



AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SANDIE SPIRIT

AHS 50th Alumni Association

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FEBRUARY 2025 POLK STREET SCHOOLS HISTORICAL MARKER

COULD THIS BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE SANDIE SPIRIT?

IT MIGHT BE IF THE DATE ABOVE YOUR NAME ON THIS ISSUE IS 12-31-2024!!

IF THAT DATE APPEARS ABOVE YOUR NAME, ON THE ADDRESS LABEL, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANYTHING ELSE UNLESS YOUR 2025 DUES ARE PAID. SEE THE RENEWAL FORM ON PAGE 25 OF THIS ISSUE.

IF YOU RECEIVE THE SS BY EMAIL, THE EXPIRATION DATE IS ON THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL.

KURT'S COMMENTS.....

Hey, Sandies,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and memorable times with all of your families and friends. We all look forward to a happy and healthy New Year-- hard to

believe that we are in the year 2025! It seems like yesterday that we were watching the movie “2001: A Space Odyssey” (released in 1968) and thinking the year 2001 was way in the future (which it was) and now it is 2025. Unbelievable!

My wife and I were fortunate to attend the Holiday Presentation by the Amarillo High choir and orchestra. What a wonderful performance by a very talented group of young people. If you haven’t been to this annual event, put it on your calendar for next year. You will be very glad you did!!

Congrats to our Sandie boys and girls teams! Our Lady Sandie Volleyball team wrapped up a very successful season this year, with a 37-7 record and District Champs with a 16-0 record. The basketball season for our girls and boys teams is entering its final weeks of district play, with post season play ahead. Our girls’ team is currently 27-5 on the season and 13-2 (first place) in District play. Our boys’ team is also 27-5 on the season and 13-0 (first place) in district play.

It won’t be long and our Lady Sandie softball and our Sandie baseball teams will begin play. Did you know that anyone 65 and older can pick up a “Gold Card” from the front office at the AISD Administration Bldg. on I-40? It will allow you to attend all Amarillo ISD regular season athletic events free for life☺ I was not aware of that until a couple of years ago!

Our Association’s general meeting is coming up soon. It will be held at the Southwest Library at 2:30 pm on Thursday, February 20th. I hope to see a lot of fellow Sandies there.

On a final note, if you haven’t renewed your membership for 2025, please do so ASAP! You might even consider paying for several years in advance. That’s what I did, so I wouldn’t have to remember each year. It is still one of the best deals around at only \$10 per year!

Let’s Keep Sandie Tradition Alive, in 2025 !!! Blow Sand Blow!!

Kurt Gehring, President

**DO YOUR FRIENDS THAT ARE FORMER CLASSMATES
KNOW ABOUT THE AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
AND THE SANDIE SPIRIT? YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED
AT HOW MANY SANDIES DON’T KNOW WE EXIST!**

**SPREAD THE WORD SO EVERYONE CAN KEEP UP
WITH THEIR CLASSMATES!**

THE HISTORY OF THE POLK STREET SCHOOLS HISTORICAL MARKER

POLK STREET SCHOOLS HISTORICAL MONUMENT

--The Whole Story as related by Bob Damon '53

In 2008 the AHS 50th Alumni Association changed locations for its General Meetings from the Amarillo Public Library on 45th to the original site of AHS on Polk Street, I worked with Belle Taylor Gage'56 on details of the move. After we had finished, Belle pulled out a folder and said, "I think this would be a good project for the Alumni Association./" The folder contained print outs from the Texas Historical Commission website regarding Historical Markers. Belle had envisioned that the existing building, where the Senior Citizens organization is located could be declared a Historic Building

You will recall that this building was originally the AHS cafeteria, auto mechanics,. Etc. I took the material and as she had suggested, I called Lueise Tyson. Lueise is a member of the Potter County Historical Commission and has written , with the required documentation, over a dozen histories for Historical Markers. After studying the material from the Texas Historical Commission, it was decided that a Historical Site Marker would be a better choice. There is a great deal of history of public schools on Polk Street Amarillo's first brick public school, the Red Brick School was built in 1900 at 1200 S Polk. In 1910 the first Amarillo High School (which later became Central Junior High and then renamed Elizabeth Nixon Junior High) was built at 1300 S Polk. In 1922, the Red Brick school was razed and our Amarillo High School was constructed in its place. All of this history is contained on the Historical Site Marker.

Researching the history of Amarillo Schools took me to the Amarillo ISD Library, the downtown Public Library and finally, the Research Department in the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. Every place iwent I found folks who bent over backwards to help in the research on this project. Bear in mind that the THC requires documentation. Stories have been written about or schools, but without documentation, they cannot be used.

A committee was appointed to move the project along. All of this was taking place in early to mid-2008. The committee consisted of Bob Damon, Chairman, Belle Taylor Gage, Carroll Forrester, Ken Kohler, Tricia Dallas, D'Nard Hemphill, Rita Bryant and we later added Charlie Broomhead and Phyllis Hicks.

After I had compiled the various historical documents, I turned them over to Lueise Tyson. Lueise did a wonderful job writing the history with documentation. Because the THC will accept applications during a certain time of the year, we were not able to submit our application until September 2009. Not all applications are accepted, so we held our breath until we received word in February, 2010 that our application had been accepted

for processing. In July 2010, we received the first proposed inscription for the marker. Bear in mind that the THC has the final say on the content of the inscription. We could, and did, request some minor changes. On August 16, 2010, the THC ordered the marker.

During this time, we began to have meetings with personnel at Amarillo College. The property is owned by them and they must approve anything to do with this project. They, of course, had approved our submission of the application to the THC for the marker, Our first meeting with Amarillo College personnel was monumental. It took place in the building at 1300 S Polk. Notable attendees were Dr Paul Matney '67, President of Amarillo College, Bruce Cotgreave, AC Physical Plant Director, Terry Berg, Dean of Finance at AC, Ellen Green, Joe Wyatt and a host of others. Of Course all the members of the committee from the Alumni Association were present. During this meeting, Bruce Cotgreave proposed that Amarillo College would construct a mini-park on the east end of the parking area at 1200 S Polk. The main feature in the park would be the Historical Monument that we had proposed to house the Historical Marker. Everyone agreed this would be a great idea and that we should move forward. In May of 2010, Shiver-Megert & Associates, landscape architects, presented preliminary drawings for the project. Everyone agreed that the project could move forward. However, time and events caused the project to move very slowly.

After final drawings by Shiver-Megert were approved, bids were taken for construction. The cost would be about \$50,00, Unfortunately, around this time in early 2011, the State of Texas had cut millions of dollars from the Amarillo College budget forcing them to allocate only \$10,000 for the project. It seemed that time stood still until it was evident that the Alumni Association would need to seek aid from outside sources. That is when Rita Bryant volunteered to take charge of the fund raising. Rita is a Grant Writer and through her efforts, she was able to obtain \$10,000 from Center City, \$10,000 from William Ware in memory of his mom, Mary Ware, and \$5,000 from the Sisemore family in memory of their mom, Mary Sue Sisemore. The balance will be paid by the AHS 50th Alumni Association. Other large donors are the ahs Class of 1953, \$2,500, and the AHS Class of 1956 donating \$3,500. The remainder is from donations to the project by many members of the Alumni Association.

Now that we have the funds either committed or in the bank, we can move forward with the construction and Dedication of the project With good weather and hard work the project could be completed by the end of 2011. We will Keep you posted on the progress.

As you can see, there are many people to thank. There are many others, not previously mentioned, such as Wes Reeves, Marker Chairman for the Potter County Historical Commission, Charles Sadnick, with the Texas Historical Commission, Arvis Stewart '58 for creating a beautiful sketch of the Historical Monument (in the original proposed setting in front of the old AHS Cafeteria). Gail and Rob, Amarillo Downtown Library,

Valerie Olson at the AISD Library, Warren Stricker with the Panhandle Plains Museum in Canyon, Kelly Chandler with Osgood Monument, Chris Valverde, Senior Planner with the City of Amarillo, and Iris Lawrence, history of African American schools in Amarillo.

A very special thanks to Charlie Broomhead for producing large photo copies of pictures for our displays.

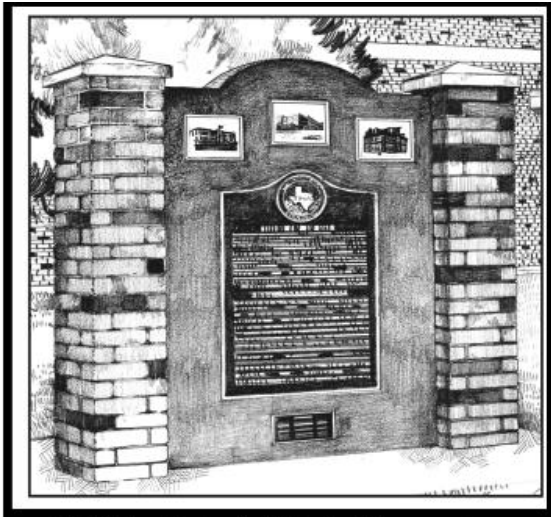
Editors Note: This is the end of the story originally printed in the October 2011 Sandie Spirit and contained the pictures below and on the next page.

GROUNDBREAKING!!



***September 29, 2011 – Breaking ground for the Mini-Park and Historical Monument.
Beth Duke, Rita Bryant, Jack Sisemore, Jess Sisemore, Bob Damon, William Ware, Dr.J.Paul Matney***

FINISHED MONUMENT AND SCHOOLS IT HONORS



Polk Street Schools Historical Monument
(The new mini-park is not pictured here.)



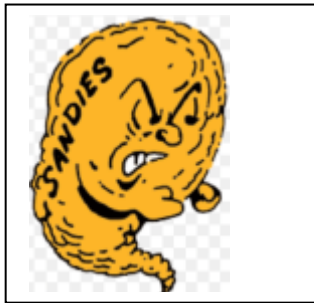
Amarillo High School



Red Brick School

Nixson Jr High School

3



**BLOW
SAND
BLOW!**

CALLING ALL SANDIES!! THE SUCCESS OF THE SANDIE SPIRIT DEPENDS ON YOU! Your fellow classmates want to hear from you..... Where are you? What have you been doing since high school? Memories from high school, family information, trips, etc. Please send in stories, photos etc.

POLK STREET/DOWNTOWN ---LOOKING BACK

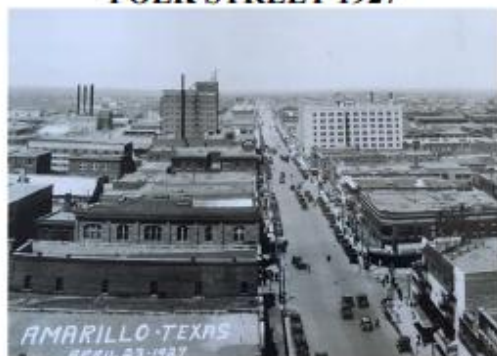
**THIS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE
FIRST PHOTOGRAPH OF POLK
STREET - 1880**



POLK STREET 1900



POLK STREET 1927



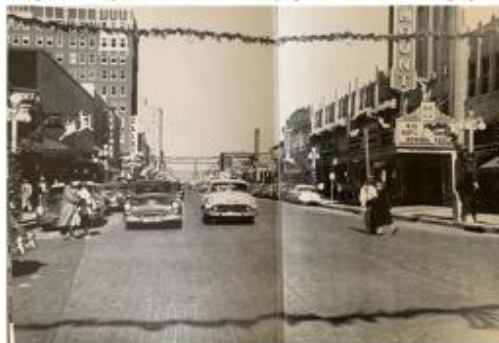
POLK STREET 1938



POLK STREET MID 40'S



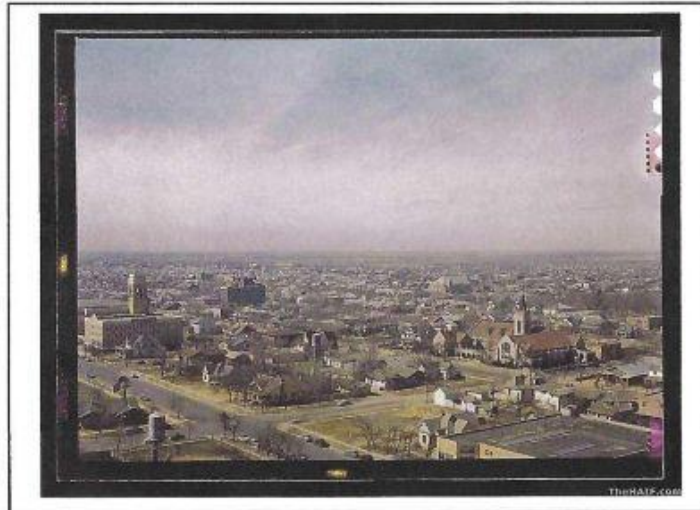
POLK STREET - 1954 LA AIROSA



AHS - 12 & POLK - 1920



THE '40'S IN AMARILLO – HISTORICAL TIMELINE (City of Amarillo Archives)



1940	—	POPULATION 51,686
1940	—	EMERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 700 N. LINCOLN STREET.
1942	—	SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE WAS ORGANIZED.
1942	—	AMARILLO ARMY AIRFIELD WAS ESTABLISHED.
1942	—	PANTEX ORDINANCE PLANT WAS OPENED.
1945	—	EL ALAMO PARK WAS ESTABLISHED AT S. E. 16 TH & HOUSTON.
1946	—	AMARILLO AIR TERMINAL WAS ESTABLISHED.
1948	—	THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION MOVED TO AMARILLO.
1948	—	GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 611 N. HUGHES STREET.
1948	—	DICK BIVINS STADIUM WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3301 E. 10 TH AVENUE.
1948	—	NORTH HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 607 N. HUGHES ST.
1949	—	A TORNADO CROSSED AMARILLO CAUSING THREE MILLION DOLLARS OF PROPERTY DAMAGE AND THE LOSS OF SEVEN LIVES.

THE '50'S IN AMARILLO – HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1950	—	THERE WERE 60 ORGANIZED CHURCHES IN AMARILLO.
1950	—	MEMORIAL PARK LOCATED AT 24 TH & WASHINGTON WAS DEDICATED.
1950	—	POPULATION 74,246
1951	—	WONDERLAND AMUSEMENT PARK WAS FOUNDED AT THOMPSON PARK.
1951	—	PANTEX WAS SELECTED AS THE SITE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPON ASSEMBLY.
1951	—	STEPHEN F. AUSTIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1808 WIMBERLY ROAD.
1951	—	LAMAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3800 S. LIPSCOMB ST.
1951	—	ROBERT E. LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 119 N.E. 15 TH AVENUE.
1951	—	AVONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1500 AVONDALE STREET.
1953	—	CANADIAN RIVER MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY WAS FORMED.
1953	—	HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1330 N. W. 18 TH AVENUE.
1953	—	AMARILLO'S FIRST TV STATION, KGNC, WAS ESTABLISHED.
1954	—	PIONEER NATURAL GAS COMPANY WAS ORGANIZED.
1954	—	SUNRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 5123 E. 14 TH AVENUE.
1954	—	SOUTH LAWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 4719 S. BOWIE STREET.
1954	—	WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2004 N. MARRS STREET.
1954	—	PALO DURO HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1400 N. GRANT STREET .
1955	—	CORONADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3210 WIMBERLY ROAD.
1955	—	JAMES BOWIE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED 3001 E. 12 TH AVENUE.
1956	—	PARAMOUNT TERRACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3906 W. 40 TH AVENUE.
1956	—	LAWNDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2215 S. BIVINS STREET.
1956	—	OLSEN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2409 ANNA STREET.
1957	—	TASCOSA HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 3921 WESTLAWN CIRCLE.
1957	—	JAMES W. FANNIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 4627 S. RUSK STREET.
1958	—	WILLIAM B. TRAVIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 2815 MARTIN ROAD.
1958	—	A NEW GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 1905 N.W. 12 TH AVENUE.
1959	—	HAMLET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS ESTABLISHED AT 705 SYCAMORE STREET.

(City of Amarillo Archives)

CLASSMATE COMMENTS.....

ARTCLE SENT BY KURT GEHRING '70, AMARILLO

COMMENTS MADE IN THE YEAR 1957

“I’ll tell you one thing. If things keep going the way they are , it’s going to be impossible to buy a weeks groceries for \$20.”

“I am afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gabel get by with saying ’damn’ in ‘Gone With The Wind’. It seems every new movie has either ‘hell’ or ‘damn’ in it.”

“Have you seen the new cars next year? It won’t be long until \$5000 will only buy a used one.”

“If cigarettes keep going up in price, I am going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.”

“Did you hear the Post Office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?”

“If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.”

“When I first started Driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we’d be better off just leaving the car in the garage.”

“Kids today are impossible Those ducktail haircuts make impossible to stay groomed. Next thing you know, boys will be wearing their hair as long as the girls.”

“If they think I ‘ll pay 50 cents for a haircut, forget it.”

“I read the other day where some scientist thinks it is possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.”

“Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75000 a year to play ball? It wouldn’t surprise me if someday they’ll be making more than the President.”

“I never thought I would see the day that all of our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.”

“It’s too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet.”

“It won’t be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.”

“Marriage doesn’t mean a thing any more. Those Hollywood stars seem to be getting divorced at the drop of a hat.”

“I am just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.”

“Thank Goodness I won’t live to see the day when the Government takes half of our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Congress.”

“The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will catch on.”

“There is no sense going to Lincoln or Omaha any more for a weekend. It costs nearly \$15 a night to stay in a hotel.”

“No one can afford to be sick any more. \$35 a day in a hospital is too rich for my blood.”

TOBY DRUIN '53, WAXAHACHIE, TX

While Sandies were having class reunions in Amarillo, Oct. 24-26, two longtime Sandies were having a reunion of their own in Red Oak, TX, 400 miles to the east. Let me explain.

My daughter, Christie, had a stroke last August and remains somewhat impaired to the extent that she has had to move to a senior (she's 66) living center. On the evening of Oct. 24, I accompanied her to the dining hall for a "Family Night" dinner. As we walked to the dining hall, we were joined by a delightful woman named Norma Lockett. When we were seated at a table, Norma asked me where I was from. "I was born and raised in Amarillo," I said, and she replied, "I grew up in Amarillo, too. Did you go to Amarillo High School?" "Yes," I said, "Class of '53, and you?" "Class of '51," Norma said. "What was your maiden name?" I asked. "Todd," she answered, and I instantly knew she was the sister of my good friend Gordon Todd, also a '53 Sandie, who later became one of Dallas's premier home builders and still lives in the DFW Metroplex. Gordon and I played basketball together at Nixson Junior High. He went on to be a standout Sandie basketballer, while I concentrated on trying to play baseball.

Norma and her husband, the late Norman Lockett, had a long career with Buckner Baptist Benevolences. I had a 56-year journalism career. She and I had a wonderful reunion talking about AHS.

I have had another reunion of sorts while reading the book, Charles Goodnight, Cowman and Plainsman, by J. Evetts Haley. I have been familiar with the Goodnight name since I was a kid in Amarillo and have long known of the ranch he established in Palo Duro Canyon. Goodnight has been called the "Father of the Texas Panhandle." I guess familiarity breeds indifference as well as contempt, however, and I had never read anything about Goodnight, the man, until I happened onto this book written by Haley in 1936. Larry McMurtry must have been thoroughly familiar with the life and exploits of Goodnight when he wrote Lonesome Dove. Many of the adventures Goodnight had in real life are recreated in the exploits of Augustus McRae and Woodrow Call in McMurtry's book and the TV mini-series.

But the reunion I have experienced has been in reading Haley's description of the Llano Estacado, the Staked Plains, the area where Amarillo proudly sits. In my teens, I roamed all over it with my friends, Buddy Glasgow, Dwayne McMinn, Jimmy Gilmore and Bill Nichols. If it rained, we would drive to the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River east of Claude and roll around in the rushing runoff. It's a wonder we didn't drown. On Saturday nights we would seine Tierra Blanca Creek below Buffalo Lake. Miles Childers and I hunted all over his LX Ranch and occasionally would see the ruts of wagon wheels cut into limestone outcroppings and in old buffalo wallows would find a bone or tooth gleaming white in the sun. All of those had been Goodnight's stomping grounds a century and a half earlier.

Haley prompted this nostalgia with his description of the Llano when Goodnight came to the Palo Duro in 1875. For those of us who grew up on the "Llano" this is a "feel good" piece of remembrance. For younger Sandies who have never tasted of the history of the place, it's something they need to read:

"As fall approached (in 1875), he (Goodnight) gathered a herd of sixteen hundred and drifted them (from southeastern Colorado near Las Animas) toward the Llano Estacado, that great plateau of New Mexico and Texas, a wilderness, arid, unsettled, and then almost unknown. As a ranger he had explored its far edges during the Civil War, and had learned something of the country in which he intended to locate".

"Though fifteen expansive years had passed since he began to learn its terrain, it was as yet unclaimed even by pioneer stockmen. Traditionally, it was the Great American Desert, and for Gregg, Marcy, and other early travelers it was truly 'the dreaded Llano Estacado...the great Zahara of North America.' Even in this year, 1875, the Texas Rural Register and Immigrants' Handbook advised the world that it was improbable that the

Staked Plains could 'ever be adapted to the wants of man,' adding that this was 'the only uninhabitable portion of Texas.' But Goodnight recalled its miles of unbroken buffalo turf, its rich gramma grasses, and its scattered waterings. Besides, he never read guidebooks, and hence moved with confidence. He found the land the same as Albert Pike found it forty-three years before, and so aptly explained that:

"No man can form an idea of the prairie, from anything which he sees from east of the Cross Timbers. Broad, level, gray and barren, the immense desert which extends westwardly almost to the shadow of the mountains, is too grand and too sublime to be imaged by the narrow contracted, undulating plains to be found nearer the bounds of civilization."

"Imagine yourself...standing in a plain in which your eye can see no bounds. Not a tree, nor a shrub, not a tall weed that lifts its head above grandeur of the desert; not a stone is to be seen on its hard beaten surface; no undulation, no abruptness, no break to relieve the monotony: nothing...Its sublimity arises from its unbounded extent, its barren monotony and desolation, its still, unmoved, calm, stern, almost self-confident grandeur, it's strange power of deception, it's want of echo, and in fine, its power of throwing a man back upon himself and giving him a feeling of lone helplessness, strangely mingled at the same time with a feeling of liberty and freedom from restraint."

"The principal features--streams, canyons, and springs--that break the sameness of the plateau were named by the New Mexican comancheros and ciboleros. They knew the land intimately for a hundred years before another white race came, and being capable plainsmen, crossed it at random while other frontiersmen thought it an impassable barrier. The naming of the Staked Plains, according to early American chronicles, is due to the staking of a road across its unbroken surface by Spanish travelers, which legend probably has some basis in fact, for even yet, along the western edges of the Plains, cowboys sometimes see the white stone mojoneras--mounds or stakes--which not only guided the hunter and trader along his way, but indicated a nearby seep of water."

"Toward this land Goodnight's outfit pointed his herd..." to eventually wind up in Palo Duro Canyon, where up until only 15 years before, the Kwahadi, the fiercest of the Comanche, the fiercest of all the Plains Indians, made their home.

Right in the middle of all of that is where almost everyone reading this Sandie Spirit got to go to a great place named Amarillo High School. I turned 90 in October, and I've lived away from Amarillo for all but one of my last 67 years. Can you tell I still miss it?

MARGARET “PEGGY” ZIMMERER BATTLES, '57, AMARILLO

Hope everybody had a wonderful time at the Sandie Alumni Reunion. Sure do miss the history articles. Enjoy the articles written by Tony Druin.

Good News! No Hurricanes hit in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas this year. Hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and will stay healthy in 2025. Thanks for the good job ya'll do with the Sandie Spirit.

VIRGINIA PFEIFFER-BRITTON-BRADY, '54, NEVADA, TX

I'm really doing well. I am living with my youngest son & wife. I'm really living the life of Riley. I sold my car and no longer driving. doing exercise 3X a week, don't get out at night and I live in the country. It's really great! I go to New Heights Baptist Church in Wylie. I have to drive 38 miles whenever we go. Enjoy! I am happy to get the newsletter.

BETTE HICKERSON JOHNSON, '51, GREENVILLE, TX

I was born in Amarillo in 1933. I thought I would live there forever. However, my husband, Walther Johnson, passed away, and later, my son Mike died also. I had no family left in Amarillo.

Then I was invited to Greenville, TX to live with my son and his family. Lots of wonderful folks. I will be happy here forever.

I enjoy being able to get good news from you, and I am proud to be a Sandie!

RICHARD GWYN, '61, KERRVILLE, TX

Merry Christmas and a Glorious New Year Wow! What a year we have had and it is just about gone. Ginger and Richard are still hanging in there, even with all the woes you have as age creeps upon us. Ginger has a new knee and is doing very well.

We traveled to Amarillo to support younger brother Stanley as he was installed into the Amarillo Area Sports Hall of Fame and with that we now have two family members in this great organization, Richard being the first. For Richard it was great meeting up with school mates, some he had not seen since elementary school plus others through High School, not to leave out those of the racing world.

The wonderful world of collecting Crayola Crayon has gone beyond what Richard ever dreamed it would. Nestled in 19 lighted displays you can view 682 production numbers of Crayola Crayons that start with the foyer that adjoins the living room and into the dining room that are all designated to the collection. You will be able to view 21 pieces of framed art, all accomplished in Crayola Crayon by Richard. The collection displays 9 wood soft

drink cases with crayons placed on their ends, that lets you view the wonderful world of color to complete the 59,679 bulk crayons.

Each summer, Richard and Ginger teach the technique of Crayola blending at the children's camps at The Museum of Western Art, Kerrville. What a joy it is to teach the 6 to 12 years of age children in 3 different camps.

For your viewing pleasure of Richard's gallery, on the computer search KENS5 Crayola or Richard Gwyn, to see a 4 plus minute video of the Gallery. 'This segment went on CBS nationwide. I wish I had the time to go in depth about some of the stories that go with some of the production numbers, maybe at a later date.

If you can, the Gwyn's would enjoy your presence at the Gallery, just let us know when you can come see us.

With this line, Color Me Gone from The House Where We Have Wax to Max.

TERI KALE ROLLER, '70, AMARILLO, TX

Two years at Wayland Baptist University. Then 2 ½ years at WTAMU. Degree in Music Education. Married in 1972. Had 3 sons, Andy, Tim, Danny. Taught at Bible Heritage School and San Jacinto Christian School until 2016. Got Masters Degree in School Counseling at WTAMU in 1999.

We now have 8 grandchildren ranging from 24 years old – 1 year old. God has truly blessed Tom and I, married 52 years.

DAN GIBBON, '58, BATON ROUGE, LA

Janice and I are both doing well—doing the retired life. We enjoy life down on the bayou in south Louisiana. Our two sons live within 30 miles of us. Four grandkids are also in the area, and a fifth one is working in Arizona. My life is centered around swimming, grandkids, shooting and hunting. Janice keeps busy with exercising and supervising me. Hope that all Sandie Alumni and their families are happy and well.

SHARON HURT MILLS, '54, AMARILLO

Yes, I'm a 1%er. I will be 89 January 1. I've had a blessed life, mostly in Amarillo. I spent 20 years in Ruidoso, N.M. Remember Bingo's Bar BQ? That was my Bingo. He was the best. I had 3 daughters, and raised a Grandson, Dustin Austin.

Now I'm at Bristol Park assisted living home. I'm very happy here, made new friends, and I like being waited on. ☺ No cooking, no cleaning, no laundry. I've run into a few Sandies here. We always look forward to receiving our Sandie Spirit!

SHELLEY MOORE HORWITZ, '71, HOUSTON, TX

I attended Rice University where I met my amazing husband, Bill Horwitz. Was briefly a member of the Houston Symphony Chorus where I was lucky to sing "Carmina Burana" just as I did in the All-State Choir my senior year in high school!

Upon graduation from Rice, we travelled for 9 months throughout Russia and Eastern Europe courtesy of Bill's Watson Fellowship. Upon returning, we both got our MBA's, and I started working in a Houston bank as an oil and gas lending officer. After Shaina and Jason were born, I started a children's clothing store which kept me busy for 27 years. Currently, Bill and I are enjoying visiting Grandchildren in Chicago and here in Houston, as well as volunteering. Hoping to stay connected to my elementary through high school friends and churn up wonderful memories!

VERN AND JUDY (FONTI) VINCENT, 58, THE WOODLANDS, TX

Being in our mid-eighties and having been married for 63 years, we are blessed in so many ways. We have two daughters who are now classified as seniors, six grandkids, and six (7th on way) great grandkids.

Over two years ago Judy had a heart issue that eventually required 3 different heart implants. With excellent doctors and the grace of God she is doing great now. My ailment is hearing loss that I'm learning to cope with some help from hearing aids.

We look forward to our nineties. Always enjoy reading about former classmates and updates from the newsletter. Our best to everyone!

DAVIS AND GLENDA (MILLER) LOWERY, '56 & '59. AMARILLO

We are still living in our own home here in Amarillo, TX. We really enjoy reading other Sandies comments about what is going on with them, so we are adding an update to what is going on with us.

Both of our children live in Amarillo. They are former Sandies. Well, I guess they are still Sandies. Their children live here. Our daughter's daughter got married this past spring. That was an excitingly beautiful event. Our son's older son got married a few years back. He and his wife live here. Our son's younger son lives here. He graduated from Texas Tech a couple of years ago and came back here to work. We are fully blessed to have our family here.

BOB GLEASON, '57, LONGMONT, CO

It is hard to believe 68 years have passed since I left high school. We were fortunate to have experienced the very best of years in the 50's and 60's.

My wife, of 63 years, has been a constant blessing, keeping me in line and helping me to focus on the better things of life.

After Texas University, I joined the U.S. Army with George Gray. George and I ended up in Orleans, France. It was there he became the Godfather of my oldest daughter. Both of my children were born in France.

Life has been good! We split our time with spring and summer in Colorado and fall and winter in Mesa, AZ.

I am so happy I was able to have my school years in Amarillo!

RENEE ECKER WILSON 1961 –AMARILLO

I love being a part of AHS. I am sorry I can't do more since I don't drive any longer. I loved high school and Amarillo College. Hugh was employed by AHS and lacked one month being there 20 years when he retired in 2008. After that he substituted some.

I love Art, the Continental Apartments, games, Church and my cat. I will write again, sometime.

**SANCY LEACHMAN,-DAUGHTER OF DARRELL LEACHMAN '50,
PARK CITY, UT**

My Mom, Alexia Leachman, who is not a Sandie, enjoys receiving the Sandie Spirit even more since the passing of my father in 2021. It never fails to bring up a fond memory and a smile! She wants to continue receiving it, so dues are enclosed as well as a donation to the Publication Fund. Merry Christmas!

SANDRA (SANDY) DAY WAREHIME '60, CURRITUCK, NC

We are still in North Carolina. The storms this year really tore up the western part of this State. We were lucky we live in the north part of the state. We feel for all of the people that have lost everything, including loved ones in the hurricane's path. We also feel for those in the California fires. We pray the winds will die down and the rain will come.

We have traveled to all parts of the country and this is a beautiful Land of Freedom!

God has blessed us with good health, but now we can no longer travel. We stay home and play on our computers and watch TV. Our minds are still good and we are grateful for that.

I so enjoy the Sandie Spirit. I keep up with what is happening at "home" by reading it. Thanks for all you do for us. Once a Sandie, Always a Sandie!

**CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL, (DIANA OSTRANDER RUSSELL '63) LEES
SUMMITT, MO**

My name is Charles Edward Russell.. I was married to Diana Ostrander Russell, AHS Class of 1953 before her death on 12-8-2024. Unfortunately, I missed being a Sandie as my family moved to Lubbock when I was in 4th grade, about 1954. However, my mother, Mary Frances (Konkle) Russell was a Sandie, Class of 1934. Her younger brother, Charles Edward Konkle was also a Sandie, Class of 1938. He was a Bombardier in the Army Air Corp in World War II and his name is inscribed on the beautiful granite Hall of Honor Monument that stands in the court yard of the new AHS honoring all the Sandies who gave their lives in service to their country. I am named in his honor and though he lost his life shortly before my birth, he has been a part of me every day of my life, and I am 81 years old. Next, my older sister, Frankie Dorene (Russell) Altsman was also a Sandie, Class of 1949. She passed away 5-11-2022. And lastly, my wonderful late wife of 58 years, Diana Ostrander Russell, Class of 1963, was a very proud Sandie. Though I cannot call myself a Sandie, I'm honored to have those roots.

Sincerely,
Charles E. Russell,
Nephew of Lt. Charles E. Konkle, Class of 1938, (Died at Bougainville 10/10/1943)

JUANA JOY JONES JORDAN, '56, ANGLETON, TX

Doing great! Sold my house in Galveston, and moved to Angleton to be closer to one of my daughters. We live about a block apart so it is convenient. Enjoy the newsletter, and thank all of you for all you do to keep it going.

**WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL REQUESTS TO BE ABLE TO PAY DUES &
DONATIONS ONLINE.**

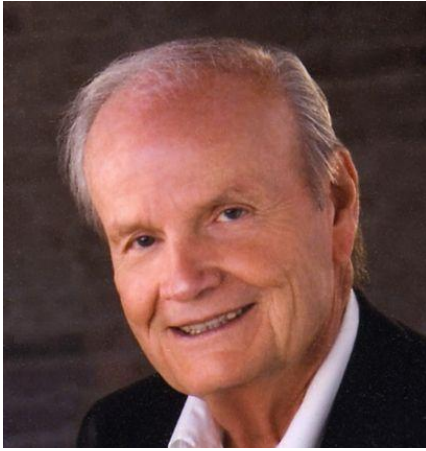
**AS OF THIS TIME, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT ONLINE
PAYMENTS, NOT BECAUSE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, BUT WE HAVE NOT
BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO CONTROL IT AND KEEP YOUR
RECORDS UPDATED.**

**MAYBE WHEN WE GET A SMARTER, YOUNGER TREASURER, HE
(SHE) CAN FIGURE IT OUT!**

SOAPY SUDBURY '58, TREASURER

CLASS OF 1947

OBITUARIES.....



Jack Sanders Hudgins, Died 12-13-24 in Amarillo

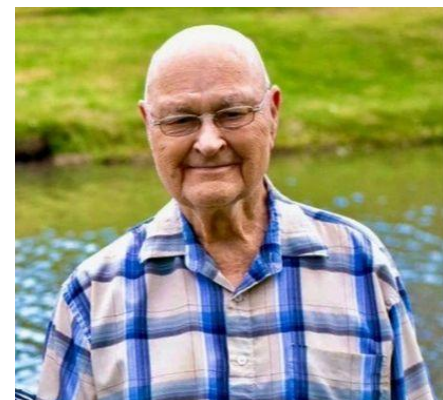
<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/jack-hudgins>

CLASS OF 1953



Don Edwin Fuller died 12-10-24, in Amarillo

<https://www.llanocemetery.org/obituaries/Don-Fuller?obId=34191478>



Don Eugene Brown died 1-13-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/don-brown>

CLASS OF 1954



Patsy M Patrick Fox died 11-18-24 In Amarillo

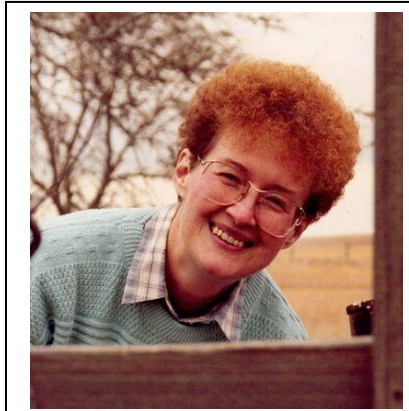
<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/patsy-fox>



Patricia Sue “Pat” Giles Howe died 12-29-24 in Amarillo

<https://www.rectorfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Patricia-Howe?obId=34248604>

CLASS OF 1955



Jo Ann Strange Meeker died 12-15-24 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/jo-meeker>

CLASS OF 1956



Pam Reid Martin died 8-26-24 in Tyler, TX

No Obituary Available at this time

CLASS OF 1957



Theda Kay Brazille Kern died 11-30-24 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/theda-brazille-kern>

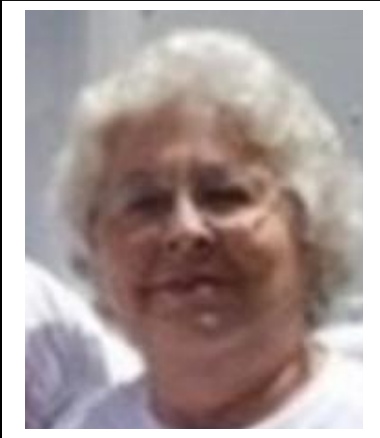
CLASS OF 1958



Steve Carter died 11-7-2024 in White Oak, TX

<https://www.raderfh.com/obituaries/Stephen-Carter-12/#!/Obituary>

CLASS OF 1960



Bera Ardella Chambers Calvert died 11-16-24 in Fort Worth

<https://www.winscottfuneral.com/obituaries/bera-calvert>

CLASS OF 1963



Diana Ostrander Russell died 12-8-24 in Lees Summit, MO

<https://langsfordfuneralhome.com/tributes/diana-lynn-russell/>

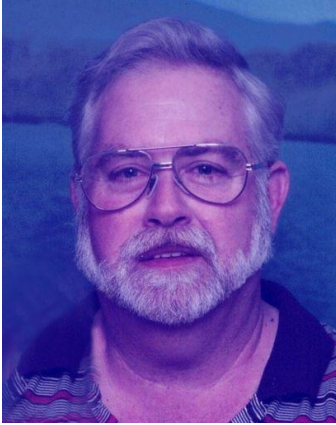
CLASS OF 1968



Danny Allen Reid died 10-31-24 in Amarillo

<https://www.coxrowleyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Danny-Reid>

CLASS OF 1970



Michael Ray Williams died 12-18-24 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/michael-williams>



**Debra Fa "Debi" Elkins Huff died 5-16-24 in
Little Elm, TX**

<https://www.amarillo.com/obituaries/paco0826313>

**BLOW SAND BLOW!
ONCE A SANDIE,
ALWAYS A SANDIE!**

MEMORIALS

DONOR

MEMORIAL

Eugene McCartt

Elvin Lamb

Eugene McCartt

Tom Marsh

David Browning

Judith Jackson Browning

Leon Whitney

Alan Roberson

Susan Wineinger Richardson

Winston Curtis

Teri Kale Roller

Mike Kale

Jim & Jean Tolk McMeans

Nancy McMeans Halton

Shayne McWhorter

James McWhorter

Earl Clift

James Hamilton

Earl Clift

Kenneth Hamilton

Shirley Moore Horwitz

Daniel Lynn "Danny" Smith

Toby Druin

Larra Rodgers Druin

Toby Druin

Dwayne McMinn

Toby Druin

Buddy Glasgow

Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas

Jimmy Gilmer

Marlene Lundegreen Cooper

Palma (Pam) Reid Martin

Bob Gleason

Billy Gleason

DONOR

HONORARIUM

Kay Alexander Howard

Dixie Quisenberry Gartrell

Mal & Janette Park Whitsett

Jack and Debra Sisemore



Membership/Renewal Form

AHS 50th Alumni Association
P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114
ahs50thalumiasociation@gmail.com

The AHS 50th Alumni Association is active in promoting fellowship among graduates of the finest school anywhere—Amarillo High School. People really do enjoy hearing from the old gang and our bi-monthly publication is the surest way to get regular updates. Please share membership info with fellow Sandies who are not members.

_____ First Name	_____ Last Name in High School	_____ Married Name (Ladies)	_____ Class	
_____ Spouse Name	_____ Last Name in High School (Only if AHS) (Only if AHS)	_____ Married Name (Ladies)	_____ Class	
_____ Address	_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip	_____ Home Phone
_____ Cell Phone	_____ E-mail Address			

Annual Dues (due January 1, each year): Single Dues \$10.00 ____ Couple's Dues \$15.00 ____

DONATIONS

Amarillo High School 50TH Alumni Association, Inc. is a 501c3 corporation,
Tax Id # 75-2597825. Donations may be tax deductible. (Consult with your accountant)
**DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN HONOR OF SOMEONE ALIVE OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE
DECEASED (Attach the Memorial/Honorarium form or list on back of this form)**

SCHOLARSHIPS: GENERAL \$ _____ KEN KOHLER \$ _____ Gary Biggers \$ _____
ART RESTORATION FUND \$ _____
HALL OF HONOR SCHOLARSHIP & MAINTENANCE FUND \$ _____
(Honoring Sandies who served and/or died in the U.S. military)

POLK STREET SCHOOLS HISTORICAL MARKER \$ _____
SANDIE SPIRIT PUBLICATION FUND (To help Keep Our Dues Low) \$ _____

(Mail check & this form to the address at top of this page) TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

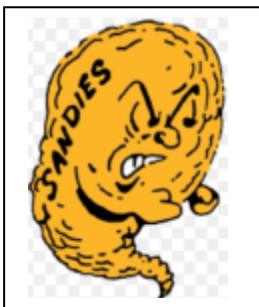
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A NOTE TO THE EDITOR telling classmates where you have been and what you have been doing? You know how you enjoy hearing from your friends. They, too, would like some news—FROM YOU!! Mail your story to the address on the Membership Registration Page. (Room to write on next page)



Name (Please Include Maiden Name)_____

Class_____ **City**_____ **State**_____

**Mail to :
AHS 50th Alumni Association, P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114**



AHS 50th Alumni Association

P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114

AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com

MEMORIAL/HONORARIUM FORM

Your First Name

Last Name in High School

Married Name (Ladies)

Class

Address

City

State

Zip

In Memory _____ Honor _____ of _____ AHS Class _____

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

AMARILLO HIGH SCHOOL 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC is a 501c3 corporation,
Tax Id # 75-2597825. Donations may be tax deductible. (Consult with your accountant)

Scholarships: General \$ _____ Ken Kohler _____ Gary Biggers \$ _____

Hall of Honor Scholarship & Maintenance Fund \$ _____
(Honoring those Sandies who served and/or died in the U.S. military)

Art Restoration Fund \$ _____

Polk Street Schools Historical Marker \$ _____

Sandie Spirit Publication Fund (To help Keep Our Dues Low) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

(Mail check & this form to the following address):

AHS 50th Alumni Association, P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114



**Amarillo High School 50th Alumni
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 7146
Amarillo, TX 79114**

PLAN TO BE THERE!!

**OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2025 at 2:30 pm
SW AMARILLO PUBLIC LIBRARY
6801 SW 45Th AMARILLO, TX 79109**