

WHS NOTE

Class of 1963 Association

July 26, 2019

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Hi Weequahic Nation Nationals,

Jane Eule Addalia (64) (janeteaddalia@gmail.com) is the newest Cyber Indian.

Alumindians in the Archives:

10/28/06

Joni Davis Law (SSHS 63) recalls a place or two:

I do remember the Cameo and the Avon. I used to live on Hunterdon Street and between Bigelow and Runyon by the 5th precinct, if anyone remembers that? They had a PAL Club there and Charlie and Dots candy store on the corner. There may be some Bergen Street School people around, yet, that went to Clinton Place.

There was a candy store on Peshine and West Runyon. I cannot remember the name of it. They had two sons who worked there. My aunt and uncle used to own a cleaners in the same area after they moved from the one by Bragaw School. Joni

Harold Klein (6/60) advises as to reunion:

The Class of June 1960 will celebrate its 60th Class Reunion with a brunch on June 7, 2020 at the Old Mill Inn, Basking Ridge, New Jersey from 11:00 to 3:00 pm.

Details will be emailed in December 2019. The Reunion Planning Committee includes Harold Klein, Allan Halperin and Lois Blumenfeld Gilbert. If your email has changed or if you know of a classmate who has changed their email address, please notify me at HMKlein42@gmail.com. Please reserve June 7, 2020 for another memorable reunion. Harold

Sheila Stein Farbman (6/57) reaches sends greetings to classmates:

Happy Birthday and best wishes to everyone from the June '57 graduating class. We did have good times back then which gave us wonderful memories. Sorry I won't be able to get back to NJ for the celebration. I'm living in Plantation, FL now. Come on down. It's easy living. And be sure to call and say hello if you do. Sheila (cricket60@juno.com)

Joe Diament (67) has a "Best Newark HS" moment:

A "*shaunda*" (shameful thing) transpired recently on my back porch in New Hampshire. A former neighbor stopped by for a visit. He lived in the Vailsburg section graduated Seton Hall Prep. Naturally, our conversation turned to Newark and I stated that WHS probably produced as many, if not more, Ph.Ds., MDs, etc. than most prep schools of the era. He didn't make any claims about Seton Hall Prep being superior to Weequahic, but he said that his sister would strongly disagree with me because she believed Barringer was the best high school in Newark. To be polite, I refrained from screaming or laughing, but I did note that day and his sister's belief as a "*shaunda*." Joe

Picturing the W-Park:

Bobbi Wigler Dinnerman (6/49)

Weequahic Park was a beauty! I remember visiting the flower gardens with my parents when I was a kid. Does anyone else remember them? Bobbi

Ron Orbach (1/52)

Just to add a note about Weequahic Park Golf Course, I remember when Bob Gold, Art Spielvogel, Billy Kapner and I would put together a few clubs and ride our bikes

down to the golf course. It was only nine holes in the forties and fifties. The four of us were big spenders, it cost 25 cents to play nine holes. The tough part of the day was riding our bikes back up toward the school; uphill all the way. Ron

Jac Toporek (6/63)

The more comments I read about the Park, I feel that we, the residents of and near the intersection of Elizabeth and Meeker Avenues were so lucky to have the Park as our front yard. Growing up in the area and seeing and using the park almost daily, we did not appreciate it back then. But, do now.

Another not often mentioned Weequahic Park memory were, I believe it was Sundays, the highly competitive “Negro” baseball leagues. The ballplayers were very good. To a youngster watching the game, they were not the Yankees, Giants or Dodgers, but they were, in every sense of the word, “professional” Lots of neighborhood fans came out to watch and enjoy impromptu, what you would call today, tailgates. Really more like picnics.

The baseball games were played in the area of the WHS Soccer team field. Preceding afternoon baseball was choose-up soccer. Anyone interested in playing showed up and stood with the crowd as two selected captains picked their teams. Very often, the captains were me and my twin, Norbert. We had a cadre of friends from Weequahic, but also some high school competitors from Union, Elizabeth and nearby areas. And, some of the ethnic demographics came into play as we were joined by local immigrants from Central and South America. Great melting pot those Sunday morning soccer games; Israelis, Europeans, Americans and Latino booters.

Not sure it was part of Weequahic Park, but there was a paved lot off Meeker Avenue adjacent to Park and the train tracks that ran through the Park. The lot, which was located just before the underpass beneath the track (Millman’s and Sabin’s was on the other side of the street after the underpass), served the Meeker Avenue boys well as the site for football and stickball (without the painted box on the wall behind the batter; that was the lot of Koplín Chevrolet nearby on Elizabeth Avenue). Jac

Grappling with more wrestling of yore:

Clark Lissner (6/63)

Fred Goldman (6/62) broke open the memory bank with his thoughts of Newark "Pro" wrestling. The Boys' Club took us there many times for some wonderful outings. Other memorable wrestlers were "the Mad Irishman" Danny McShane and the original "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers, who had his style and nickname co-opted by Rick Flair. On one occasion, the wrestlers played a softball game at the stadium on Bloomfield Avenue against the fantastic pitcher Eddie Feigner and the *King and His Court* show. Ah, those were the days; and did Fred actually say "midget" wrestlers (OK in the pre-p.c. world!). Clark

Dennis Estis (65)

With regard to the comments about wrestling in Newark, I never knew about the wrestling matches at the Adams Theater, but the real action was at the Laurel Garden Arena every Thursday night, which was on Springfield Avenue. I went there a few times with my dad before it closed down. Dennis

Alan Ginter (64/65)

Professional wrestling was presented at Laurel Garden on Springfield Avenue. I think the Little Theater was on lower Broad Street. My father, Murray Ginter, who grew up in the third ward (born 1912) and, consequently, seemed to know everyone in Newark, used to get tickets for the matches every Friday night. I never knew what kind of deal he had going with the ticket guy (he seemed to always have a deal or a favor going on with nearly everyone, it seemed to me), but he always got ringside seats for the three of us, my father, my brother, Freddy (6/61) and me.

Freddy and I would scream ourselves hoarse every time. Remember Rocca and Perez? Perez was always getting double-teamed by the bad guys (usually the despised Graham Brothers) until Rocca, who couldn't take it anymore, would jump in the ring and subdue the opposition by drop-kicking them into submission. They may have known who was going to win, but we didn't and that was the significant part that most anti-pro wrestling folks usually don't get. Alan

Lew Kampel (6/60)

In response to Fred Goldman's submission on wrestling, I believe the Springfield Avenue venue, near Bergen Street, was called Laurel Gardens. There were good guys and bad guys. One of the good guys was Jerry Gordetsky, an upstairs neighbor on S.13th Street who gave up dental school and wrestled under the name *Jerry Gordet*.

The Friday night matches were televised on Channel 13, so my friends and I would go just so we could be seen on TV. Jerry eventually gave up competing in favor of refereeing. One summer night I was watching a match he was refereeing in Washington, D.C. when I saw Jerry carried out on a stretcher looking convincingly unconscious after mixing it up with two competing wrestlers. I knew his mother was one of the women sitting outside in front of our apartment building, but I decided not to say anything to her, which turned out to be the right decision. The next morning, I was up and out at 7 AM and there was Jerry looking fine, not a mark on his face washing his car. I never watched wrestling again. Lew

Lou Gittlin (6/62)

The Little Theater was located on Broad Street on the way into downtown Newark. The wrestling matches took place in Laurel Gardens located on Springfield Avenue in Newark. My uncle Harry Stein owned a tremendous fruit and vegetable market next door. I used to go there every Friday night when I was about 10 years old, hangout in his store until 8pm and go to Laurel Gardens to see the wrestling matches. We would sit ring side and I was scared to death. Lou

Recollecting recollections:

Jack Cohen (58)

I remember Gilbert Lustig as *Mr. Clean*. I worked at the Hot Dog Haven owned by Dave Aronow and Ted Litowski. Heshy Slotnick worked there also. Gil was going out with Dave's daughter Fran and I was going out with Flora Siegal. Then, in 1957, I joined the marines and left Newark. I still see familiar faces on FB and think of times gone by. Jack

Marc Eisenberg

About the candy store at Dewey and Edwin Place, in the late 40s early 50s (I think) the owner's first name was Max. The store was a TV vacuum testing. When a TV quit, you pulled ALL the tubes and bring them to Max's tester. Rarely did that actually work.

Next door was Hyatt's, a grocery store. Mr. Hyatt personally delivered. He would walk a few blocks with a cardboard box on his shoulder. Before he left for a delivery, he would tap on a water pipe which led to the apartment upstairs. Mrs. Hyatt would, then, mind the store. One summer a black dog ("Blacky" of course) sort of adopted the corner. Mr. Hyatt fed him cold cuts. For dessert, Max offered an ice cream cone.

I lived on St. James Place, around the corner from Edwin Place. I had a friend on Edwin just opposite my house. We discovered a secret passageway between garages which absolutely NO ONE else knew about, so we could visit without walking around the block. Marc

Susan Oaklander Leon (1/58)

Rarely do you find coconut cream pie on the menu in a restaurant or in a bakery. Recently, my husband (from Hillside) and I hit the jack pot! On a six-hour long drive home from Bethany Beach, DE, we stopped for lunch at the Milford Diner in Milford, DE. There in the case was a coconut cream pie! We shared a huge slice for dessert. Wow! It was just as good as the Tavern's, Claremont or Weequahic Diners. According to the owner, we learned that the baker was originally from Newark. Wouldn't you know! We didn't get to meet him, but we sent him a message that we were from Newark and loved the pie! Susan

(Editor's Note & Treat): Susan and Alumindians, recipe for Tavern's [Coconut Cream Pie Recipe](#).

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