

WHS NOTE

Class of 1963 Association

July 19, 2019

To respond with a comment of your own, please click on whsalum63@aol.com.

Clicking on "REPLY" to the newsletter will send your email to the Weequahic High School Alumni Association and, in turn, they would have to mail it to the AOL account for editing and publishing.

Hi Actors in the Weequahic Reality Show,

Editing the Cyber Indians' Web:

Mandell, Michael (67) - golf3nutz@gmail.com (change)

Sochor, Robert (6/57) - rsochor@dsrclaw.com (change)

Alumindians in the Archives:

1/25/10

Michael Mantell (WHS 64/WO Mountain 66)

Reading these postings brings back such terrific memories, the names of the streets, Olympic Park, etc. My father, Sol Mantell, owned shoe stores on Clinton Avenue and Prince Street (Buster Brown). I suspect, Weequahic, South Side and Hillside grads might recall buying shoes there. My aunt Lillian Mantell graduated Weequahic in the mid-50s. Her husband, Ed Freundlich, just passed away. Harjays, Halems, Chancellor Deli, Rabbi Sky bookstore; there could not have been a better place for raising kids. I remember playing in the field on Chancellor Avenue and buying clothes at Russ Scott and ogling the T-bird belonging to the son of the owner. Michael

Reunion comments:

Wilma Bernhaut Pitman (6/57)

We are planning an 80th Birthday Party (not an official reunion) to be held Sunday, October 13, at Il Villagio Restaurant, Route 10, Parsippany, NJ. Those from the Class of June '57, should be turning this age, and we just wanted to get together to wish each other a "Happy Birthday," and, of course, reminisce some more. Get in touch with Miriam Perlman Feldmar at m.feldmar@aol.com to let her know that you will be coming, or with regrets. Really want to hear from one and all, even with just a birthday wish if you cannot make the date. Wilma

Rita Kravet Rzepka (1/55)

I was excited to recently see my classmate Herb Trinkler's *WHS Note* article. We graduated together; I think. Cannot verify since I lost my yearbook. And the class has not heard from him lately, if ever. We had a "65th" reunion at the Grand Summit Hotel in May. Twelve men from the class attended and only four women. With spouses and girlfriends, we were three tables of eight and had a wonderful luncheon. I flew in from Cleveland, Ohio and stayed with Bonnie Pollak Sher. Rita

Lois Plisner Kernan replies to comments of Judy Sarnow Gluck (60) and Natalie Confield Tublitz (1/52) that "the palace to many was the apartment building at 280 Goldsmith Avenue:"

I was the "Lois" who was in the carpool to Upsala College, a commuter without a car. I lived on 92 Grumman Avenue, having moved from 175 Lehigh Avenue in 1952, after my Maple Avenue School graduation. I have been living in San Francisco since 1979 and just love reading about our days at Weequahic and living in Newark. Recently, there was a program about Jewish life in Newark and especially WHS given at the Jewish Community Library here in SF. It was so touching. Bergen Street, Chancellor Avenue, Halem's, Syd's, Bradley Beach, etc.; pure nostalgia. Lois

Responses to Fred Goldman's (6/62) Newark wrestle mania piece:

Jac Toporek (6/63)

You left out Ricky Starr, the Jewish fan favorite, and Antonino Rocca (both featured in pictures, below). Both wrestled barefooted and could fly off the ropes like acrobats or gymnasts. Rocca came to the South Ward Boys Club one Sunday and spoke to the kids. Don't know how he looked to you on Tv, but to a 12-year-old, Rocca was one big fellow. Not as big as Don Newcomb, the recently deceased Hall of Fame pitcher for the then Brooklyn Dodgers. Being a beneficiary of the Boys Club was wonderful. Jac

ANTONINO ROCCA

The Star 15c
WRESTLING
Program Score Card

LAUREL GARDEN Newark, N. J. SEPT.. 6, '57

TAG TEAM MATCH 2 Out of 3 Falls
Ricki Starr ^{won} & **Miguel Perez** ^{won}
vs **Skull Murphy** & **Dan McShain**

TIME LIMIT ONE FALL
Chief Big Heart ^{won} vs **Manuel Torres**

TAG TEAM MATCH 2 OUT OF 3 FALLS
Karl Von Hess ^{won} & **Erid Von Hess** ^{won}
vs **Sandor Kovacs** & **Czaya Nandor**

TIME LIMIT — ONE FALL
Ramon Lopez ^{won} vs **Mighty Zito**
Lou Green, Announcer, - Geo. Goldberg, Time Keeper

NEXT FRIDAY NITE
ANTONINO ROCCA
Will Be Here - Laurel Garden

Arnie Kohn (56)

The wrestling arena that was mentioned was Laurel Gardens. The promoter was, one, Willie Gilzenberg, who was partners with Vincent Kennedy McMahon, Sr. Arnie

Don Stickler (6/51)

I read with much enjoyment the musings of Fred Goldman and his remembering the wrestling which my father also brought me to. One little correction; the Little Theatre was on Broad Street and the wrestling was held at Laurel Gardens on Springfield Avenue.

Another recollection was of a close friend of mine from Bergen Street School, who eventually went to South Side and was a fellow we referred to as "Lable" Simon. His real name was Larry Simon. Larry became a weightlifter and grew muscles on top of muscles. He became a wrestler known as "Black Diamond Simon." I had not seen Larry for a few years and ran into him in Downtown Newark. He invited me to see him at Laurel Gardens that night and gave me front row seats. Black Diamond Simon came out with a few front teeth missing and his head shaved into a diamond. He snarled at the audience and yelled at a young kid who ran to talk to him. In the wrestling world, he was the bad guy.

During the match, as he was gouging his opponent, I yelled, "Give him a zetz Label." It was something we used to say to him when we played games and meant "give him a shot." He started to laugh. Larry later admonished me for making him laugh and said he was the bad guy and did not laugh.

The next time I saw Larry was a few years later wrestling in the Florida circuit. He was then known as "Boris Melankoff, the Mad Russian from Moscow, Russia." He was a big draw. And, later, Larry became an instructor to other wrestlers. Don

Stu Schnitzer (60)

The boxing arena was laurel Gardens. My uncle Maxie Fisher (<http://www.njboxinghof.org/maxie-fisher/>) boxed there. Stu

Barry Koblentz (2/62)

Mr. Harry Greenberg (AKA *The Match King*, seller of imprinted matchbooks) was a friend of my father and had a connection at the Laurel Garden. He invited us to see the wrestling matches along with my Hebrew school friends. Obviously, we could not go as a Hebrew school group, so we went as a group of friends. I do not think Rabbi Segal would have approved. Us kids sure enjoyed Friday nights.

On Wednesday afternoons, my dad often took me to the *Howard Street Baths*, known colloquially as the “schvitz (sweat).” Those days will never be duplicated.

Barry

Joel Enda (6/62)

Antonino Rocca was the one who used his feet. Joel

Notes highlighting Weequahic Park generated a few comments:

Sharon Rous Feinsod (66)

Percy Jarvis was the golf pro at Weequahic Park during the 60's and early 70's. He competed state-wide and, I believe, in the Metropolitan Area competitions. For my graduation in 1966, my mother and my brother, Marvin, gave me lessons and clubs. My putting was decent; my drives highly forgettable.

Needless to say, I spent the next 35+ years teaching and did not get back into it. Now I'm hoping to go to the driving range and see if I can retrieve anybody memory, along with putting at our condo. By the way, Essex County still maintains three excellent courses: Weequahic, Byrne in West Orange on Pleasant Valley Way and Hendricks in Belleville. Sharon

Clark Lissner (6/63)

Jac Toporek is right on with his memories of Weequahic Park. What a great amenity to have nearby! Clark

Alan Ginter (64/65)

In response to Jac Toporek's (6/63) memories of Weequahic Park racetrack, I also remember that there was temporary housing for military families in the middle of

the track for a while. There was similar housing on Schley Street and Lyons Ave. I remember the horse stables, also. What about sledding in the snow down the *Sugarbowl* on the golf course? When we were studying flowers at Chancellor Avenue School, we took a walking field trip past the beautiful gardens in front of those gorgeous houses on lower Chancellor on our way to the rose gardens in the park. The old schoolhouse was still on the corner of Chancellor and Elizabeth Avenues before being moved to the museum. We were told stories about George Washington passing by. Alan

Bob Feder (6/48)

For lazy ones who didn't want to row, there was a multi person motorboat with driver for a nominal charge. Also, a cop patrolled by boat. Caught my first perch in the lake. Other memories included sleighing in the sugar bowl, trotters at the track and no charge to watch, air searchlights mid track during the war, pennies on the railroad tracks, troop trains waiting to go to NY and so much more. Weequahic was a great place to grow up. Bob

Ellie Miller Greenberg (49)

Especially for Jac Toporek, I remember a freezing cold, windy winter day at Weequahic Park, just down the street from our house on Keer Avenue, when my 2nd Lt. Uncle Harry Miller came home from Camp Monmouth on leave after Officer's Training School and we took pictures (which I have in my storage closet) in the blowing wind. We were so proud of his uniform and his golden 2nd Lt. bars. He was going to be stationed in Alaska, so the weather at Weequahic Park was good preparation. In the photo, I look very young. I must have been in Maple Avenue School. It was 1943, or so. We always went to Weequahic Park on special occasions. It was our beautiful "backyard." Ellie

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