

Pleasant Memories Project

last updated 12/6/05

Don Murphey (Class of 1939) wrote an extensive biography in his 1939 alumni entry but has these memories to share:

Among many memories of PHHS was when dear old Elsie Cooper took a class vote on whether the US would get involved in the European conflicts; we gave a unanimous NO vote.

I bumped into Jim Waning, 92 years old (class of 1929) last spring (2005) at the Dexter Lake Restaurant. Waning's farm-home is the first past the Lost Creek railroad fill, right side, about 1/4 mile past.

I can add a little more to Bill Wiebke's write-up of the Mauney family [below] Ernest and Floy (Guiley). Of the children, Ralph was the oldest and was Hill Creek Lumber woods boss when Herschel Mathews ('42) and I felled a big cedar snag across their logging road, and he ordered us to get it off ASAP. Helen (Mauney) Bricker was next. She and her husband, Ralph, were dancing and partying friends of Dad and Judy, Delwin and Bird Kintzley, Harry and Ruth Veachn, and Jack and Juanita Lewis. Floyd "Bud" Mauney was just after Berry, married to Juanita (?) Holcomb. Bud died fairly young of cancer. One more girl, Doris, fits in somewhere [Doris graduated in 1935].

Below are a few historical excerpts from my recently completed (with the typing aid of my daughter, Carla) autobiography:

When we moved from our farm, one half mile west of Lowell Bridge, in August of 1937, as Dad and Mom Judy took over William's General Store on Old Highway 58 at Dexter, I knew I'd have to leave behind my Lowell friends and attend PHHS. The general store was purchased with no money down and payments starting at \$300 per month. The owners in 1937 were Carroll and Kathryn Williams. The store had been in the Williams family a long time for they were a pioneer family.

Carroll P. was an uncle of Marie, Boby, and Jerry Williams; their grandmother, Ida (Parvin) Williams, retired as Dexter Postmaster and gave the office over to Judith Murphey, who remained until Dad (Fred Murphey) sold the store in May of 1946 to Ben H. and Lucile Weber (niece of Alice (McBee) Kimball). Lucile Weber became the new postmaster. Ida Williams, whose farm adjoined the store on the west, then sold her property to Raymond and Genevieve Quick.

A word about the Pleasant Hill school bus, 1937-38-39: the bus was a contract between the school district and Fred Hostick, who owned an auto shop west of Dad's store. The bus had a Model A Ford engine and ran pretty dependably. The interior of the coach was a bit seedy but few students noticed. Usually Fred's wife, Myrtle, drove but occasionally my Junior classmate, Chet Hostick drove. In a pinch, even Freshman Jack Hostick drove; he could barely see over the hood. All were skilled drivers and I recall no accidents.

The bus began boarding students on upper Lost and Gosage Creeks around Giustina Mill. It rumbled north down Lost Valley and Lewis Lumber Co., twice under the lumber flume and on to Dexter (before railroad fill) where it turned west at our home on Highway 58 past Davy and Tressie Mathews' Buckhorn Tavern and straight on to school.

[Don also included some school photos from 1936-37. These can be seen on the 1937 alumni page.]

Bill Wiebke (Class of 1940) has been an invaluable resource in coming up with missing yearbooks and pictures from his earlier years when he attended Trent School, which went from grades 1 - 8 and was one of the schools that fed into Pleasant Hill High School, before the creation of a separate junior high school. Here are some of his memories:

"Let's start with Trent grade school, where I went through eight grades. I seemed that everybody was related to everybody else. Some of the family names were: Guilley, Kimball, and Wheeler [from my spreadsheet of graduates, 19 Kimballs and 35 Wheelers had graduated from PHHS by 2003. Only two Guilleys graduated, however, one in 1925 and one in 1988. webmaster]. Mrs. Kimball was a Guilley. She lived by herself up Rattlesnake Road. She had six children: Melvin, Mid, Frank, Clayton, Don, and a daughter, Thelma. Mid had three children: Clyde ('35), Claude ('37), and Lone (Lone was in my class, '40). Frank's wife Hetty Wheeler Kimball had three children: Lovel, Gale ('45), and Jim ('53). Clayton's wife Bessie Wheeler Kimball had Kendal ('41) and daughters. I don't remember the daughters' names. Don's wife Alice (she is still alive at over 100 in the fall of 2003) had Donovan ('46), another son, and daughters. Thelma married Art Lindley ('25) and had Alvin ('47) and Wanda ('45), and maybe some younger ones. [There have been 14 Lindleys graduating from PHHS].

The Wheeler Family - Bill Wheeler lived up Rattlesnake Road and had brother Senator Wheeler who lived in Pleasant Hill. Bill's son lived up behind him up a hill and had Robert, Lloyd, Everett, and Alton. Daughters Hetty and Bessie married Kimballs. Laura married Bob Baughman and had three children: Crystal ('29), Althea ('32), and Emma Lou ('34). Pearl ('15) married a Hutton and had a son Chet ('46). Clara Guilley married Loris "Peewee" Miller and had two sons, Kenneth ('39) and Gerald. Another Guilley married Ernest Mauney and had children William "Berry" Mauney ('27), Zella ('33), Doris ('35), Almon ('38), and Norma ('42), and maybe others. Norma was the youngest.

So there were a lot of relationships in the Trent School. Another interesting one, Leonard Arnold ('40), when in the third and fourth grades, was in the same class as his niece, Marie Williams ('40). His sister Arah Nell Arnold ('29), was teaching the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

For more marriages that took place among students who went to Pleasant Hill Schools, [click here](#) for a separate page (again, thanks to the memory of Bill Wiebke). Bill Wiebke also wrote a narrative about a walk through the Pleasant Hill school of 1940. It's also on a separate page, along with a picture of the outside of the building at that point. Bill's writing takes us on a tour of the inside.

Bill Wiebke (Class of 1940) again. Three incidents I will always remember:

1. When I was a senior (1939-1940), five of us (juniors and seniors) made up a scrub basketball team: Jack Hostick, Larry Weiss, Donald Bushnell, Stanley Broadess, and myself. We picked up games wherever we could. One game we got was with Oakridge's second string. At the end of the first quarter, the score was Oakridge 15 and we had zero - mostly my fault. I played center and was playing too far out from the basket. Ivy Jim Howard would slip in behind me and they would feed him the ball for an

easy lay in. During the game I attempted four shots and made all four for eight points. Larry Weiss made eight points. Final score: Oakridge 15, us 16. Someone who saw that game must have talked to Jack Walton, our coach. I was on the varsity team within a week. So that game was the reason I got a letter in basketball.

2. When I was a sophomore in Mrs. (Elsie) Cooper's geometry class (she was a very strict teacher). On the Friday for the six-week test, my family was going to Odell Lake to dip whitefish out of Trapper Creek. Fishing and hunting were my passion, so I never told my family it was test day. I went fishing. Monday in class, Mrs. Cooper asked me where I was Friday. I said, "I went fishing. Do you want me to bring an excuse?" Mrs. Cooper said "that won't be necessary." I wish I could put that tone of voice on paper. I will remember it as long as I live. I knew my grade was going to take a major hit that six weeks, but that was OK — I had gotten to go fishing. I got a B minus that six weeks — bad but I may have deserved worse. [note from the webmaster: as a teacher, I think Mrs. Cooper was impressed by the fact Bill told the truth, rather than trying to make up some story about being sick.]

3. The third one is one that shows how well Principal Empey knew his students. In school, every student took four subjects each year, some required, some elective. When I was a senior, the only two left my me (for my fourth subject that is) were Shop and General Math. I definitely didn't want to take Shop, so I signed up for General Math. Mr. Empey tried to talk me out of it as I had take Algebra and Geometry in former years [General Math was a lower math course than those]. I was stubborn and insisted on General Math. There were so many signed up for that class that year, however, that they couldn't get them all in one classroom. So they split them into two groups. Mrs. Cooper taught one group in the morning and the other group the last period of the day. I was put in the second group which consisted of thirteen girls and myself. Three days later I was taking Shop.

Dan Graham (Class of 1947) remembered that there was no music program but Bud Leabo, a community member, led a group of about 18 students in a band that met at students' homes, including Dan's parents' cabin they'd built from scrap material during World War II. Bud would hand-copy each of the parts for the students and they played all over the area, including being the dance bands for high school proms in Eugene and Springfield. [note: Dan died in a downhill skiing accident in his mid 80s]

Paul Smith (Class of 1951), whose son Steve now teaches Woodshop and was the Activities Director at PHHS for many years, remembered that two of the teachers carpooled together and got in a car accident on the Coast Fork Bridge and were both killed. That year one of the students died of polio. That year the high school science classroom and home economics classroom burned down.

Lynn Davis (Class of 1952) pays a tribute to Miss Dora Ellen Cash, long-time teacher whom he says he disliked at the time (and was intimidated by her) but realized years later that he learned more from her than any other teacher he ever had. You can read his thoughts on the 1952 page. There is also a page of pictures of her from 1945 to 1965.

Belva Gilman (Class of 1960), also remembers Miss Cash and her memories have been added to those of Lynn Davis on the 52 page.

Jim Hinkson (Class of 1957), remembers Music teacher Arnold Martin, with a nice write up of all he did for his students. You can read that on the 1957 page. There is also a page of pictures of him from 1952 to 1966. Mr. Arnold E. Martin

"Memories of an Outstanding Teacher and Friend

Arnold E. "Arnie" Martin, a former music teacher at Pleasant Hill High School, passed away on April 15th at the age of 81. He is fondly remembered as a wonderful, kind man who made my PHHS experience something I will never forget. I can recall many exciting concerts, the Dixieland jazz band, marching at Billie football games and in various parades around the area. Mr. Martin was a strong influence on my life. He taught me the value of hard work and doing something well. He was a fine teacher and a gentleman. Jim Hinkson, Class of 1957"

Annette Holst (Class of 1964) remembers Joanne Bridges, Spanish and English teacher, with some memories of her caring nature. You can read about her on the 1964 page and how she looked in 1964. Does anyone know what ever happened to her?

Gail Weathers (Class of 1965) I am Gail Weathers, class of 65. I respected almost all my teachers and have even more respect for them now that I don't see them daily.

Frances Herman taught sixth grade and 9th grade Spanish. What she told us about Spanish was the real deal and I have heard people who had learned Spanish elsewhere and could tell they hadn't had Mrs. Herman for Spanish. I now know native Spanish speakers and can more appreciate what she taught us.

Miss Dora Ellen Cash made an impression on everyone I knew. She was very principled, conscientious, and consistent. She said I was "very patient." She had a good sense of humor and you should have heard her snort when she said Miss Hitchcock (at the time) suggested that she tease her hair. Miss JoAnne Hitchcock, later Mrs. Bridges, was very fashionable and up to date. She was another role model from which to select.

Mrs. Haralson was great at math. I really enjoyed seeing her petite figure buzz back and forth along the blackboard while she "built" a problem. (She said "build" because her father was a carpenter). I always had a rough time with math and she tried every conceivable way to make it clear to us.

Mrs. Nancy Kwallek taught Home Economics and Art. I think she was the first person I knew to get contact lenses. She had a time adjusting to them and kept her head tilted slightly back. She did more for her art students than I fully realized. She had her husband make us all easels so we could each afford to have one.

Mrs. Jan Walker taught English. She was very knowledgeable about English and taught us stuff you're lucky to get in college courses. The language has a history, too.

Howard Walton taught social studies, a subject of which I was not fond. He made it a relatively non-threatening experience.

Mrs. Beth Christensen taught P.E. She must know every sport there is. She saw to it that we got to experience lots different kinds of sports. We even got to try golf.

Glenn Orton taught biology and Chemistry. He knew a lot that wasn't in the books and was perhaps more valuable. He was talking about free radicals thirty years before they became fashionable.

I hope Mr. Ray Chiapuzio (algebra) has learned how to treat people.

Robert Donahue (8th grade) had us all make a science report on Fridays. I really enjoyed that because I could find out about things I was curious about and get a good grade for them.

Mrs. Fry was really perky and energetic and interested in hygiene. She emphasized various aspects of grooming, and the most important for her, was a smile "that made your eyes crinkle."

Mrs. Lindsey was pregnant and absent a lot. I thought she made a courageous effort to give us continuity.

Mrs. Broderick was kind and organized and we got through our material pretty painlessly.

Mrs. Kingsberry was pretty and maternal and you couldn't help but like her. In her class I got over the hump from being barely able to read to really loving to read.

Mrs. Humphrey was no-nonsense and you knew in her class that no one would be wasting your time. She could play the piano and taught us songs. (I recently found out that playing the piano was a requirement for certification in those days.)

Miss Van Lidaygraff (don't remember the spelling at all) was my first grade teacher. She took us through the first steps to reading and laid a good foundation for later success. She let us do art on Fridays, and introduced to us the wonders of poster paints. She had a built-up shoe, but never did discuss it. It never affected what went on in school. She was my first experience with formal education and she was in one of the two rooms in Trent. I still appreciate that she gave me a good start.

That's a minimal sketch of my experience of my teachers through the twelve years in School District #1.

Rob Smith (Class of 1974) remembers Jim Steinberger: My most memorable teacher by far was Jim Steinberger. I was very involved in music in High School and probably can attribute a 3.1 GPA to that fact as well.

Jim came to our school about the time I was a freshman and was a very personable guy. But he helped me through a very troubling time in my life when I had no father to talk to about life issues. Jim took the time to take me aside and give me some direction and even make me feel pretty normal which wasn't easy for a guy who was about 4'10" in my sophomore year. He was a great teacher, a motivator and a mentor and a man I will never forget.

The other memory I have is watching the State finals game at Autzen Stadium in 1975. Paul Dowdy had broken a bone and was unable to play quarterback so Richard Clough stepped in from his running back spot. It was a close game coming down to the end of the game and the opposing team was driving and running at will against Pleasant Hill's defense. All of a sudden a thick fog rolled in between plays so that you could literally see only about 30-40 yards. The stands emptied and everyone went to the sidelines to watch what appeared to be the score that would put the game away for the opponents. The ball was handed off to a running back who literally disappeared into the fog and we were absolutely unaware that someone had caused the running back to fumble on the 2 yard line and Richard Clough (playing safety) had picked up the ball and returned the fumble about 98 yards for what turned out to be the winning

touchdown. The State championship was great but the mysterious fog will never be forgotten! Rob Smith

Shelby Sullivan, would have been class of 1980, remembers:

Mr. Adams, I was a student of yours in 1979, my junior year, and a transplant from Miami Beach, Fl. As a matter a fact, both Eddie Francis and I arrived there at Pleasant Hill High School and attended your class the same year. I am an Army Veteran and have acquired an English & Philosophy Degree to include an MBA since those "crazy-hazy" days and a welcome climate shock. I remember the first time I saw Ken Kesey and his wife drive up for a school board meeting while I was waiting for my mother outside of the gym. Here was a famous human being, who wasn't driving a big expensive car and acting showy. Since, I had spent part of my childhood in California, Mr. Kesey represented the lifestyle and philosophies I missed. During my enrollment, I had some discipline issues nothing major and had to transfer to Springfield during my Senior Year.

My best girl friends at Pleasant Hill were Roxanne Trivette and Barb Batson. My brother Chad Sullivan hung out with Scott Trivette and the Mueller brothers. My mother was very good friends with Lisa Valenzeula's parents. Also, I went to the 20-year reunion with Roxanne in 2000, everyone but one person remembered me.

Once you took a bus load of us cross country skiing, and I could barely move for two days after since it was my first time skiing.

If you do not remember me, my name is Shelby Sullivan (Cook), I was on the track team, so my picture is in the 1979 year book track team photograph, and I ranked in the Javelin throw. The only person who could beat me, I think, was Bobby George. Ha, ha. I'm so glad you have given us this chance to share our memories of a school which has kept its hidden charm throughout the century.