>th</sup> St., Waitsburg, 99361, phone: 509-337-5337

Class of 1990: **Jason Payne**, [sandiegocough@hotmail.com](mailto:sandiegocough@hotmail.com) or [jpayne@pfenex.com](mailto:jpayne@pfenex.com) 4185 Cole Way San Diego, CA 92117, phone: 619-843-4406

Class of 1995: **Kathleen Stanfill Power**, phone: 509-386-3361

Class of 2005: **Gabe Kiefel**, [gkiefel@waitsburgsd.org](mailto:gkiefel@waitsburgsd.org)



**Your Alumni Board is throwing out a challenge—the class (see above) that raises the MOST money for the Alumni Scholarship wins a prize at the banquet! Must be present to win.**

#### Membership Categories

- Graduate of WHS
- Honorary Alumni Member
- Associate Alumni Member

**Graduate:** Just that—be a graduate of Waitsburg High School (first year dues are free). A voting member (if dues are current)

**Honorary Alumni Member:** A person (or persons), not graduates of WHS, who will have contributed over the years to the school and/or the community. Non-voting member.

**Associate Alumni Member:** A person who attended Waitsburg schools, but did not graduate who wants to be a dues-paying member of the Alumni Association. This person will be able to attend the banquets and receive all communications. Non-voting member. The Board will review all applicants.

#### New Sound System Purchased for WSH Alumni Banquet, Pioneer Fall Festival, and School District Use

Jeff Broom ('64) and Wes Leid ('63) researched portable sound systems and Jeff purchased a wonderful system that was used for the first time at the 2014 Alumni Banquet. Your Alumni Association and the Waitsburg Historical Society joined together to reimburse Jeff for the system and it was donated to the District for their use. President Dozier will explain how the three organizations will share the sound

Pay your Dues Today!

**\$10.00**

PO Box 843  
Waitsburg, WA 99328

## Is your Brick outside the Entrance to the WHS Gym?

To help raise funds for the WHS Alumni Association Scholarships, the alumni association has picked up the alumni remembrance bricks of several years ago. We are currently selling them to all alumni who wish to be remembered in this way or who wish to remember other family graduates as well.



We would hope that all who have not remembered their graduation from WHS might do so at this time. Proceeds from these sales will be given to the WHS Alumni Scholarship fund. **The cost of engraving 1 brick is \$50.00 and further information is available on the alumni Facebook page.**

**When you sign in to Facebook, go to the “search” feature and type in: “Waitsburg High School Alumni Association.” The address is:**

system at the Banquet.

**What if all 1,000+ Alums paid  
their dues each year?**

**That brings in \$10,000!**

**Many uses for WHS**

## Who chooses the Feature Articles?

The series editor for histories of selected WHS graduates, retired university Professor R. Wes Leid, would like to encourage each WHS graduate consider a fellow graduate for a feature story. Each of you is free to nominate anyone you consider worthy and that nominee should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- The nominee needs to have a history of distinction in their field of endeavor
- be a contributor to the community in which they live
- represent the diversity of careers, which our graduates have pursued.

Please send all nominations to retired Professor Leid at [rwesleid@gmail.com](mailto:rwesleid@gmail.com). “I cannot guarantee who will be chosen or when their story may be presented, but I will appreciate all of your input.”

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| <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/133246603413582/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/133246603413582/</a> |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|



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*Alumni Board  
Emails:*

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## Second Annual Auction at the 2015 Banquet

Several items have already been donated.

- A two-night stay in a condominium at Mt. Spokane;
- A wine barrel candle-holder;
- Waitsburg Wine lighted wine bottle;
- Cardinal Blanket;
- Dinner for six on the Wolf Fork.

Items to donate: contact President  
Darleen Dozier by April 1, 2015.



Join us after the banquet at Waitsburg's new Whiskey Creek Sports Bar & Grill! Several WHS Alumni (among others) are the new owners.