



# TIGER TALES

## 2009 NEWSLETTER



Alumni Assoc. President-[Barry Jensen](#)  
Vice President-[Katie Jensen](#)  
Treasurer-Jerry Krogman

Recording Secretary-[Barbetta Krogman](#)  
Corresponding Secretary-[Devota Hutchinson](#)  
Web Mistress – [Johnny Powell](#)

Greetings from your White River High Alumni Association. Once again it is my pleasure to inform you that the boy's basketball team earned a trip to the State tournament. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row and we were the defending champs. This trip they came home with the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy. In addition, the boys won the Lakota Nations Invitational and the Jones County Invitational. Our girl's volleyball team lost at regions in a heartbreaker game against Philip, and Philip went on to win State. Our football team advanced to the 1<sup>st</sup> round of playoffs. All in all the Tiger sports teams have had outstanding seasons and represented our school very well.

As for alumni news, let me give you a couple of reminders. First if you have moved or been assigned a new 911 address please let us know. Second if you would like to receive an electronic edition of this newsletter in the future please go to the White River school website at [www.whiteriver.k12.sd.us](http://www.whiteriver.k12.sd.us) and in the alumni section, and find out how to become a member of the alumni mailing list to receive updates and keep in contact with other alumni. Also take notice of all the other links for your convenience. Your participation will save us considerable postage in the future. In addition, all past editions of Tiger Tales are accessible at that website. Web mistress Johnny Powell would also like to post class prophesies, photos, and who's who from WRHS. So email her with any of the above information. If you use the web (who doesn't?) take a look at the WR school web page.

It has been our goal to one day offer at least two scholarships to graduating seniors. Due to another successful homecoming tailgate supper and generous donations from you the alumni, I am happy to report that we reached that goal in May 2008. We would like to continue with multiple scholarships so please keep us in mind with your giving as it is a great cause.

Changes, additions and improvements of importance to the school are the following: One

### MEMORIAL ROLL CALL

We request that family be responsible to notify the Assoc. when alumni pass away.

Thelma Smith '24  
Marie McDonnel Nash '32  
Marion Berry Edwards '32  
Chester Anderson '37  
Marguerite Green Oyler '44  
Clifford W. Jensen '50  
Donna Keever Curry Johnson '54  
Gib Burnette '55  
Dorothy Chapin Daywitt '55  
Barbara Waach England '56  
Marilyn Samuelson Summers '63

Marn Bartlett '63  
Chuck McEachran '63  
Alicia Strain Rolland '76  
Elizabeth Stands '97  
Eddie Black Elk '02  
Bryce Christensen,  
Superintendent



issue that has drawn considerable attention has been a proposal to shorten the school week. After much deliberation and many community meetings WR School will continue to operate on a five day week for the 2009-2010 school year. The proposed plan is to go to a four day week in 2011. Additional security cameras have been added in and outside the school facilities. A new phone service has been implemented which allows every employee and school patron to be notified simultaneously of significant events such as late starts.

I am saddened to see the list of alumni who have been added to the memorial roll call this last year. Let me remind you how important it is to celebrate your class reunions. Each new day is a blessing and not to be taken for granted.

Hope you are making plans for the next all-school reunion in August 2011.

Happy Spring  
Until next year, Barry Jensen Alumni President.

### **CLASS OF 1959 – 50 YR GRADUATES**

Class of '59 will be honored at Commencement on Saturday, May 23, 2009.

Glenyce Best Stoner  
Audrey Mednansky Burnette  
Verna Chamberlain Butterfield  
Fremont Fallis  
Jerry Hitchings  
Beverly Hix Norstrom  
Allen Pierce  
Robert Pierce  
Mick Schmidt  
Leota Smith  
Alvin Stromer  
Georgia Zimmerman  
\*Rollie Johnson  
\*Lee Ham  
\*Deceased



2008 Frontier Days Parade Marshall Marvin Starkjohann class of '48 & buggy driver Wayne Shouldis '57

Call or email **address changes** to:  
[katiej@gwtc.net](mailto:katiej@gwtc.net) 259-3215  
Devota Hutchinson 259-3347

# ALUMNI CORNER

During recent interviews, Mary Gatton Egleston and Warren Astleford related some of their memories from their years at White River High School. They referred to the 1934 -1940 time frame of WRHS. Mary and Warren both reflected that throughout the years WRHS has been a strong influence on this community, both educationally and economically.

Mary-class of '38

I started High School in 1934 during the great depression. President Roosevelt had decided to allow kids to have free room and board at a dormitory. The girl's dormitory was the Tomsik Hotel and boys were in the Methodist Parsonage basement and another location in town (I can't remember where). The boys ate at the girl's dormitory. The boys were called the Bats and the Rats because some stayed in the basement and at the other location they got the upstairs. The Government provided 13 cents a day plus commodities per student.

Free room and board allowed a lot more children to attend school than would have otherwise. Because of the depression and the drought, there wasn't any grass, water, or work. This allowed children that hadn't been able to attend school on a regular basis to go. The ages varied up to age 18 for the freshman class. This freshman class had 60 students so it needed to be divided. We could take either social studies or Latin and after enrollment in these classes it came out about even, so that was the way it was divided. A lot of families had to move to get work, so by the time the class of 60 freshmen graduated we had 30 graduates. I think this was the largest graduating class until 1975.

We had 4 teachers and one custodian, Mr. Howlett. One of the teachers was the superintendent and another was also the coach. We went to high school in the old building for three years, then the new school building was ready and we were the first senior class to attend.

## ANNIVERSARY CLASSES

10 YRS – 1999      30YRS - 1979  
20 YRS - 1989      40YRS - 1969

WRHS Alumni Association  
PO Box L  
White River, South Dakota 57579

<http://www.whiteriver.k12.sd.us/alumni/>

Warren- class of '40

Two events stand out from my four years in White River High School. First was high hopes of going to the state with a promising basketball team in my junior year after a good football season, which included a game with Philip in White River and where Philip suffered its first defeat in 28 starts. Philip protested this game to the state athletic commission, questioning the officiating. This led to a couple of other schools complaining of minor events. In the meantime, we had a good basketball record started. But after five or six games in which White River excelled, the S.D. Athletic Commission ruled that no White River athlete on that football team could participate in sports in South Dakota ending six or seven high school kid's athletic career. You see the town of WR gave a banquet and presented each player a small gold football, which the S.D.A.C. deemed to be worth more than \$5. They called us "professional athletes" and banned us from any high school sports. This included Orin Boom, Dornton Kell, Don Hight, Vernal Glynn, Herb Stoddard, Marvin DeMarche, Allen Laird, and myself. Marvin "Chick" DeMarche died a hero's death in the South Pacific. Herb Stoddard gave his life off the shores of Italy.

The other event is not as well known. ... a walk-out protest expressing loyalty to one of the high school faculty, who was not being rehired for the ensuing year. About 80% of the high school enrollment left the building, marching downtown and demanding that this person be rehired. The teacher was offered a contract, but chose other work in soil conservation in Winner, SD. This revolt haunted some of these young people at a later date when they were seeking work with the Federal government.

In the meantime a new school was being built in WR by the W.P.A. Heavy labor involving wheel borrows and strong backs saw its completion. The WR high school basketball players helped laid the hardwood gym floor. That hurried the opening of the gym. Heaven help anyone who would dare to walk on that floor with shoes or wet socks!

*Winners of the 8<sup>th</sup> annual  
Alumni scholarship are Cora  
Rattling Leaf daughter of  
Torrey Rattling Leaf class of  
'76 and Sami Gillen daughter  
of Doug Gillen class of '81  
and Shiela Krogman '84*

