

# Donald G. Hill, Ph.D.

R.Gp., R.G., R.P.G.

## ***Consulting Petrophysicist The World is My District***

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## **OHS Class of '59 Memories**

I composed the original version of this for the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion and have cleaned up most of my initial spelling errors (Mrs. Grinnell, may have commented about my creative spelling skills, for my OHS “Student Record”), and added a few additional memories, for the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion.

Since I am one of the very few that went K – 12, I have often thought about starting a “Class of 59” memory discussion, ever since the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Now that there is a 60<sup>th</sup> reunion, I thought I should actually do it, while I can still remember, at least, some things.

Almost everything is from memory and not all of the “facts” may be accurate. However, my commentary may stimulate others to correct and/or add to my commentary. I have organized my memories by year, through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and have saved them as a MS WORD document so that anyone else can easily add their own memories. Interestingly enough, my memories of High school are not that easily separated by year, so they will be combined. I understand that short-term memory is “The second thing to go”.



In September of 1946, about 40 +/- scholars began their Okemos Public School careers, by joining **Mildred McKinley**'s Kindergarten. As Bob Stetler found out before the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, the Okemos Public School District no longer has records that go back that far, and no one seemed to have a class photo (including my mother, who never threw anything away). I am guessing about the number, based on my mother wistfully talking about the days when Early Elementary School classes were only 20 students. When we started at Okemos, K & 1<sup>st</sup> grade had morning and afternoon sessions, with the same teacher, so 40 +/- is a fairly good estimate.

Our class generally had multiple sections (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades may have been exceptions, when we were in the large room in the original Okemos School house (where the meridian Township fire station now sits). Over the next 13 years families would move out of the district, while others would move in. One classmate was killed in a boating accident and two left for various institutions. Some left to join the military and others just "dropped out", when they reached 16.

### **1946 – 47: Kindergarten – Mildred McKinley**



The classroom was in the basement of the three-story building at the corner of Okemos Rd. and Mt Hope Rd. This was the same room that held the HS office, when we were in HS. There were two sections: Morning and Afternoon. I attended the Morning session, so I do not know anything about the Afternoon session. I only have two vivid memories from that year. Danny Hickey gave Bob Stetler a bloody nose. I do not know what started it, because they were at a different table. I only remember that there was a big commotion and everyone at Bob's table started yelling: "Danny did it". The second memory is of me running my hand through a windowpane on the room door. The details are rather long and involved, but it apparently was memorable to my classmates, because at least one wrote about it in my senior yearbook. Besides, I still have the scar to remind me. In Retrospect, this may have happened, during 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, as both of my classes were held in that same room.

**1947 – 48: First Grade – Florence Hill**

The classroom was in the Annex of the Original Okemos School (where the Meridian Township Fire House now sits) in "Old Okemos". Again, there were Morning and Afternoon sessions. This time I was in the Afternoon Session. Again I do not have very many memories about that year but that was the year I met Ron Witmore and Bill Delind. I think that both Ron's mother and Bill's mother were Cub Scout Den Mothers and I spent time at one or both houses casting and painting plaster of Paris "Bobcat", "Wolfe" and "Bear" head wall hangings.

*Meridian News 1961*



We boys spent much of our time, during recesses, running around the grounds in our "gangs" and climbing up in the fire escape slide that came from the second floor room.

This at was also the year that I started to use my real name, instead of my family nickname. I also decided that my teacher would be "Mrs. Hill", even though, outside of school, she was my mother. Apparently we were quite successful with this, as I had at least one classmate tell



*Florence Hill 1947  
First Grade*

me that they never knew she was my mother, until junior high school.

**1948 – 49: Second Grade – Mrs. Esdale and Viera Hammond/Rosdale**



This was the first year our class had two different teachers. I was in Mrs. Esdale's class, which met in the same basement room, where our Kindergarten class had met. I think that Mrs. Rosdale's (I knew her by both names, but do not remember when she changed them) class met in the upper story room of the original Okemos School (i.e., where the fire escape started).

I have two memories from that year. Second graders would ride a bus to Williamston and then take the Pere Marquette/C&O train to the Michigan Avenue Station, in Lansing. I vividly remember Mrs. Esdale telling the class how smoothly Streamliner trains rode ("It is almost like we are standing still") as we passed a train near Okemos. Later that afternoon, Charlie Sowers, who was in third grade, stopped by our classroom to report that the passenger train from Williamston to Lansing had been shuttled to the sidetrack, at the Okemos Rd. crossing, to allow an oncoming freight train to pass. Everyone in the class (including the teacher) were so intent on looking at the passing train that we did not notice that we were the train "standing still" while the other train passed.

My second memory is of the two second grade rooms staging a joint show for their parents, where the students dressed up in "bird" costumes and moved across the high school stage keeping time to the music. Ron Witmore and I were supposed to be woodpeckers and attempted to bob our heads in time with the Woody Woodpecker Song. I think that Ron was the "Red Headed" one.

### 1949 – 50: Third Grade – Mrs. Voelker

This may have been one of two years where there was a single class, which met in the large first floor room of the original Okemos School House.

Our Mrs. Voelker entertained the class, by reading the entire series of Robert Tyson Terhune "Ladd of Sunnybrook Farms" books. I too remember the classroom being large (the classroom had been the 1 – 8 grade class room for the original Okemos School) and foul weather recesses were



spent in the room doing art and games.

It was during this year that Peggy Greer introduced the class to country music, via her family's collection of Hank Williams records and Sarah Buehler humiliated me by announcing to the class that I had a crush on one of the other girls in class.

### **1950 – 51: Fourth Grade – Fern Bogue and Miss Hansel**

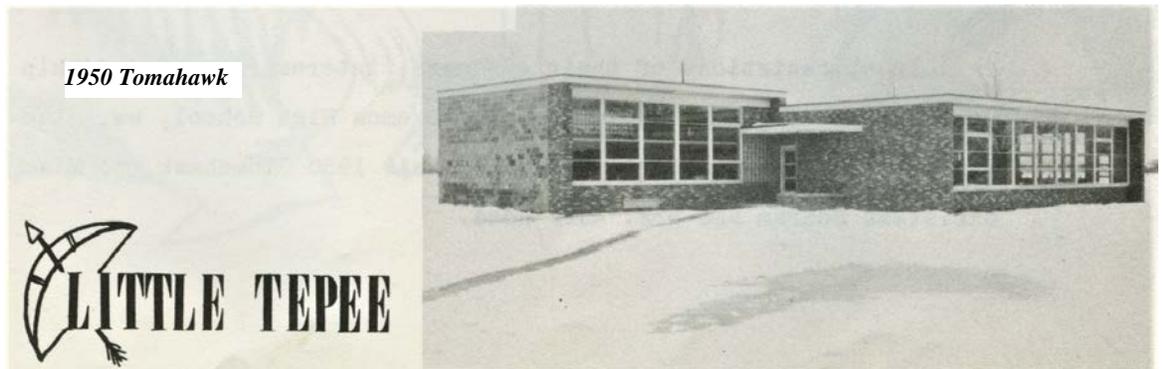
The class was once again spit into two sections. I was in Fern Bogue's class, which (I think) met, once again, in the basement classroom of the three-story Main School. The other section, taught by Miss Hansel was a split (either 3-4 or 4-5), and was apparently in the Old Okemos School. Both Bob Stetler and Vicky (Victoria still sounds strange, to me) Shick were apparently in her class. I do not think that she was still on the faculty, the following year.

My biggest memory from 4<sup>th</sup> grade is that I broke my left arm twice and was able to diagnose the problem, the second time. I did not notice any lasting problems, from this injury, until high school typing class. I still do not have full mobility of that forearm.

### **1951 – 52: Fifth Grade – Mrs. Aldridge**

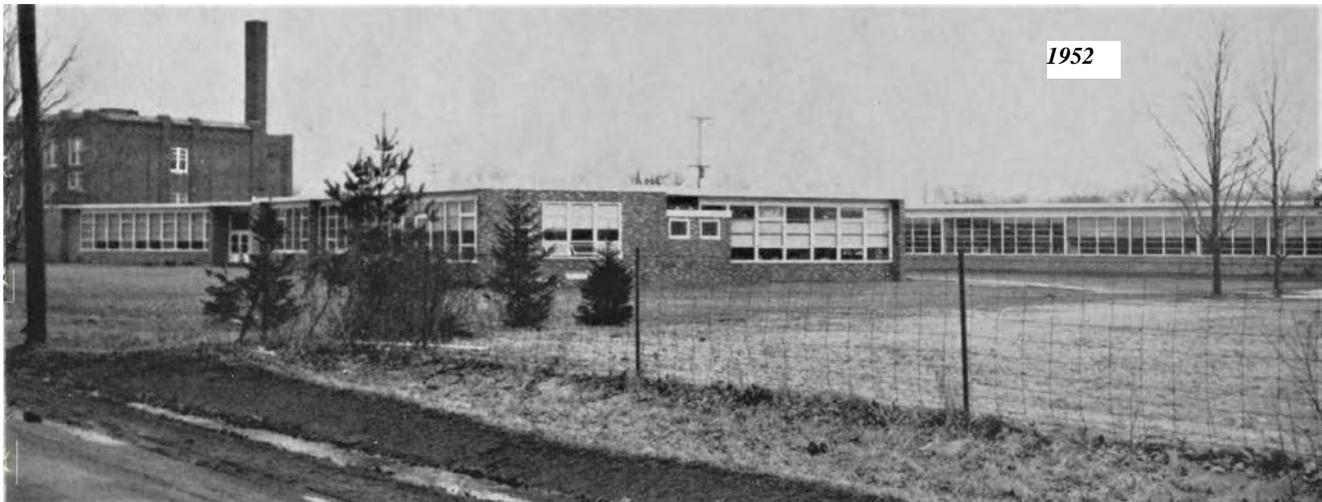
This may have been the second time that we were in a single room, at the old Okemos School, in central Okemos. Our class moved from the Old School building, in central Okemos, to the newly built double wing attached to the Central 3-story building, at the end of the first semester. Our new room was intended to be the Library, which it became, the next year.

I think that 5<sup>th</sup> grade was when we were introduced to instrumental music. I had inherited a trumpet, so that was "my



instrument". I do not remember much about the Band instructor, but he apparently spent a lot of time giving "private lessons" to one of the HS band alto horn students in the bus barn. He was gone the following year.

This year I celebrated my birthday by inviting all of the boys in class to our farm for a softball game. And the highlight of the school year was a trip to Greenfield village and the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.



### 1952 – 53: Sixth Grade – Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Wiggins

In 1952-53, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms were moved to the new 4-classroom building out behind Band/Shop/Ag classroom building. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade rooms were large, which was good, because each section had 45 students. I was in Mrs. Jones' class. Her husband was teaching school, in Okinawa. At Christmas time, we exchanged presents with the Okinawa class. I do not remember what we sent to them, but they sent straw sandals and vases made out of beer cans, wrapped in bamboo.



BILL  
JOHNSON  
7th Grade

In the spring **Bill Johnson** and I toured the new Meridian Twp Fire Station (at the location of the original Okemos School) and were supposed to visit the lower elementary grades teaching Fire Safety, as part of Fire Prevention Week. **Ron Whitmore** filled in for Bill, who came down with a childhood disease (Measles, I think). I thought that Ron's adlib descriptions of the new Meridian Twp. Fire Station (which I do not think he had ever visited) were much better than my recollections.



RONALD  
WHITMORE

We staged plays in our classroom. Marry Dreps was one of the tallest in our class. Because of this, she played "Little John", in our version of the Robin Hood tales. I do not remember much else, about that play, except my mother sewed my leather and 'Lincoln Green Merry Man' costume. Carol Bernard has a picture of Bob Crafton dressed as an African Explorer for another play.

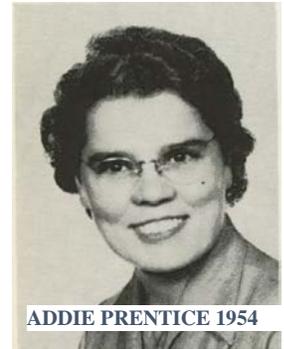
During Spring Vacation, Mrs. Jones's husband secured married housing in Okinawa, so she resigned and moved to Okinawa, to be with him. The school brought in Mrs. Barrett, an experienced retired teacher to fill out the year. Unfortunately, the class never

recovered from the abrupt departure of Mrs. Jones and took out their frustration on Mrs. Barrett.

In Six Grade Okemos got a new band director, who turned out to be Okemos' answer to Liberace.

### 1953 – 54: Seventh Grade – Addie Prentice and one other Homeroom Teacher

This was the year that we moved up in the world – to the second floor of the three-story Central School Building. This was also the first year that we changed classes. However, since both classrooms were adjacent, the class changes really did not amount to much. **Mrs. Prentice** taught math and English and Science was taught by the other homeroom teacher.



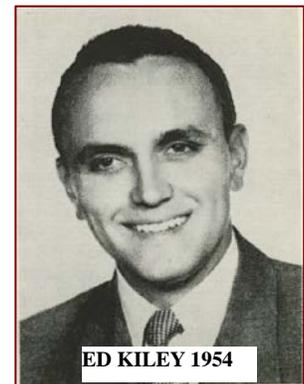
ADDIE PRENTICE 1954



ROBERT BAKER

**Bob Baker** taught history, in another room. We all thought this was great, because we could often get him off subject, by asking about his experiences as a Radio Operator in a WW-II Bomber Squadron.

**Ed Kiley** taught P. E. and Health Education (which seemed to consist of watching WW-II era GI Training films). This was the first time I had ever heard the term, "B-Girls" and never learned the meaning until several years later, when I was working in Bangkok.



ED KILEY 1954

We also had 4 one-quarter rotations of Art, vocal music, home economics and wood shop. This was when I discovered that "art" was in the eye of the beholder. I attempted to do a watercolor of a submarine under water that was so bad, that I dumped my wash water on the product and turned it in as a joke. A week later I saw my painting proudly displayed in the art department display case, for everyone to see. I cannot remember if I was more proud or embarrassed. This was when I discovered that I was not much of a wood worker.



A visiting vocal music teacher (whose name escapes me) taught vocal music. **Fred Hoffecker** and **Bob Zuver** tried to drown each out, in the music class, by singing their version of the Marines Hymn and Anchors Away, respectively.



Seventh grade was when **Don Mueller** became OHS Band Director and began to build a respectable instrumental music program at the school. Seeing no future as a



"Third Desk" trumpet player, I switched to Tuba, which had much less competition.

The class challenged the Eighth Grade Class to a baseball game, in the spring, and won. To celebrate, we ordered special OJHS baseball caps. Unfortunately, when they came, the monogram was OJS.

## 1954 – 55: Eighth Grade – Mrs. Davis and one other Home Room Teachers

This year, the class had two Home Rooms, and even more diverse classes and teachers. My homeroom teacher was **Helen Davis**, who also was the art teacher. I do not remember the names of the other homeroom teachers. We got our second dose of Bob Baker, who continued to make history come alive with his tales of bombing missions over Germany, including a personal message from "Axis Sally", who named every member his their crew and described "all the fun their wives and girlfriends were having", while they were off bombing Germany. Two boys surprised by Mr. Baker's Student Teacher "Quick Quiz" attempted to turn the pages of their History Texts with their feet.



I do not remember who taught math or science, that year. Molly Rudersdorf taught English. The classroom was on the second floor, of the three-story building, at the head of the stairs. Sometime during the year, Bill Johnson and Ron Whitmore discovered a hole in the floor. In an attempt to determine just how big the hole was, the class began to fill it with pencils gratefully "donated" by the girls in the class. I do not remember just how many disappeared in that hole, but I think that Bill kept the official tally.

Ed Kiley taught P.E. and Civics. Athletics was obviously his first love. I had to choose between Band and PE. While I probably made the wrong choice, I do not think it made any lasting impact on my life.

## 1955 – 59: High school

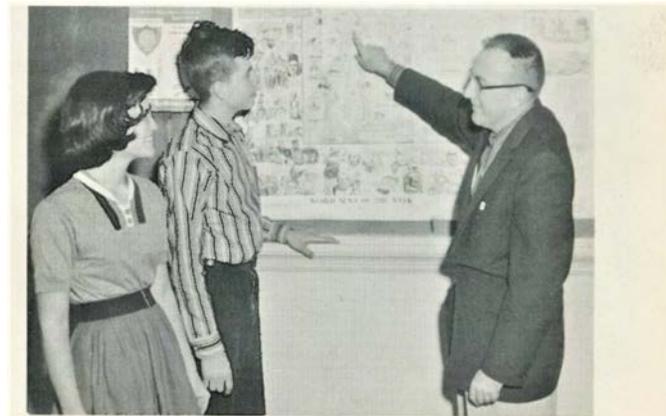
Now we were in the big time, with three "Home Rooms", everyone taking different subjects, and having both upper and lower classmen in some of our classes. This was when I received much support from my classmates, after my Father died, when I was in the ninth grade. Fred Hoffecker and his father essentially adopted me, for the remainder of the year. While I didn't realize it at the time this was a role I later duplicated when one of my son's playmates lost his young father.



Mr. Joseph Arasim,  
High School Principal

This was a significant era in all of our lives. **Joe Arasim** was Principal. During the Junior year, he accused Ron Whitmore, Bill Johnson and Casey Wagonvoord, of trying to run the school.

**Bob Baker** taught World History and was the basketball, track, and baseball coach. He made history real with his WW-II war stories.



Mr. Baker, Dan Conklin, and Leslie Hart discuss the Middle East.



**Joy Clemow** taught typing and business classes. I consider myself lucky

to have escaped her typing class with a single successful 40-ppm test and a C letter

grade. However, touch-typing that I learned from that class, may have been one of the most important skills I picked up, in high school. I was able to use it to type HS and collage class reports, as well as all of the initial drafts of my dissertation, myself.

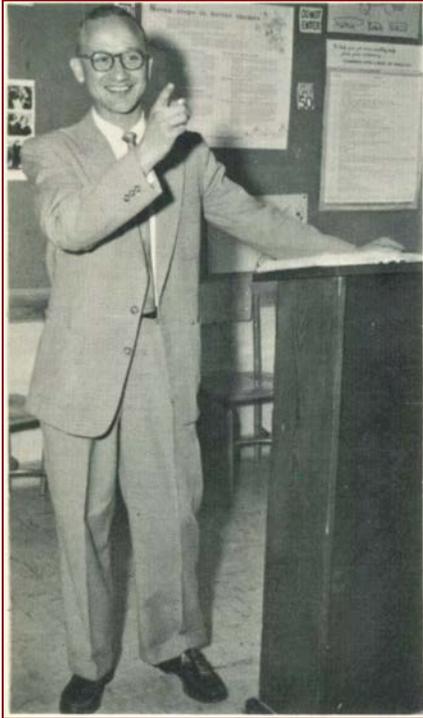
However, because this was before the age of "Spell Checkers", it did not help my proof reading.

**Roland Cook** taught Agriculture. I think that much later he and Carolyn Paty's husband, Bob Hesselink, ran a dairy farm near Rudyand, in the Upper Peninsula.



First Row: Mr. Cook, Roger Clough, Jerry Brinker, Keith Shaull, Jim Flanders, Kermit Shaull, Paul Ashley. Second Row: John Gustafson, Bob Rulison, Rod Ellison, John Airola, Jim Greer, Bill Wight, Clyde Donaldson, Stan Conroy, Ron Standley, Bruce

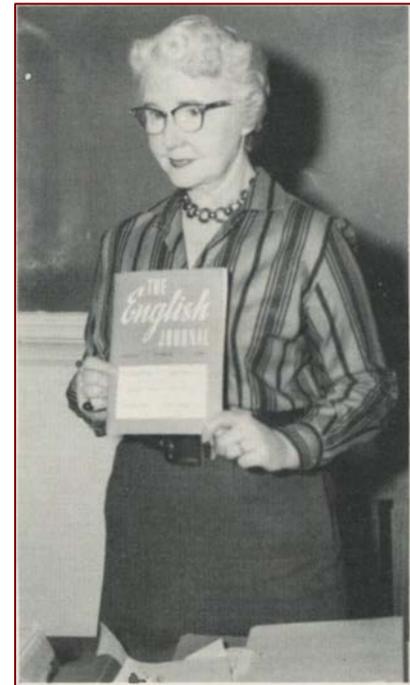
Antes. Third Row: Jack Standen, Howard Murphy, Ron Hansen, Bob Hatch, Gene Brownfield, Bill Voss, Danny Wilkins, Jim Vawter, Lynn Sich.



**Karl Ekstrom** taught Speech. Linn Prather and I teamed up to conduct a very spirited Debate team on the question of "the Death Penalty". I do not recall which side we took (it may have Con), but our arguments were LOUD. The class utilized his "Booming Voice" To narrate our Senior Homecoming float: "I Dreamed I Beat Fowlerville in my Made in Formosa Tee Shirt". As with most male HS teachers, he moonlighted with a second job: Selling shoes at the Shaffer Shoe Store, in Lansing.

**Rachel Grinnell** taught English. In our senior year, she conspired with the class to stage a "Senior Assembly", even though the school had banned "Senior Class Night". The highlight of this was, Harold Spross as the corps of "Charlie Senior" juggling as he was paraded around the assembly, on a slab, while the Senior Class Dixieland Band

played "Didn't he Ramble". As part of our "Senior Assembly", the Senior Boys "Bequeathed the Sophomore Girls back to the Sophomore Boys".



**Jeanette Halliday** taught biology, who was an excellent teacher. She came in and rescued the class after it had driven a first-year teacher out of the profession.



**Ed Kapalla** taught Math, Shop and Driver's Ed. I still use many of the shop skills and safety techniques I learned from him. Most of the class only took one year of shop, but Gary Taber, took two years and used the second year to build a molded Plywood speedboat. Because the Shop had wide double delivery doors, Gary did not have to knock a hole in the wall as most basement boat builders do.

**Ruth Kelly** taught mathematics. She was a truly devoted teacher.



Mrs. Kelly, Walter Schreiner, and Bob Stetler, work with slide rules.



Mr. Edward Kapalla explains safety measures while using the cutting tools.



Ruth Kelly  
Mathematics

**Thelma Lamb** (Auntie Thelma) was our guidance councilor. Even though she could be overbearing, at times, she really did have our best interests at heart.



**Mrs. Lamb** discusses the future with Doug Nelson, Sheila Bates, and Alan Harvey.

### Okemos Chapter of the National Honor Society



**Seated:** Sheila Bates, Bill Johnson, Carolyn Paty, Ted Warner, Lynne Stuerhof, Jim Byington, Martha Parisian, John Haga, Carol Price, Don Hill. **Stand-**

**ing:** Joe Luttrell, Barbara Bell, Chuck Stoll, Mr. Arasim, Mrs. Lamb, Mr. Ekstrom, Mrs. Byington, Mr. Baker, Judy Hulkonen, Roger Shull.

**Not Pictured:** Dorothy Nelson, Roberta Wight, Sara Jo Reed, Kay Bratzler.

**Don Mueller** taught Band and Orchestra. He elevated a rather pathetic instrumental music program into one, which everyone could be proud to claim. In the process, nearly ¼ of the high school ended up participating. Oh yes, band trip and playing in the Pep Band at Pep Rallies. At a trip to the Holland Tulip Festival, several boys, in the band, discovered that the Dowagiac marching band Drum Major, Twirlers, and Flag Girls ranks seemed to be designated by their relative lack of clothing. It was a sunny, but cold



Senior High

Chieftain Marching Band



Concert Band

Junior High Band



26



27

and windy day, by Lake Michigan, so there was no shortage of volunteers from the OHS band offering to keep them warm.

**Ester Reed** taught English and was a truly devoted teacher. Mrs. Grinnell and Mrs. Reed became known as "The Sweater Girls", for their winter apparel choices. Mrs. Reed's husband, **Dr. H. O. Reed**, of the MSU Music

Department, was the composer of an original Fight Song and Alma Mater, for the school, that

Among various activities were Homecoming festivities, the Alma Mater written by Dr. H. Owen Reed, Teen Center committees, Community Service Day, mock elections, a new basketball scoreboard, and other outstanding contributions.



attempted to imbue the "Spirit of Chief Okemos" (a real person, who was a member of Pontiac's Tribal Council).

**Christena Schram** taught speech, Latin and coached the junior play. Our Junior Play was the last Class play at OHS.



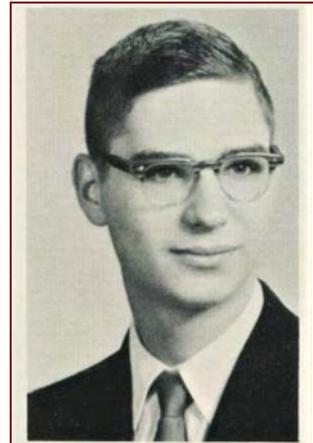
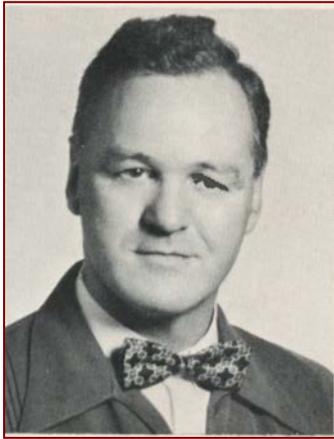
## Juniors Stage Comedy



**Seated:** Sharon Stoneham, Diane Kelty, Don Hill, Vicky Shick, Jim Kiger. **Standing:** Jim Jones, Lynne Prather, Margie Sheldon, Carol Price, Casey Wagenvoord, Bill Wight, stage assistant; Diane Grota,

property manager; Tom Wagner, stage assistant; Don Keck, stage manager; Patricia Zalewski, Miss Schram.

**Joe Walbridge** Taught Chemistry, Physics, and Vocal Music. He made science truly fun and interesting, and started a "Men's Glee Club". I recall the time one of the physics class teams dumped their Benzene specific density liquid into the sink followed by a chemistry team tossing a lighted match into the same sink, making for an exciting experience. And then there was Tom Katalenich and Larry Beaman attempting to make nitroglycerin in the Chemistry/Physics stock room, when Mr. Walbridge was out ill, and we were told to conduct a study hall. We had a substitute teacher, the next day. I never really knew if they were serious about it or putting on a show. Fortunately, nothing happened when they dropped the 5cc vials of clear liquid off the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor fire escape. Also, not to be forgotten was **Walter Schreiner** electrifying the Physics/Chemistry Lab door with a "Tesla Coil" and the class forming a human chain across the study hall. And finally, the excitement of working with Dick Bennett to discover that our unknown chemical was barium sulfate. We made that determination when nothing, including Aqua Regia, would dissolve it.



Walter Schreiner "Walt" - It is a moral obligation to be intelligent.

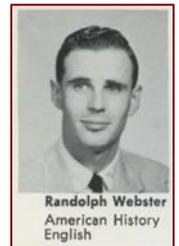
## JETS Launch Science Futures



Row 1: Roger Clough, Gilman Smith, Tom McNitt, Walter Schreiner, Jerry Cohen, Judy Hulkonen, Gary Taber, Dick Bennett, Chuck Stoll.  
Row 2: Mr. Walbridge, Mrs. Wilzer, Ann McNitt, Beverly Brumm,

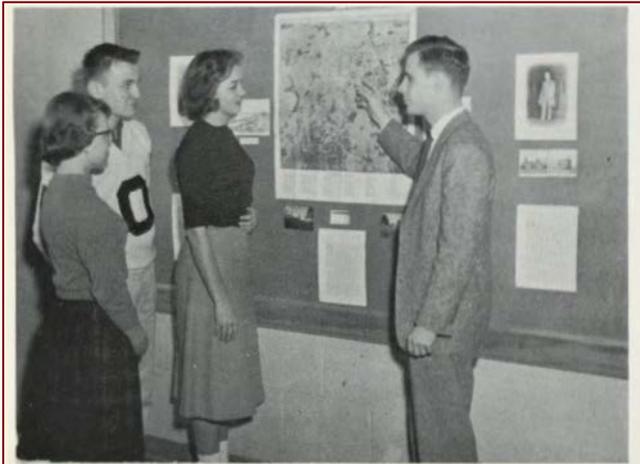
Lynne Prather, Kathi Adams, Sarah Buehler, Margie Sheldon, Don Hill, Reed Edwards, Tom Katalenich, Gary Sawyer, Alvin DeYoung, Errol Kaufman

**Randy Webster** taught American History, American English, and introduced interscholastic wrestling to OHS. That was where I really learned what athletic training really involved and decided that I would rather concentrate on academic classes. Our particular Section of Mr. Webster's



Randolph Webster  
American History  
English

classes was so Rowdy that he would not allow us to discuss "The Luck of Roaring Camp". After he forgot to wear a belt, Ron Whitmore and Casey Wagonvoord got Gary Tabor to make a "No Belt" Award plaque, which was duly presented to Mr. Webster. Mr. Webster led the student cheering section at basketball games, during our junior year. I later learned that he did the same thing when he was at Livonia High School, where he became an Assistant Dean, after leaving Okemos.



Mr. Webster tells Judy Hulkonen, Jerry Husby, and Judy Hagerman of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Later, my cousin, Bob Benson, doing his Student Teaching with Mrs. Kelly. She made mathematics fun and interesting.



Robert Stetler "Bob" - Business? That's simple, it's other people's money.

My high school memories include spending weekends at our family's cabin in Northern Michigan with Bob Stetler and Leroy Eicher, showing sheep with Jim Flanders at the county fair, and learning there were many better basketball players than me and I was too slight for football, but that I could run. There also was driving around downtown Okemos with 4 passengers in my open MG, until I learned that the local Sheriff deputy was looking for me.

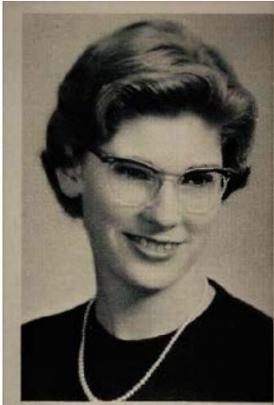


Leroy Eicher - Let the world slide, I won't budge an inch.



Gilman Smith "Gil" - I could be better if I tried, but it's so lonesome being good.

I played in a dance band, with Gilman Smith, grads Roger Shull and Tom Wagoner and, junior Tom Gunn at college parties, during my senior year. It also took me over a month to get up the courage to ask a real neat girl, in the class, out on a first date, during my junior year, and was startled when she said yes.



Marjorie Sheldon "Margie" - Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

This was the era I discovered spectator sports and bus rides to away games. Couples usually sat in the back and were very quiet. And too a remembrance of Square dancing with Margie Sheldon, Tom Katalenich, Diane Grota, Art Reece, and Judy Hulkenen and the New Year's



Thomas Katalenich "Tom" - This gentleman prefers a n head.



Diane Grota - Seems like Happiness Is Just a Thing Called Tom.

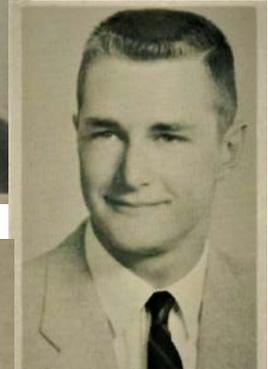


Arthur Reese "Art" - Hold the fort fellows, I'm coming.

Eve party hosted by Vickie Shick, Mary Madzia, and Lynn Prather. And no less the senior party Terry



Judith Hulkenen "Judy" - Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.



Terry Marzen - Women! You can't live with them and you can't live without them!



Mary Madzia - As pretty as she is witty.

Marzen arranged at Walnut Hills, paid in large part by the 7<sup>th</sup> grade magazine sales of Bill DeLind and Howard Hatch, who had moved to Dimondale the previous year.



William DeLind "Bill" - I am sure care's an enemy to life.

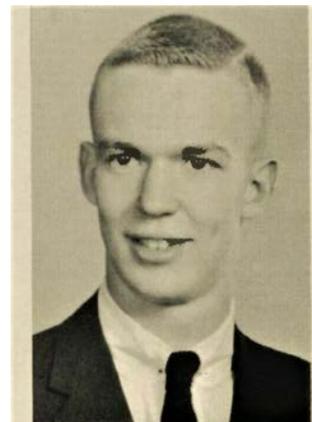


What about Casey Wagonvoord who showed up for a hayride with a date and a sleeping bag? He then spent the evening chasing her around the trailer. And Casey Wagonvoord prancing around the stage for the junior play wearing Long underwear, which was found at the closing curtain, behind a couch, on the set. When the cast came out for a curtain call, Casey came out wrapped in a large blanket, much to



Victoria Shick "Vicky" - Everyone who knows her will agree there is not a sweeter girl or a more worthwhile friend.

miss Schram's horror.



Cornelius Wagonvoord "Casey"



David Davidson "Dave" - Beware, I may yet become famous.

Or the memory of Dave Davidson ambushing one of the girls in our senior physics class with an elaborate plumbing scam. Ron Whitmore attempt to deny the Class of '58 the SRA Presidency, and other political moves, during our junior year.



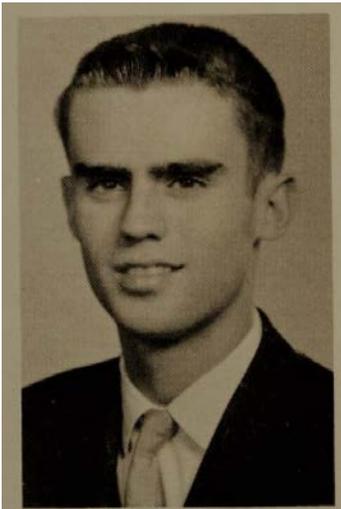
Then there was **Carol Price**, Lynn Prather and performing the opening our Senior English Class. Gale Stevens C Spring Training Camp invitation, during Ron Gates always finding something useful school.



Carol Price - The secret of success is constancy to purpose.

Margie Sheldon scene of Macbeth, for getting a Tigers Class-our senior year and to do around the

And Sharron Stoneham, who was so shy and quiet landing a significant speaking part in the Junior Play, with the prophetic line: "I suppose that geologists may get to see some pretty rocks". Significant because I ended up going to MSU and studying Geology.



Donald Hill "Don" - No task is too steep for the human mind.



Seated: Sharon Stoneham, Diane Kelty, Don Hill, Vicky Shick, Jim Kiger. Standing: Jim Jones, Lynne Prather, Margie Sheldon, Carol Price, Casey Wagenvoord, Bill Wight, stage assistant; Diane Grotz, property manager; Tom Wagner, stage assistant; Don Keck, stage manager; Patricia Zalewski, Miss Schram.

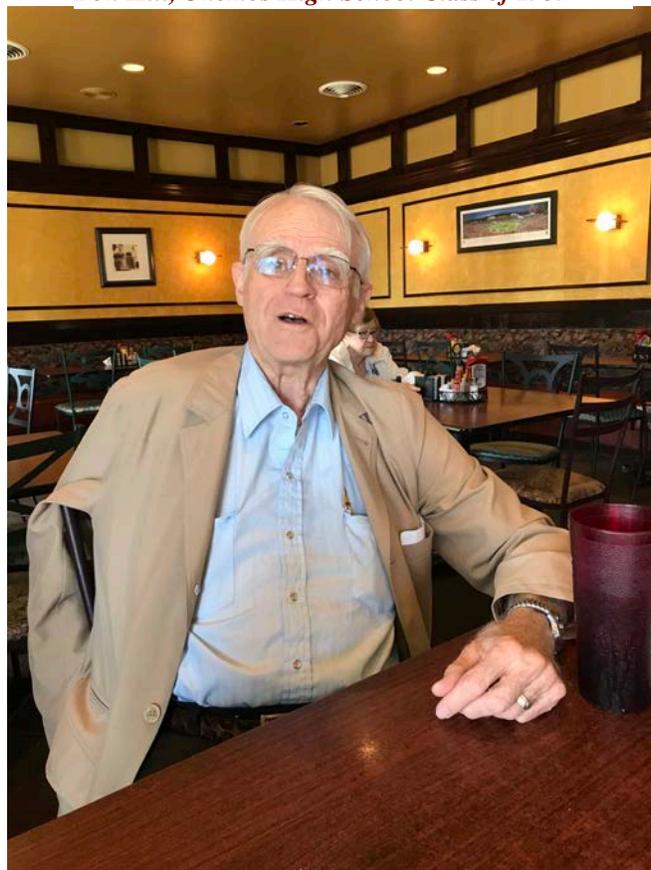
I do not think that any of us really appreciated what we had, at the time:



Board of Education: Lyman Bratzler, Clarence Prentice, Rex Wilkins, Clare Gunn, Robert Darragh.

The Okemos Board of Education provided us with outstanding quality teachers, K – 12, that would be competitive with much larger districts, without the problems inherent with the larger schools. It may have been the proximity to the MSU College of Education, but the school board responded proactively to the “Baby Boom”, that followed our class, in setting the standards high. We were the lucky recipients of that action.

*Don Hill, Okemos High School Class of 1959*



*Back in Okemos, June 27, 2019*

I came to this realization after witnessing the trials of our own sons in much larger and impersonal schools.

Don Hill '59