

WEST WIND

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

7 JANUARY 2015

WHAT WONDERFUL MEMORIES WE HAVE

Stripping the football field for every game at the Middle School last fall, gave me the opportunity to reflect upon the wonderful years I spent at West.

The field is a wonderfully quiet and peaceful place, even in the midst of the crazy world we live in today, and when alone amongst all that wonderful quiet, it is easy to turn back the pages to those days, that even though we didn't know it at the time, were so filled with wonder and adventure.

It's not just the memories of sitting in the stands for every home football game, nor marching our routine during half-time (I did not miss a single game in four years). It is truly much more than that. You look up and see the clock tower towering over the school, just as it has for 80 years and can remember when the sound of the bell would ring throughout the neighborhood, saying – this place is alive with the thrill of learning, adventure and the molding of young people into adults.

It's remembering the incredible teachers we had that pushed us to expand our minds and the boundaries of our world, so that we might be better members of that world as we grew. It was walking down the hall and knowing that the principal knew who you were and could call you by name, even though during the change of classes there would be what seemed like a never ending sea of chattering, vibrant and happy people walking those halls.

It's remembering that day we marched onto to the field for the last time to receive our diplomas, knowing that one excitingly wonderful part of our life was closing, but yet opening up the door to a brand new one.

The concerts, the pep rallies, the plays, the various academic competitions we entered into, the touch football games in the yard outside the band room fronting Bowling, the gathering of food baskets for the needy at Christmas, the watching of the traffic flow-

ing by on West End on those days you just couldn't focus on the lesson at hand and yes even those wonderfully involved conversations over lunch in the cafeteria about many things – some serious, some fun, many just friends sharing their lives with each other. They all helped make us who we are.

Our school will soon be celebrating the 80th anniversary of its' opening and the 47th anniversary of its' closing, yet the spirit of what we were is still there. Walk the halls of the school on any day, it is there. Walk the football field or either one of the gyms and it is still there. And yes, if you are fortunate enough to involve yourself with the wonderful staff, teachers, students or parents of the Middle School today it is still there.

We have our memories, but we also have left a legacy of West End Blue Jay spirit that burns brightly still!

HAPPY NEW YEAR
ALL!!!!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *West's Most Famous Athlete*
- *December Lunch Bunch*
- *Change in Lunch Bunch Location February and March*
- *Info for Bluejays*



"I'm looking Over a Four Leaf Clover. . ."

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Who is West End High's Most Famous Athlete?

WHIT STOKES,
CLASS OF 1954,
WILL OFFER US A
REGULAR LOOK
INTO THE
HISTORY OF
WEST

In the thirty year history of the high school there were many outstanding athletes starting with the Lawrence brothers in the 1940s. George Kelley, class of 1944, had the distinction of playing football at Tennessee and then basketball at Vanderbilt. In addition to playing multiple sports in high school and college Harry Moneypenny and Bob Dudley Smith also played professional baseball. There are others who could be listed, but my candidate for "most famous" goes to someone who never played a sport at West End High School: Nancy Reed, the 1954 NCAA Women's Golf Champion.

The 1951 West graduate entered the tournament as a student from Peabody College (years before the merger with Vanderbilt) and her unlikely path to the championship in Greensboro, North Carolina drew the attention of the national press. After qualifying for the tournament on Wednesday, June 23, she defeated Sally O'Neill of Ohio State University the following day, 4-3. Her opponent on Friday was Marlene Gesell, University of Minnesota, who was the

medalist (lowest qualifying round) for the tournament. Although Reed was not favored, she won that match six up with five holes to play.

The list of opponents from Big Ten schools continued into the weekend as she won a close match against Virginia Dennehy from Northwestern, 2-1. The drama seemed likely to end on Sunday when her opponent would be Pat Lesser from Seattle, the NCAA defending champion. They were tied after eighteen holes.

Pressure and winning golf tournaments was familiar territory for Nancy Reed. As a teenager she had not been allowed to play in the junior golf events restricted to boys. So she simply made life miserable for adult women golfers by winning four city championships and one state title before she was old enough to vote. That experience was valuable on the 19th extra hole when Pat Lesser missed a putt and Nancy made hers. "At long last Nashville can boast a national intercollegiate champion" wrote Sports Editor Raymond Johnson

the following day in the *Tennessean*.

Nancy Reed lived on Byron Avenue a short walk from home to Ransom Elementary, West Junior, and West End High School. But, she did a lot of walking on the nearby golf course of Richland Country Club. Under the tutelage of golf pro Charlie Danner she developed quickly and competed with boys who played on high school teams at West, MBA, and Father Ryan. While she was restricted by the customs of the time from playing team sports for her school, it did not prevent her from being a force on the girl's intramural basketball championships for three years. She had talents beyond athletics as evidenced by winning three elections her senior year: Secretary of the student body, Best All-Round, and Miss West High.

Today college golf teams for both men and women abound and the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) competes for prize money on national television, although for less money than the men (PGA). But,

West End High's Most Famous Athlete?



Nancy Reed. Class of 1951

in 1954 the choice between professional golf and a career in education was simpler than it might be today for an NCAA champion. Nancy Reed served with dignity and distinction as a teacher, coach, and administrator at Harpeth Hall School for many years just as she did in competitive golf

in the 1950s.

A further irony in this story lies in the fact that Nancy Reed decided to play in the NCAA tournament the same week she could have competed for her fifth City Championship. In her absence teenager Judy Eller of Old Hickory won the tournament.

Eller was able to play basketball in high school at DuPont, one of the few schools in Davidson County that had a female team. She later played on a college golf team, but like Nancy Reed did not become a professional golfer.

Next issue: Shakespeare comes to West End High.

BLUE JAY DEATHS

Joan Hollis, Class of 1957

Carolyn Richardson Overton, class of 1946

William T. (Tom or Tommy) Girard, Class of 1964

Madeline Lipshutz (Pargh), Class of 1948

Paul Cohn, Class of 1940



GOLF SHIRTS AND T'S

We have a new order of Golf shirts and T-shirts in stock, but quantities are limited. To order download the order form by clicking below and mailing in:

[Order Form](#)

BLUE JAY DEATHS

Dan Burton, Class of 1941

Tom Smith Charlton, Class of 1943 or 1944

Linda Lee Anderson O'Grady, Class of 1958

Richard Hayes Graf, Class of 1940

Benny Tallent. Class of 1960

Stanley Dean Lindsey, Class of '56

Madeline Lipshutz (Pargh), Class of 1948

Charles Edward Weis, class of 1955

Ron Webb, class of 1945

Paul McGinnis. Class of 1962

Ken Wilson, Class of 1965

Dorothy Ann Grigsby Brevard, Class of 1946

Walter Grove, class of 1954

Dean Lindsey, Class of '56

Jim Harris, Class of 1964

Dorothy C. "Dot" Griggs, Class of 1948,

Rebecca Hitchcock Holman, Class of 1966

Jean Elizabeth Wilson, class of 1949 or 1950

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Thursday January 8th—Class of 1960 lunch at Carrabba's in Green Hills at 11:30.
- Thursday January 8th—Basketball at the Middle School. Girls 4:45 p.m., Boys immediately after
- Tuesday, January 27th—Basketball at the Middle School. Girls 4:45 p.m., Boys immediately after
- Let's FILL this calendar in February with LOTS of activities of the Blue Jays!



DECEMBER LUNCH BUNCH WAS FABULOUS!

Our annual Christmas gathering at Hillwood was spectacular! More than 80 of us gathered and listened to music of the season provided by Ted Wilson's son. and visited with classmates from 1942 all the way through 1968.

Hillwood is usually closed the first two weeks of January and we don't normally have a Lunch Bunch this month and we won't this year. They have

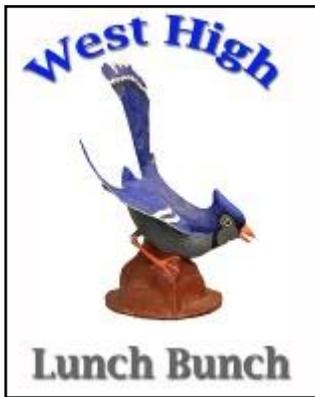
launched an extensive renovation of the dining facilities and will be closed for the months of February and March as well.

February is our Valentine gathering and is usually our largest, so bring out that special someone in your life and join us in Courtenay Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 4815 Franklin Road, Nashville , 37220 (just across the street from Overton High

School and Judson Baptist Church at 11:15 on February 12th.

The March Lunch Bunch will also be held at First Presbyterian Church on March 12th and while our speaker is not firm yet, it promises to be a great one. We begin, as always, at 11:15 and wrap up by 1:00 p.m.

April 9th we will be back at Hillwood again!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BLUE JAYS

Here is information about our association, our newsletter and anything else you could possibly want to know about your alumni group.

The revised West Wind is published at the beginning of every month. It is sent out via e-mail to more than 2,000 Blue Jays, posted on our FB page and on our association website.

All information posted on FaceBook is also sent to all members on our e-mail distribution list.

Your alumni association is called: West End High School Alumni Association (dba) West End School

Association.

Officers are:

Burton Dietz, Class of 1967 President

Julie Waters, Class of 1960 Vice President

Len Malone, Class of 1964 Secretary

Pat UpChurch, Class of 1966 At-Large Member

John Stephens, Class of 1955, At-Large Member

Linda Wofford Weber, Class of 1967, At-Large Member

Ray Sharer, Class of 1955, President Emeritus, At-Large Member

You can find all our officers and their personal e-mails on the website.

There is a calendar of monthly activities in the West Wind and on the Website.

West High Lunch Bunch information is posted on FaceBook, in the West Wind, to the e-mail distribution list and on the website. Reservations can be made on FaceBook, via e-mail and we still make our monthly calls.

We will also post deaths during the month here in the West Wind, on FaceBook and to our e-mail distribution list.

The website for our alumni association is:

www.WestHighBluejays.com



The most beautiful school in the city!



WEST END HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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E-mail: Info@WestHighBluejays.com

IT'S HERE!

WESTHIGHBLUEJAYS.COM

BLUEJAYS CARRYING FORWARD A
GREAT TRADITION!

OUR PURPOSE

WESA is organized to be a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to conduct alumni activities typically associated with graduates from a particular institution of learning.

Other Specific Purposes

To foster mutual support among the Alumni of West End High School and West End Middle School, Nashville, Tennessee including alumni gatherings, support for those in ill health and passing of WESA participants.

To continue the preservation of the West End physical facility and grounds.

To support the ongoing educational program at West End School by working with the Parent Teacher Student Organization, faculty, students or other interested parties in school activities, fund raising, and mentoring students.

To set an example to all as to why "West is Best".

WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR

Well, 2014 is wrapped and in the books, hard though it may be to believe!

What a year it was—the Homecoming event last July was an outstanding success, stretching over both Friday (with individual class gatherings) and Saturday (with the Open House, Cruise-In and Dinner at Hillwood Country Club). Even though it was hot, it couldn't stifle the fun and excitement that I think all Blue Jays had that weekend!

We moved on in August, September and October by helping work the

concession stands at the Middle School football games and dished up some of the best hamburgers and hot dogs you could find anywhere.

November and December brought basketball and once again we took to the concession stand serving up the best hot dogs, popcorn and nachos in Nashville, with all kinds of candy and drinks as well. December also brought the opportunity to recognize former basketball players from our high school years and celebrate the dedication of the new W. H. Yarbrough Gymnasium at

West High which occurred 50 years ago.

Our Hands Across the Years fund raising effort was a tremendous success with the raising of \$1,100 to help buy winter coats and long sleeve t-shirts for those West End Middle School students who otherwise would have had not only a bleak Christmas, but a cold one as well. Thank you so much to all of those who contributed and helped with this great project.

There will be no Lunch Bunch in January and our February and March events will be moving to

Courtenay Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 4815 Franklin Road, Nashville 37220 while Hillwood Country Club renovates its' dining facilities.

Enjoy this time of year and remember, West is and always has been Best!

Thanks!

Burton

Burton Dietz

President, West End High

Comments, suggestions and ideas for future issues are always welcome! The Blue Jay spirit will never die!