

Editorial\_History\_April\_1\_2011

I thought that every publication should have an editorial page and since I have control of the keyboard, why not do it myself. So here you have it. We have several places on the site for comments but if you specifically state you want something placed here, just let me know and it will be done.

Maybe some of you would like to know how this get together got started. Here's what I understand. Larry Wolff and Mary Rueb were visiting in the spring of 2002 and discussed the feasibility of a get together. During the summer, at a Sherwin Linton concert in Watertown, Larry met several classmates, including Darrell Crocker, who encouraged planning a get together for 2003.

In late winter of 2003 Larry started gathering information and making phone calls. During his call to me he said something about needing a web site and so we have it.

A small group has provided input for some of the things to be done and your committee was formed. By the way, everyone is invited to contribute your ideas to make our celebration more fun. After all, that is what it is all about. We just wanted an excuse for a party. During the week of May 4 we will be meeting in Watertown, probably for supper and to work out some final plans. Come join us.

On a more serious note, many of our classmates have passed away and there is a feeling that it is important to get together sooner. Thus a 47 year get together. I am looking forward to a 50th as well. I guess Doug and Marlys already have it on their calendar. Most of the plans have been made and today (April 14) a letter was sent to Kathy Bierscheid at the Watertown Alumni Association who will be mailing it out for us. This letter will go to all with a mailing address on record.

What has the get together meant to me, personally, since the plans started. I hadn't seen Larry for probably 17 years. During a recent trip to Iowa I was able to spend a day with Larry and Bonnie. We had a wonderful time and the years just melted away. Now we are in regular contact by email and phone. I have been in contact with Kathleen Bierne off and on throughout the years but just last week I was able to visit with her at a meeting in our parish. It was interesting to see how things had come full circle. I have received emails and cards from several classmates. It is nice to connect again. If all these warm fuzzies are an indication of what the reunion will be like it will be great.

Watching a Hallmark movie tonight I heard the line, "It's all so fragile, anything could happen...". Maybe that says it all. Happy Easter!

Wes

- Someone once said:
- What goes around comes around.
- Work like you don't need the money.
- Love like you've never been hurt.
- Dance like nobody's watching.
- Sing like nobody's listening.
- Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

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May 9, 2003

It's over. If it was anything like the Get-Together is going to be it will be a blast. 11 got together at Larry's on May 7 and made "final" plans for the July 18-20 Get-together. We had a great time and, I think, we have a weekend planned that will give us plenty of time to have some fun, visit and just get together. So keep checking the web as details will be published before long. If you know classmates that do not have internet access invite them over and let them check out the site. And do what you can to make it to the gathering. A lot of folks are really excited (that is the word that keeps coming up over and over) about it. Join the excitement and get others to, also.

Wes

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July 7th, 2003

It's been a busy time with the holidays and everything. While visiting with a friend this afternoon it just hit me that in about a week we will be getting really serious about the get together. I have been getting lots of information from classmates and updating the web site with the information. We have made contact with a number of classmates that have been "lost" for a number of years. Getting email addresses really makes communications so much better and simpler. I think things are all ready. The Watertown hosts are talking and have everything pretty well lined up. Last minute tasks here include keeping the web updated, taking in the money, and keeping track of who needs nametags. 24 are done and I have 29 more to do now. I still expect several more to come in this week.

I received an email from Phyllis Howey today with her bio update. It included a [powerful message about organ transplants](#). If you haven't seen it, check it out.

If you haven't contacted us yet be sure to do so soon. We will prepare a booklet after this is all over and want you to be part of it.

Wes

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July 10, 2003

More trivia. After updating the web tonight I took a look at it and [the counter had just turned to 1956](#). Is there some hidden meaning. I don't know but I thought it was interesting.

I talked to Larry and Carol tonight. The Watertown hosts were meeting to make final plans for the weekend. It sounds like it has all come together. We can look forward to a great weekend.

More trivia. Tonight I took the dogs out for their last walk of the evening and the air was full of fireflies. It has been years and years since I saw fireflies. The last time I can remember was when I was a very small boy fishing with my aunt and uncle on the Sioux River by Highway 212.

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July 22, 2003

It is over for this year. The feedback we received during and after the weekend was that it was a smashing success. Many, many commented on the value of friendships that were renewed or made throughout the weekend. Several comments were made to me that probably are too personal to put here on what effects the activity has had on them. That was enough in itself.

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August 14, 2003

It's been about a month since the get together. I don't know about you, but it has been extremely busy here. And hot and dry. I have slowly been working on the pictures for the DVD and the class picture. In case you didn't see the email, we are trying to select the picture(s) to

print and mail with the DVD. We have a choice a an 8x10 of either the Friday or Saturday night pictures or a 5x7 of both of them. Send me an email if you haven't already and let me know what you would like. <mailto:westonfe@xtratyme.com>

Please bear with me. Pictures and DVD will be coming but it will be awhile yet. When I get done with the pictures I will put some of them on the web.

Carol Arbogast sent me an article from the Watertown paper on Lee Raymond. I found it very interesting and thought it would fit in for his biography. So it is there if you would like to [read it](#).

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February 9, 2004

It's been almost 6 months since my last comments. It doesn't mean that nothing has been happening, I just am not getting everything done. If you check the [What's New](#) page you will find a number of changes that have been made to our web site. And plans are being made for a mini get together in August of 2004. Right now it looks like the weekend of August 7th and 8th. More will be coming out on that in the very near future so you can make plans to attend.

Carol DeVetter Arbogast has been a great help in helping me decide what to put on the web and what not to. [Mary Lou Sheehan](#) has been full of ideas on additional content to add. Today I have added a [social page](#) which Mary Lou will be editing. I hope you will help her out by submitting articles to include. Just click on her name and send her some newsy stuff to include.

The Video CDs and pictures were mailed by the end of September. I haven't had any feedback on them but hope that those who ordered them received them and were able to view the VCDs.

Occasionally it comes to our attention that some of our classmates are in need of some prayers to help them through tough times. For this reason I started a web page to address these needs. Mary Lou suggested several names for our new society page and I liked one of them. Today I renamed the "On a Serious Note" to the [Sharing and Caring](#) page to more accurately identify the intent of the page. I encourage an occasional email to those with special concerns just to let them know someone does care. Those with email addresses can be found on our [email page](#).

We'll keep trying to add information to keep you coming back. And look for information on the 2004 mini get together coming soon.

Wes

September 1, 2004

It's now almost 4 weeks since our gathering and I am sure there are some out there wondering why nothing has shown up on the web site. My only excuse is we have just been too busy, especially for old retired folks.

For what it's worth we run a small computer repair business out of the house. When I got home Mary Jo had 5 'puters lined up for repair. I hope you have been able to escape the nasty bugs that bad guys are trying to send to your computer. Cause they have been nasty.

In my opinion the weekend was outstanding. We owe a special bit of thanks to Larry and Bonnie Wolff and Jackie and Tom Baxter for so graciously opening their homes to us Friday night and Sunday morning. They were excellent hosts and everyone had a wonderful time getting together, talking eating and sharing. And thanks to all those from Watertown that did such a great job of preparing food for us at the potlucks.

Saturday was also a good day. Many gathered there for a hamburger bar and more talking and and some fun with high school trivia questions put together by Mary Lou Shriver. The questions will be put up on the web site so you can test your memory a bit. Later I'll add the answers so

you can see how you did. Since everyone was able to ask for assistance we'll let you use any references you can come up with. And if I get some interesting feedback we may even offer some prizes like we did at the Saturday get together. Thanks to Carol and Mary Lou and any others that contributed prizes for the trivia contest.

If noise level is an indicator of success I would have to rate the weekend a 10 because we were sure a noisy bunch.

Next year we will do it again so put August 5, 6 and 7th, 2005 on your calendar.

We hope to do some occasional pizza parties at the Pizza Ranch between now and then. Come out and be part of the group that plans the weekend. Everyone is welcome and your contributions are valued.

Which reminds me that we owe a big thanks to all those that helped with the planning for 2004. There are too many to name without missing someone so we'll just say THANKS!

Later, Wes

June 30, 2005

Hi again,

I am trying to get a few updates done on the website. Last week we had a gathering in Watertown and several classmates and spouses met for supper and had a nice time visiting, make plans for this years get together and next year's 50th class reunion. I encourage anyone within commuting distance of Watertown to join us at these dinners. We send out an email to let you know what is happening. It's a great time to visit and get to reminisce with classmates.

Since I am editor by default of the web site and this is my page I am going out on the limb a bit here. Please bear with me.

The class of 55 has donated over \$11,000 to the [Arrow Foundation](#) so far. They have challenged us to meet or exceed what they collect during the run up to their 50th reunion this year. After a very spirited discussion we had a consensus that we did not want to get in a contest over this but would encourage classmates to make a donation to the Arrow Foundation if they were so inclined.

Personally, I would like to see what we can do this year. I am the chairman of the Litchfield Area Community Foundation so obviously it is a concept I believe in and I think this year would be a great time to make a concentrated effort to make a contribution to our school in the name of the class of 1956.

There are many good arguments for not making a contest out of the effort so I certainly respect the decision of those that gathered to discuss it. I personally do not have the time to try and keep the topic going for the next 13 months. So I am looking for ideas and someone to run with the ball to see just what our class can do. I can make our mailing list and email addresses available to anyone willing to take this on. What do you think?

Wes

Mar 21, 2006

Update on the [Arrow Foundation](#). The committee has agreed that we will not participate in a contest with the Class of 55. Instead we are encouraging classmates to donate to the foundation according to their personal desires without the pressure of a contest. The first \$1000 donated

will go to new concrete benches to be placed near the front entrance of the high school. The rest will go to the foundation endowment fund. Several contributions have been made already. So take this opportunity to repay the Watertown School System in some way for the great education we received. A [donation form](#) was mailed to everyone and is also available on our web site.

August 17, 2008

### The Class Get Together of 2008

Sometimes I have a hard time trying to figure out how to put information on the web site. This item I will do it as editor's comments.

It does seem that 'though we are all pushing 70 pretty hard or more we are a busy bunch. Comments from classmates that could not attend indicated that we are busy going everywhere. One classmate was in China watching his son participate. Others were celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of various kinds. Some were even off hither and yon to see new grandbabies. It seems we haven't slowed down much.

As planned, we met at the home of Bonnie and Larry Wolff on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Class mates that attended were:

Chris and Barb Larson (otherwise known as Julius, Bonnie and Larry Wolff, Carol and Darrel Arbogast, Jackie Baxter, Bob and Carol Wagner, Loren and Bev Haug, Chuck and Jan Wicks, Nina and Ross Mitchell,	Jody and Ori Leisure, Mary Conner, Jim and Carol Pickering, Wes Edwards, Marlys Dahl and Glenn Konrady, JoAnn (Weitgreffe) Wayrynen and Mary Gilbertson Larson. Jan Stephens was adopted as an honorary member.
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There was lots of lively discussion and some great food that was shared among all there. There was no doubt that we had a great time.

Visiting continued until well after dark and then those of us that enjoyed the Wolff hospitality stayed up until well after the bewitching hour of midnight.

There was a general consensus that we will plan for a 55<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2011.

That was the extent of any "formal" activities for the weekend. For some of us the visiting resumed on Saturday morning as we set up chairs and prepared for the Oak Ridge Boys concert on Saturday at the Redlin art Center. A couple small groups made trips to the Bramble Park Zoo Saturday afternoon.

Several of the classmates were seen in various groups at the concert Saturday evening.

Sunday morning some gathered at Minerva's Restaurant to celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays and a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I have decided to put pictures on the Picasa web site 'cause it's easier and if you have a gmail account you can add comments. Give it a try at <http://picasaweb.google.com/WHS.Class.1956>

That's a wrap for this year. Enjoy and we'll be in touch.

Wes

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Jan 5, 2009 Happy New Year  
More comments from the 2008 gathering

Things in my life have changed this past year. I no longer make my monthly trips to Watertown. And I do miss them. Since I became reacquainted with Watertown I have been very impressed with "my home town". There are so many outstanding attributes that can be found there. If you haven't been back for many years I would recommend taking some time to visit the city and just get to know it.

Mary Rueb Conner has also been impressed by the city. So much so that she wrote a letter to the Public Opinion editor expressing her feeling about 'our home town". I will share her letter with you. Wes

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Watertown, a joy!

Being born and raised on the prairie, I thought I would know what to expect. To my joyful surprise it was so much more at a recent '56 class 'get-together."

- Watertown has an eclectic menagerie at Bramble Park Zoo.
- The Goss Opera House was host for the thought provoking Bodies Human.
- New and old eateries were a delicious and delightful experience. Especially the Sunday brunch at Minerva's. Isn't Minerva the Roman goddess of wisdom?
- The Redlin Art Center had a wonderful display of Norman Rockwell along with an informative video of his life. Entertainment by the Oak Ridge Boys was true showmanship. What a treat!

All, and more of this interesting day-to-day living along with helpful and polite business people. Watertown — you are magnificent!  
Mary Rueb-Conner  
Huntsville, Ala.

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August 2010

On August 6 and 7 several classmates and spouses gathered at Minerva's for dinner and then at the Wolff's on Saturday for a pot luck. Check out the pictures at <http://picasaweb.google.com/WHS.Class.1956/ClassReunion2010#>

We also now have Facebook presence:  
[Watertown High School Class of 1956](#)

Wes comments Oct 3 2010

The internet, Facebook and emails have certainly changed the way folks communicate. As I assembled the following I felt like the old lady that was the town gossip writing the local news for the weekly newspaper. But it is news, good and bad, which folks want to share so I am passing on the following info on our classmates.

You can access our class Facebook page by [clicking here](#).

Wes

[Beverly van Zanten](#) Aug 6

good to hear from you! Niko is doing good, still on chemo (oral) and at the moment we go to the Dr. every 3 months. Last scans were stable. He is working the only thing is he gets tired

[Donna Fjelstad](#) Sep 30 I remain in the TCU of St. Mary's Hospital. Excellent care. I will have been here a month next week. A few ups and downs. A couple more infections - par for the course. Looking forward to going home soon. Great family and friends.



[Donna Fjelstad](#) st mary's in pierre. thanks to all of you . just s when one thing gets better, something else falls apart.

Larry and Bonnie Wolff: Some of you are aware that their son in law, Steve, has been fighting cancer for 10 years. In Sep. he lost the battle. Our sympathy goes out to Bonnie, Larry, their daughter, Nancy and the rest of the family. Steve's story can be found on [CaringBridge.org](#)

Mary Rueb Conner's brother, Frank, recently passed away. His [obituary is in the Public Opinion](#) and at the [funeral home in Atlantic, Iowa](#)

[Sandy Crump Koskovick](#) told me that she has toured the Black Hills and the color was great. In Sep Wes and Mary Jo traveled to WY and MT touring the various points of interest in WY, Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and The Little Big Horn Battlefield. What a way to learn history!

[Carol Arboqast](#) **Aug 12** I had my 6 month ct scan yesterday in Sioux Falls, and so for 1 year and 4 months, I am free of cancer! Whew! I am one lucky lady! My complete stomach was removed, so hopefully cancer won't come back. Love to all, especially my family!  
Wes' Comments Oct 18, 2010

We have an [Interests Page](#) where we recognize classmate's efforts to contribute to a particular. I added the [Belatti's efforts](#) to fight Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis. I also added a page with [more information](#) on their bike ride and the Belatti family.