

WHS NOTE

Class of 1963 Association

DECEMBER 13, 2019

TO RESPOND WITH A COMMENT OF YOUR OWN, PLEASE CLICK ON
WHSALUM63@AOL.COM.

Hi Weequahic Townies:

Lenny Sherman (1/61) changed his Indians-mail address to
lennysherman@comcast.net.

Alumindians in the Archives:

2/18/06

Jerry Wichinsky (64)

I have many fond memories of the Boys Club. I joined in 1955 (think I was the 15th member) when we were still meeting in Dave Warner's basement. We had a Little League team that played in Weequahic Park. Dave used to take us to Knicks and Brooklyn Dodgers games. Then, of course, the Boys Club grew, and the meetings were held at Tunis Mansion on Bergen Street and the trips became more elaborate. Then, we were housed at the Littleton Avenue Boys Club (they let us use their building on Sundays). Ultimately, the building on Hawthorne Avenue (the former Hawthorne Movie Theater and the adjacent buildings, which were converted became the home for the Boys Club.

Unfortunately, the building has been closed now for many years because it no longer met the standards of the newer Boys (and Girls) Clubs. It's sad because of all the many years that Dave Warner worked to finally have a building of our own. I like to think, however, that his legacy is not in the

building, but in all of the happy and fond memories we former members all have of those days and of all the wonderful trips we took with the Boys Club. The Hawthorne building opened in 1963. Jerry

Diane Chin Rue (6/63) shares a photo of a recent gathering of the ladies of June 1963:

This picture is of our WHS Ladies Luncheon at The Metuchen Inn, Metuchen, NJ. *Back Row:* Sue Meth Haiken; Sheilah Piltz Kesatie; Me; Paula Silidker Scheiber and Lynne Gross Bell. *Front Row:* Dale Freling Weinbach; Hazel Decter Solomon; Beth Pinkus Edwards and Marsha Fried Brown.



“Beth” briefs:

Warren Grover (1/55)

In reply to Beryl, not only did students volunteer at the Beth, but also at the old St. Barnabas on High Street. There we had to commute by bus. My experience was profound. I was assigned to the children’s ward reading to recovering patients who had been operated on for cleft palates. St.

Barnabas at that time had the world leader in that field, Dr. Lyndon Peer, who had developed a procedure for alleviating the condition. Children from all over the world were in that ward. Peer's successors' office is on Columbia Turnpike today. Warren

Margie Bauman (6/60)

I also was a candy striper at Beth Israel and was very excited about being one. Don't remember a lot of detail, but just for fun, one time I put "Nurse Jane Fuzzy Wuzzy" on my name tag and was told I had to change it. My parents wanted me to be a nurse, so I started college as a nursing major, but changed to journalism. That was my ambition, and I am still happily working full time as a journalist in Alaska covering fisheries and environmental issues. I did, however, volunteer for nearly three years as an EMT with an ambulance squad outside of Anchorage, which was a big step up from being a candy striper at the Beth. Margie

In appreciation of the weekly WHS connection:

Reese Schonfeld (49)

Great reporting by all concerned over an awfully long period. Thank you much for the story which we will try to save forever no matter how long forever is. Reese

Beverly Farber Cook (1/54)

The *WHS Note* pages are wonderfully nostalgic to read. All these bits and pieces of lives are very entertaining. There is a book written by Sherry Ortner (58) called *New Jersey Dreaming, Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58* which will open eyes about Weequahic High School and it's "inmates." I read it years ago because my late sister Sondra was in that class. When I finished reading the book, I thought, *Who Knew?* We think of anthropology in connection with tribes in islands in the Pacific or in the jungles of the Amazon. Think again! Beverly

"Roller Derby" still rolling on in memories:

Warren Grover (1/55)

In reply to Nathan Himmelstein (South Side 1/55), *Roller Derby* was the “greatest” to a 12-year-old living on Renner Avenue. The Roseville Armory hosted many matches featuring the “Jersey Jolters.” In reply to Fred Goldman (6/62), The Little Theatre was built under FDR ‘s New Deal as a legitimate theater to provide employment to playwrights and others in the theater world. Warren

Shirley Weinstock Pickton (1/50)

I remember the Roller Derby very well. My uncle had the souvenir stand and sold autographed photos of the team players. We worked with him and it was so fascinating. We got to know the players very well; even had them for dinner at our house, I was very excited when the lead player, “Toughie,” let me baby sit for her children when the team was playing! Good old days!

Shirley

Weequahic memories are made of this:

Aaron Wolkstein (6/61)

In response to Clark Lissner’s (6/63) note on the Meeker Pharmacy and the deli next door, the store next to the Meeker Pharmacy was Parkview Deli and Liquor Store and was operated by our parents Max and Yetta Wolkstein. My brother David was the doctor he mentioned. I was not. Also, in that row of stores was Michael’s Barber Shop, which was there for as many years as I can remember and was visited by Longy Zwillman while I was growing up. The auto parts store was called Advance Brake and Clutch and was operated by two brothers-in-laws, Joe and Jimmy. Aaron

Jeff Ignatoff (6/60)

In response to recent remembrances from Frank Argenziano (6/62) and Sam Breidt (1/61) about Fong’s Chinese Restaurant on Bergen Street, I would add my own memories of that establishment. Amazingly, it still stands, at least at the time of my last drive through the “hood.” I have lived away from New Jersey for over half a century, but still drive through the old neighborhood on occasional visits. I have been amazed to see that it is, I believe, the only commercial establishment on that stretch of Bergen Street which has persisted.

My sister Ellen Ignatoff Levine (6/64) and I have fond recollections of regular walks to Fong's to either take out or dine in. We used to think this was a rather long walk all the way from Lyons and Bergen, where we lived, to Renner Avenue. But I've realized on revisits that it's not long at all! This was a regular tradition for a time, as our father was not fond of Chinese food and on evenings when he attended meetings of the Weequahic Lions Club we headed out to Fong's.

Their cuisine was strictly Cantonese, as I recall, and the choices were quite a bit less numerous than what you see at Asian restaurants nowadays. Some of my remembrances include egg rolls, chicken chow mein, and egg foo yong. The ambience was nice and rather basic, not quite as upscale as Ming's, a later arrival on the culinary scene. Jeff

Rita Kravet Rzepka (1/55)

Judy Taylor Firtel (63) says, *The memories slip further into the past, but the roots remain.* The accent also remains. I have lived in Ohio for 60 years and I am still kidded about my accent; regularly. Rita

Dorothy Kurzrock Dorsay (6/58)

I am so in agreement with Bette Krupenin Kolodney (6/60). When people comment negatively on Newark, I have a strong gut reaction of *NO, you're wrong. It was a very good place to grow up.* I loved that I could get on a bus on Clinton Avenue and go downtown on my own or with a friend. No malls. It was terrific. I could walk to the library on Bergen Street, passing the Royal Restaurant (dairy) and Lipschitz and the 5&10. It was great independence and playing outside with friends satisfied me a lot. Dorothy

Robert White (68)

In the winter of 1958, I moved to 319 Peshine Avenue. I remember the candy store as Schuster's and that the old man had sons. There was a grocery store on the corner and, perhaps, there was a dry cleaner between the two stores. But then again, what does an 8-year-old know in 1958? Several answers, but all of us could be right, considering the 10-year difference in our Weequahic classes. The Shusters may have bought the store from the Shipps by the time I moved into the neighborhood and Kohn

& Krotenberg may have moved deeper into the Weequahic section and missed the change in ownership. Robert

Janet Einhorn Hirschfeld (2/56)

I lived in my grandfather's six family house on the corner of Hawthorne and Peshine Avenues. My father owned a bar and did not get home until the wee hours of the morning. My mother decided that her second born, me, should bank the fire. I was ten years old and afraid of the dark! But I had to do it. I had to go downstairs, walk a few steps and then descend to the basement. Anyone could have been there! If I remember correctly, I had to lower a rod and open the grate, go up the scary stairs into the dark and then up to the second floor. I shook the whole time! If that happened today, someone would call DYFS and report my mother. Janet

Arnie Kohn (56)

To Jack Lippman (50), the Fifth Precinct was on West Bigelow Street between Peshine Avenue and Hunterdon Street. The Police Chief was Herman Cohen. His son David was a Weequahic graduate, Class of 1956. The other executive was Max Steinberg. I knew both of them very well personally from forced visits to the precinct. Arnie

Myron Borden (52)

Besides Charlie Bernhaut (1/54) mentioning of all those living on Walcott Terrace, there were Alvin and Charlie Lubetkin of Weequahic sports teams, who lived next to it on Patton Place. Also, besides the *14 Clinton Place* bus which took us to Penn Station heading east and to Olympic Park heading west, there was the *27 Mount Prospect* which not only went downtown, but on hot Summer evenings supplied my friends and me with the ride all the way to Mount Prospect Avenue in North Newark. Those were the days before everyone had air conditioning in our homes and the wide-open windows on the bus helped us to cool off. Myron

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