



Tiger Tales 2002 Newsletter

Alumni Assoc. President - Barry Jensen
 Vice President - Katie Jensen
 Treasurer - Bob and Carol Hutchinson

Recording Secretary - Andrea Wade
 Corresponding Secretary - Devota Hutchinson
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Greetings from your White River High School Alumni Assoc.

As I reflect over the past year it has certainly been one of historic significance. I am sure that the events of 9-11 have caused each of you to reflect on your lives over the past six months and count your blessings. My most significant realization is that we have something very special in this country called freedom. It has been very exciting for me to see the revitalization of patriotism and the display of our beautiful flag. I am happy to report that no White River Alumni were lost in those events of Sept. 11 even though some were dangerously close. More than once I have heard it said that South Dakota is truly a great place to live.

At our all school reunion in July of 2000 we honored Laura Patnoe Kirsch as the teacher or educator who quite possibly has had the greatest influence on the alumni of White River School and, most certainly, of Mellette Co. Laura passed away in Oct. 2001, which made that warm July evening even more special for those of us who were her students.

Many special individuals have passed through the halls of WR School, and now it is the time to bid farewell to another who has had significant influence on our educational system for nearly 20 years. We can only wish the best to CEO Stroup and his family as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. Mike has been a very positive force on the WR School system, bringing it into the 21st century academically and with such great physical improvements. I'm sure I speak for all alumni by expressing our great appreciation for his years of dedication and effort here at White River. Thank you, Mike and Robin.

Class of 1952

The class of 1952 will be honored at Commencement Exercises on Sunday, May 26, 2002

Gene Green
 Ramona Hight Kever
 Anne Hackworth Navin
 Lyle O'Bryan
 Joanne Fry Bryan
 Jerry Wang
 Clarice Hight Jansen
 Allen Sammons
 Betsie Waddell Hutchinson
 Beverly Berry Page
 Edward Mickel

Winner of the **1st Annual White River High School Alumni Association Scholarship** was Heidi Krogman, daughter of alumnus Casey Krogman, class of '70

Memorial Roll Call

An added feature to this and future newsletters will be a memorial roll call. This first listing will begin with the year of our last all school reunion - 2000. We request that family be responsible to notify the alumni association when an individual should be listed in the memorial roll call.

Rose Van Shaack '23
 Dwight Worcester '40
 Louis (Dude) Merchen '27
 Roscoe Ozanne '30
 Harlon Hight '31

It is not too early to begin making plans to attend the next All School Reunion to be held during the summer of 2005. The Community Events Center has been air-conditioned. Hurray!

Barry Jensen, Association President

George Elley '32
 Robert Gatton '36
 Fred Littau '38
 Irene Gillen Ambur '38
 George Olson '40
 Arlene McDonnell Edwards '41
 Lois Starkjohann Olson '45
 Ray W. Barlett '49
 Reinhart G. Week '55
 Evelyn Sumners Dutoit '56
 Laura Patnoe Kirsch

Dear Alumni,

Well, I've put off writing this letter as long as I possibly could, or at least as long as Katie Jensen would allow. I write this letter with tremendous anxiety because I know this will be my last opportunity to write to you as an employee of the White River School District. As you may already know, I have signed a contract with the Bennett Co. School District to be it's CEO for the next three years. I have come to know White River as home and the White River School District as my passion for the past 19 years. Like many of you who have moved on or moved out of the area, memories will never die, and the passion for kids and community will live on. There has been no greater satisfaction for me than to see young students grow and develop into productive adults. It has also been an awesome opportunity to work with the numerous employees of the district who have had such an impact on the future and on people's lives. For that I will always be indebted to the community of White River.

As I reflect back over the past 19 years, I can't help but think of all the physical changes that have occurred in the district. Upon my first arrival in 1983 as high school principal there were five total schools (Big White, Norris, Ring Thunder, Running Bird, and Prairie View) and now only Norris and Prairie View are still operating. We have made permanent plans to keep both of these schools going by investing one million dollars in the Norris School and close to one hundred thousand dollars in the Prairie View School. In 1982 the Community Events Center was completed with one of the finest gymnasiums in the area. With this facility, the Central Office for the school and the City Business office was able to relocate. The School Business office was previously located in the Odd Fellows Building downtown (which has since been moved to the Krogman Ranch south of town). In 1986 there was a new elementary school building built by a former White River Community member (Dale Jans). This allowed the District to move some of the elementary classrooms out of the old quonset located downtown. Then in 1992 the White River School District built one of the most advanced technological high schools in the state. This allowed for the creation of the Middle School for the district. Previous to this, the district was always split into a K-8 and 9-12 scenario. In 2000 the district started it's first alternative school, which is located in a house donated by Laura Patnoe Kirsch. I can't help but wonder how the district met all of it's educational needs prior to these improvements and additional facilities. Keep in mind that the total number of students (approximately 450) being served in the district has not changed substantially over the past 20 years.

In closing, I hope many of you will be able to come back for the 50th year reunion and refresh many of the memories you have of your past. Once again, I thank you and the community of White River for being a big part of my life.

Mike Stroup, CEO
 White River School District 47-1