



AHS 50TH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SANDIE SPIRIT

AHS 50th Alumni Association

P.O. Box 7146,

Amarillo, TX 79114

WEB SITE – 50thahs.org Email – AHS50thalumniassociation@gmail.com

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Daphne Adkins '73, 1st Vice-President

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Scott Baland, '74 Rep

JUNE 2025

THE AHS "GANG OF EIGHT"

General Meeting

Friday June 20, 2025 at 2:30pm

Northwest Amarillo Public Library

6100 SW 9th Ave

Amarillo, TX 79106

Our normal date would be Thursday, June 19th, 2025 and normal place is Southwest Public Library. However, June 19th is a Federal Holiday and the Public Libraries are closed. Southwest Library was unavailable for Friday, 6-20-2025.

KURT'S COMMENTS.....

Howdy Sandies!

It has been a very busy Spring as this school year has concluded. I want to say congratulations to all the graduates of the AHS Senior Class of 2025. I wish all of them success and God's blessings in the future. Job Well Done!!!

Our scholarship committee comprised of myself, Soapy Sudbury '58, Carolyn Kilpatrick Maas '58, Jeri Jackson Farris '70, Daphne Adkins '73, Vickie Henderson Farren '73, and Scott Baland '74 met in April to go through literally hundreds of scholarship applications submitted by graduating seniors of AHS, and select the recipients of the scholarships to be awarded by our association. I want to thank all the members of our committee this year for their hard work on this task.

On the evening of May 6th, at an assembly in the AHS auditorium, I was privileged and honored to present the winners of the AHS 50th Alumni Association scholarships for this year. Also attending the ceremonies that night was Daphne Adkins '73, Scott Baland '74, Vickie Henderson Farren '73, with me.

The recipients of our scholarships this year totaling \$19,500 are as follows:

**Bob Storseth Memorial Scholarship (AC)
Sandie Spirit Scholarship (AC)
Wayne Rogers Memorial Scholarship (AC)**

**Avery Mooney
Caden O'Brien
Mallory Wright**

AHS 50th Alumni Hall of Honor Scholarships (4Yr School)

**Clayton Norrell
Hadley Paddock**

Gary Biggers Memorial Scholarships (4Yr School)

**Elizabeth Mann
Valenzuela Moreno**

Ken Kohler Memorial Scholarships (4Yr School)

**Santino Castillo
Chloe Godinez
Queen Pride
McKenzie Williamson
Kameron Wolff**

It was very difficult to pick a few individuals from all the applications that we had. What a fine group of Sandies. I wish we could have given all our applicants scholarships!!



The Class of 1975 just recently held their 50th anniversary reunion on May 31st. Brenda Taylor Carden '73, and Gwen Bains Murphy '62, Daphne Adkins '73, and myself attended the event. We set up a table for our association at the registration of the event and handed out applications for membership to our association, to those that attended. Later that evening, I gave a presentation to the class about our association; our history, and what we do.

We signed up around 40 new members that night to our association, and several of the attendees took applications with them to complete and send in later.

The Class of 1975 was very receptive, cordial, and gracious to allow us to attend their special night and let us spread the word about our AHS 50th Alumni Association!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you Sandies at our next general meeting on FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH, AT 2:30, AT THE NORTHWEST PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM! PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE MEETING ON FRIDAY, INSTEAD OF THURSDAY, SINCE THAT THURSDAY IS A FEDERAL HOLIDAY, AND THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED!!

Until then, I send my blessings to you and your families.

“ONCE A SANDIE, ALWAYS A SANDIE”

LET’S KEEP SANDIE TRADITION ALIVE!!

Your president,

Kurt Gehring, Class of ‘70

“There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.”

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.”

— Oscar Wilde

AHS "GANG OF EIGHT" IN 1945



They called themselves "The Gang of Eight," eight who were friends through elementary school, junior high and on into Amarillo High. They double-dated and had parties at various homes.

Bill Hughes as a teen had a Model A car, and for that reason, he was especially popular.

"He was voted class favorite," said Wales Madden Jr., "and why shouldn't he have been? His car took us around. We pulled out the backseat and put in a wooden floor so we could get in with our girls and drive around."

The Gang of Eight - Tony Martin, Keith James, Pat Oles, Madden, Hughes, Rudy Bauman, Pat Babb and Eldon Durrett - were all from the Amarillo High Class of 1945.

"They were all millionaires but me," Hughes joked.

But they also came of age at the end of World War II, though they didn't know it at the time. The war had raged for Americans since Pearl Harbor was bombed on Dec. 7, 1941, when the Class of '45 was in ninth grade. As the war continued, young boys knew their time was coming.

"It was just a given, just assumed you were going into some kind of service," Hughes said. "Our particular group was fortunate that we were in at the very tail end of the war."

"We were literally going overseas in the Pacific when the armistice and surrender treaty was signed with Japan on the (U.S.S.) Missouri in Tokyo Bay. We didn't shoot anyone, but no one shot at us."

Yet, in their senior year when six enlisted in the Navy and Martin went to the Coast Guard, they had no idea when the war would end. For all they knew, they would be among the first to invade Japan, where estimates called for the bloodiest battle in civilization.

Hughes said Madden's influence had them all going to the Navy, that part of the discussion was they would rather be in a bunk on a ship eating Navy food than in a foxhole somewhere eating C rations.

"Most all of us close buddies thought the quickest way to get into the fight was in the Navy," Madden said. "We were very conscientious about that. We truly wanted to get to the Pacific and be involved in what we thought would be the invasion of Japan, and the Navy was the way to do that."

"There was an excitement about getting even for Pearl Harbor. Early on, we couldn't wait."

Like many seniors from the Class of '45 across the country, seven of those Gang of Eight were already at Navy boot camp by the time graduation rolled around in June 1945. Only Durrett, whose physical condition kept him out of the military, did not serve.

Hughes remembers 26 from Amarillo High were in Dallas in February 1945 to take a physical and officially join the Navy. Two months later, in April, and two months before commencement, they were off to boot camp.

"Our mothers walked across the stage to get our diplomas," Hughes said. "We had a senior class of 444, and I'd guess about 50 mothers did that for us senior boys."

The Gang of Eight didn't see much of each other until their time was up, with the exception of Madden and Hughes. Both were stationed in Hawaii, where Madden was aboard a sea-going tugboat, the Lipan.

"That boat could have been used as a landing craft," Madden laughed. "I could still see me going ashore and finding me a gun. I really wanted to fight."

Hughes, who was a competitive swimmer and diver in high school, was made a lifeguard on a fleet recreation beach on Nanakuli Beach on the western shore of Oahu.

"What a deal," he said. "Someone had to do it. Sometimes I feel almost guilty. My brother was in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium and got frozen feet."

By summer 1946, they were discharged and back in Amarillo. In August, they met at Hughes' backyard at 1901 S. Van Buren St. - "It's where an underpass is now," he said - for a photo before they went their separate ways.

Hughes, Bauman, Madden and Oles all went to The University of Texas, where Bauman played football for the Longhorns. The other half scattered, all to successful lives.

Madden is a noted attorney, a fixture for decades in positions of service for UT, and is a longtime civic leader in Amarillo.

Hughes, who was in the furniture business for 28 years, is a retired municipal judge in Canyon. Oles was an Amarillo thoracic surgeon. Martin was a bank president in Midland. Babb was a stockbroker. Bauman started in the family lumber business.

Only Hughes and Madden, both 87, are still living. Bauman and Durrett died in the 1950s. The Eldon Durrett Memorial Scholarship has been awarded more than 800 times to students in Amarillo Independent School District. The Rudy Bauman Award for dedication is given annually within the Amarillo High football program.

Most recently, Oles died in March 2013 and Martin this past December.

"Life was simpler then," Madden said.

"We loved our country and we were determined in our own way to avenge Dec. 7. It was very important."

--Reprint of story by Jon Mark Beilue in the Amarillo Globe-News 11-7-2014

JACKIE JENKINS DODSON '64, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA.

After spending most of my adult life in Amarillo where husband Ed was a physician (endocrinologist), and I was an artist. We relocated to Sebastian/Vero Beach, Florida, to be closer to our son David, AHS '92, and his five kids. We moved two days after everything shut down for Covid in April 2020. Had a very nice five years there, but I have a bad ankle that can't be repaired and have to use a walker so was not a beach person. Our adult daughter, Emily, AHS '99, who has Down syndrome, came to live with us there. In October of last year, my sweet husband passed away from pancreatic cancer. Family conference with daughter Katie Dodson Gilman, AHS '88, and Marnie, AHS '90, as well as David and decided Em and I should move close to Katie in Tallahassee. I also decided to move into a senior community called Red Hills Senior Retirement Resort in my own apartment. Getting used to it, but my first impression was"Gee, all these OLD people!!" However, I looked in my mirror and realized I was not a 'senior' at AHS anymore. Emily is living with Katie and I have a lot of fun going places with the kids. Finding my place here slowly but surely. Would love to stay in touch with people.

Editor's note: This is a reprint of the article in the April Sandie Spirit where we mistakenly identified Jackie as being in the class of 1961. We are sorry for the error.

ARRELENE LORENZO, '54, FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

Life goes on...I have buried 3 husbands! At 88 years old I am in great healthy condition. I did have to give up bowling & being a league secretary for 60+ years! I made a lot of good friends in that time. When my bowlers started passing away, it was time to give it up!

I have 2 sons; a step-daughter and step-son; 5 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, & a great-great granddaughter that arrived in January. I look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas when we get together. It is so much fun to have them all together at one time.

I have not made any reunions. There is always something going on at that time of year and being the Matron of a large family, I need to be with them. Maybe I will be able to attend the next one. Would love to see some of the old Sandie Band members. My love to all!

PONDERISMS

- 1. Ever wonder about those people who spend \$2.00 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAIVE**
- 2. I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me ... they are cramming for their final exam.**
- 3. OK....., So if the Jacksonville Jaguars are known as the 'Jags' and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are known as the 'Bucs,' what does that make the Dallas Cowboys – Cows?.**
- 4. At income tax time, did you ever notice: When you put the two words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells ...'THEIRS'?**
- 5. Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it did not zigzag?**
- 6. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?**
- 7. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?**
- 8. Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?**
- 9. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person who drives a race car is not called a racist?**
- 10. Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?**
- 11. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?**
- 12. If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?**
- 13. Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks?**

MOTIVATIONAL, HUMOROUS SAYINGS FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

- **“Do something today your tomorrow self will thank you for.” — Ava Shaffer, Cincinnati**
- **“The real game does not start until the fourth quarter. I take it to mean that you are never out of time, and it is never too late to make a comeback.” — Annelise Medina, Los Angeles**
- **“People who avoid their own feelings will neglect yours.” — Jennifer Pagliaroli, Bethlehem, Pa.**
- **“If you have a plant with mealy bugs, spray it with rubbing alcohol.” — Joli Holmberg, Minneapolis**
- **“Even one step a day gets you 365 steps farther in a year.” — Andie Daniels, Charlottesville, Va.**
- **“It could be great?” — Angela Southern, Pflugerville, Tex.**
- **“Shake the tree,” my mom advised. “You never know what will fall out.” Put another way: “It never hurts to ask. I shook the tree this year and some great things came about: a new mentor, a penalty waived for a late submission, a free plate of zeppole.” — Jennifer Suzukawa-Tseng, New York City**
- **“Attend funerals for relatives of people you don’t know really well. It is the kindest thing you can do for an acquaintance.” — John Immerwahr, Bryn Mawr, Pa.**
- **“Stop thinking about your problems and make someone else happy.” — Sonja Jewell, Leesburg, Va.**
- **“Don’t just put things back. Put them away.” — Tracie McGinnity, Rochester, N.Y.**
- **“If you’re worried about something that really doesn’t matter and you know eventually, you’ll say, ‘Who cares?,’ why not just go straight to ‘Who cares?’” — Kimberly Andersen, Old Bridge, N.J.**
- **“Instead of trying harder, try softer.” — Martha Bonnie, Phoenix**

This Ford tri-motor is revving its engines on what is apparently a graded taxiway . circa 1910



AMARILLO'S FIRST AIRPORT was located about Fifteenth and Crockett in what is now the Bivins Addition, north and south Julian Boulevard being the runways.

In the late twenties the airport was moved east of town and became known as English Field, after Harold English, its operator. Harold English and his brother-in-law, Thornton Oxnard, together, formed the Amarillo Airport Corporation. They obtained a lease on a section of land located on the highway that



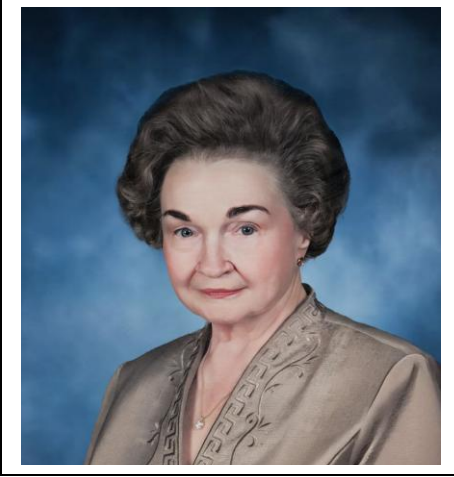
goes to the town of Panhandle. They also purchased a 25 acre section of land that abutted the leased land. On it they built a large hanger, five frame houses, a café, and a service shack. They called their airport, English Field. It was dedicated on November 10, 1929. For a short time, Amarillo Municipal Airport was the principal airport for Amarillo. But in 1930, Western Air Express and later Southern Air Transport changed the site of their Amarillo operations from the Amarillo Municipal Airport to English Field. This effectively reduced the Municipal Airport to primarily an airport for private planes. Later, TWA and Braniff Airlines had their operations at English Field by 1935. After 1930, Amarillo's main airport became English Field. The photograph was taken in the mid to late 1930's. The building on the right is probably one of the five frame houses that English and Oxnard had built. The building to the left may be another house, but is more likely is another type of building. It may be the service shack, or some other type of building that was built on the property.



Parker's Chapel – FIRST CHURCH IN POTTER COUNTY. On this site, 703 Jackson Street, the first church building to be erected in Potter County was built. H. B. Sanborn donated the lot; people of all denominations participated in the community church. Funds were solicited but the amount raised was not enough for the building. G. A. F. Parker appealed to the Methodist Conference for additional money complete the structure. First rejected, he persisted until the Conference provided the needed funds to complete the church. Due to his efforts, the church was known as "Parker's Chapel". Later, in 1894, or 1895, this lot and adjoining properties were bought by Dr. George Nunn. He established the "Amarillo Academy" which flourished as the town's principal seat of learning for several years.

OBITUARIES.....

CLASS OF 1945



Mary “Durelle” Thomson Farmer died 4-14-2025 in Waco, TX

<https://www.whbfamily.com/obituaries/mary-farmer>

CLASS OF 1947



Alma Ruth Lampe McKenzie died 5-26-2025 in

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/alma-mckenzie>

CLASS OF 1952



Juannella “Bobo” Blakeway Crisp died 4-30-2025 in Amarillo

<https://www.lagroneblackburnshaw.com/obituaries/juannella-crisp>

CLASS OF 1952 (cont)



Donald Ray Fox died 5-16-2025 in Amarillo

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



Winona Juett White died 5-29-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/winona-white>



Barbara Jo Nelson Clifton-Sims died 5-31-25 in Amarillo

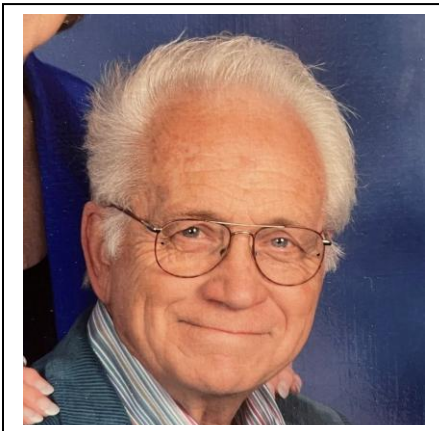
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/nelson/barbara>

CLASS OF 1953



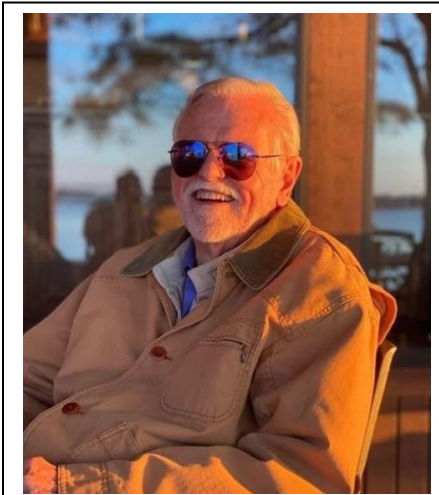
Doris Elaine Clark Remy died 4-22-2025 in Amarillo

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/doris-remy>



Korda "Van" Ford died 3-31-2025 in Amarillo

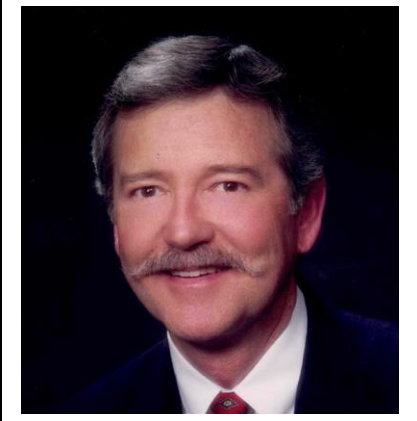
<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/korda-ford>



Elmore "Dale" McCullough died 5-7-2025 in Katy, TX

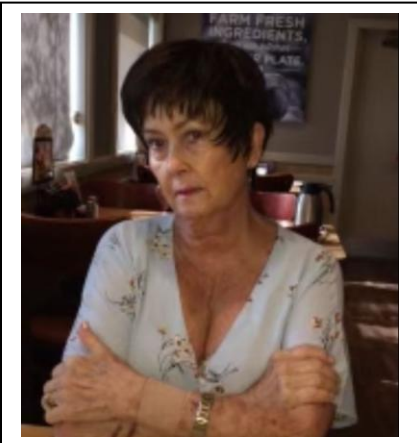
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/houston-tx/elmore-mccullough-12369473>

CLASS OF 1957



William Ator “Bill” Sansing died 4-10-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/dr-william-sansing>



Wilma “Jo” Thompson Bryant died 5-3-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.schoolerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/wilma-bryant>

CLASS OF 1958



Roger Burr “Bud” Powell died 3-15-2025 in Lakeway, TX

<https://neptunesociety.com/obituaries/austin-tx/roger-powell-12286764>

CLASS OF 1959



Vernon “Harold” Fritts died 4-26-25 in Amarillo

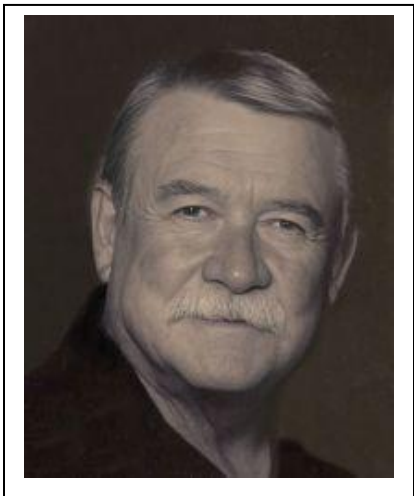
<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/vernon-fritts>



Jeannette Alexander Wedding died 3-7-2025 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/jeannette-wedding>

CLASS OF 1960



Jimmie Lee Perkins died 5-31-2025 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/jimmy-perkins>

CLASS OF 1964



Patricia Imogene Stallings Fowler died 4-5-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.llanocemetery.org/obituaries/Patricia-Fowler?obId=41967031>

CLASS OF 1965



Mary Catheryn "Cathy" McCaulley Shepherd died 2-28-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/mary-cathy-shepherd>

CLASS OF 1966



Colley Pat Webb died 4-14-25 in Oklahoma City

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/colley-webb>

CLASS OF 1969



Neil Ray Allen died 5-2-25 in Dallas, TX

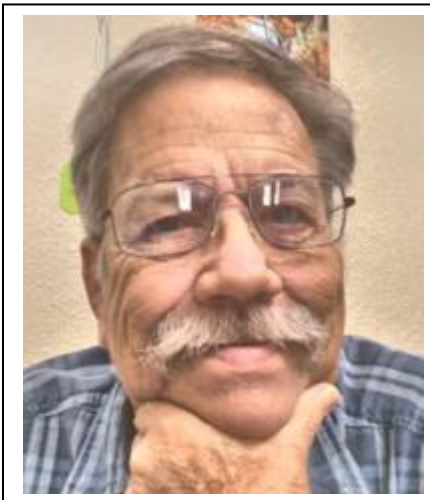
<https://everloved.com/life-of/neil-allen/obituary/>

CLASS OF 1970



Randel Don Riggs died 4-2-25 in Amarillo

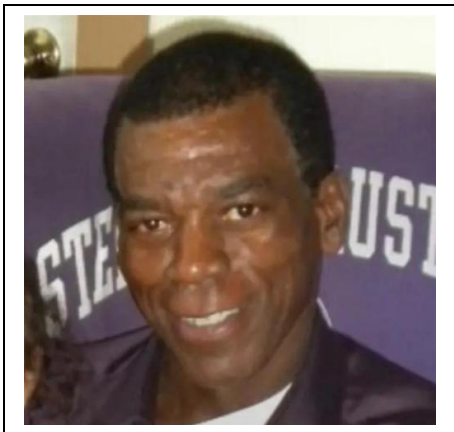
<https://www.lagroneblackburnshaw.com/obituaries/randel-riggs>



Robert Ernie Jordan died 5-26-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.boxwellbrothers.com/obituaries/robert-jordan>

CLASS OF 1972



Rev Roy "Shep" Williams, Sr died 5-10-25 in Clarendon, TX

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/roy-williams-obituary?id=58369322>

CLASS OF 1973



Joan Kincaid Robison died 3-21-25 in Amarillo

https://www.amarillohigh73.com/class_profile.cfm?member_id=9299824

CLASS OF 1974



Johnie Thomas "Tommy" Pugh died 4-26-25 in Amarillo

<https://www.coxrowleyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Johnie-Pugh>

CLASS OF 1979



Gina Renee Fassauer died 5-2-2025 in Amarillo

<https://lighthousefunerals.com/obituaries/gina-renee-fassauer/>

MEMORIALS

DONOR

Barbara Hines Garner

Barbara Hines Garner

Becky Battenfield Schneider

Becky Battenfield Schneider

Becky Battenfield Schneider

MEMORIAL

Ann Selecman Russell

Bill Sansing

Douglas B. Moreland

Martha Ruth Green Moreland

Jack S. Hudgins

If it is true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? toothpicks?



Membership/Renewal Form

AHS 50th Alumni Association
P.O. Box 7146, Amarillo, TX 79114
ahs50thalumiassociation@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 \$ _____

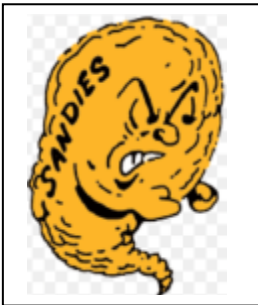
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE A NOTE TO THE EDITOR telling classmates where you have been and what you have been doing? You know how you enjoy hearing from your friends. They, too, would like some news—FROM YOU!! Mail your story to the address on the Membership Registration Page. (Room to write on next page)



Name (Please Include Maiden Name)_____

Mail to:

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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



FROM

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

**YOUR CLASSMATES WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU
HAVE BEEN DOING AND WHAT YOU REMEMBER FROM
HIGH SCHOOL. SEND IN YOUR STORY, NOW. (PG 22)**