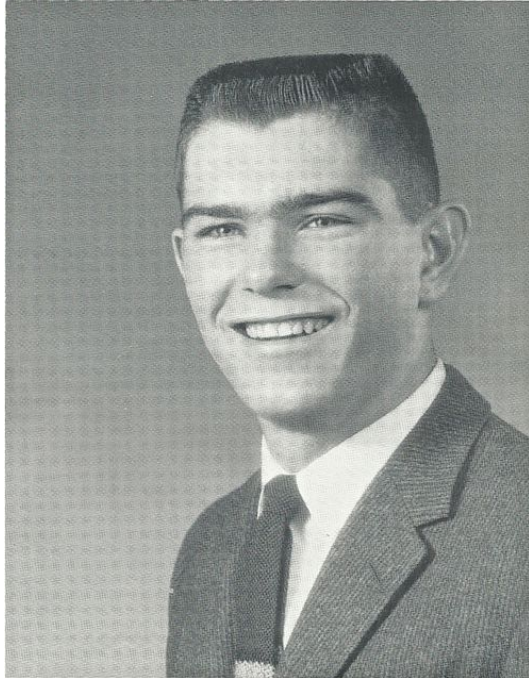




Glenn Baker—1960 Graduate

Glenn Baker (Class of 1960) at Waitsburg High School went on to Washington State University and was named one of the top 100 football players in the first 100 years of the university. He started his own trucking company in Austin, Minnesota and has been a very successful graduate of Waitsburg High School. Glenn was born in Walla Walla, but lived his early years on a ranch near Pendleton, Oregon. He moved to Waitsburg when he was 5 years old. His parents were Roland and Theresa Baker and his dad worked for Pictsweet Foods and the Green Giant Company in Waitsburg and Dayton. Glenn attended grades 1 through 12 in the

Waitsburg School system.

Growing up in Waitsburg provided Glenn with numerous opportunities, ones that helped to shape his future career and provided an exceptional background for success. Ernest Kison was the Boy Scout leader in Waitsburg in those years, a man with the patience of an angel. Ernest taught many kids about personal responsibility and convinced us that we had the ability to solve any problems we faced. Summer jobs, particularly those with Green Giant and Touchet Valley Grain Growers, provided an opportunity to develop skills used in later life. Ralph Rankin was the foreman for the grain growers and successfully mentored many students during their school years and helped them become successful adults. Later on Glenn worked for Wayne Hinchcliffe in his trucking business, an opportunity which provided an experience that would benefit him in developing his own trucking business.

One of the great things about a small school is that you have many opportunities to participate in various activities and develop your leadership skills. Whether in the classroom, sports, student government, all-high plays or the band, the opportunity to join a variety of activities expanded a student's view of the world. When Glenn taught at Walla Walla High School, he observed that many students there did not have the opportunities to be exposed to the wide variety of activities that he had while attending Waitsburg High School. However, high school athletics opened the door for Glenn to receive a university education and was paramount in his business success later in life. His senior year in high school football was not very successful as they won 1 game out of 8 (DeSales). However, Glenn's relationship with one of his coaches, Gordie White, who was friends with the line coach at WSU, Laurie Niemi, opened the door to a football scholarship at WSU. Glenn's senior basketball year was an outstanding one, as the team came within 1 game of playing

in the state high school tournament. At that time WHS played in the Preston Hall gym and it was always packed with rabid fans and was a very unfriendly place for the opposition. At each end of the gym were heating pipes covered with a thin pad into which you could drive an opponent.

WSU provided an excellent education and gave Glenn an opportunity to play college football. In those days, the varsity was limited to sophomores through seniors. His first career start occurred during his sophomore year when they played the University of Texas in Austin, Texas. Texas was the number one rated team in the country and they beat WSU very convincingly. Competing against a team of that stature was extremely exciting. The highlight of Glenn's football career was being chosen to play in the East – West Shrine All Star game in San Francisco during Christmas 1963. Four members of the NFL Hall of fame, Carl Eller and Paul Krause (Minnesota Vikings), Charlie Taylor (Washington Redskins) and Paul Warfield (Miami Dolphins) played in that game with Glenn. John McKay, coach of the USC Trojans and later coach of Tampa Bay Buccaneers, was one of the coaches as well. Everyone chosen to play in that game had the opportunity to play at the next level.

In the summer of 1964 Sally Chase (class of 1961) and Glenn were married in Waitsburg on June 13. Sally was the daughter of Berger and Bettie Lloyd Chase and they had dated all through high school and college. They will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this coming June. After the wedding Glenn returned to WSU to finish his student teaching and graduated in the spring of 1965.

After teaching and coaching for several years, Glenn decided to pursue a career in business and took a job with Green Giant in Dayton. There he had an opportunity to work with his dad and this decision turned out to be one of the best he had ever made. Glenn and his family were transferred around the country and lived in 15 different homes in these years. He held a variety of jobs with Green Giant, culminating in the Vice President of Distribution for Green Giant. However, Pillsbury purchased Green Giant, and he left the company for a short time, but came back to manage Pillsbury's transportation department. Then Pillsbury was purchased by Grand Met, and Glenn, not wanting to go through another merger joined a trucking company in Salt Lake City. A significant opportunity brought them back to Minnesota.

In 1992 Sally and Glenn made a major decision, and they purchased a small trucking company in Austin, Minnesota. All of their worldly possessions served as the collateral for this purchase and many sleepless nights followed during the first few months they owned the company. They saw many of the hazards in owning and running their own business during this time, but they were successful beyond their wildest dreams. The company has grown, but for Glenn and Sally, the best part is their son is now running the business.

Sally and Glenn had two children, Geoff who lives in Austin, Minnesota, with his wife and two high school age boys and daughter Barbara, who they lost in February 2008. This loss was a very difficult time for all the family, but they have come out of that challenge bent but not bowed. Although all four of their parents are gone, they

still have many close friends in Waitsburg and they look forward to every trip home. Their education in Waitsburg's schools and interactions with the people of Waitsburg have prepared them well for succeeding in life. We are all very proud of WHS graduates like Glenn and Sally and wish them well in the future.

WSU Football—on scholarship!

