

Class of 1967

We were the Last and the First

The year 1967 was a time of change on the West Side. For several years, legislators, school boards, and the public had been discussing combining several school districts into one large district. Some were in favor, but many argued against it. It would involve acquiring funding, changing curriculums, bussing students who lived a distance from a new school, and closing some of the buildings being used at the time.

Kingston, the town in which my classmates and I grew up, began to experience this change the previous year. One of the first things to change were sports programs. Small town football was an integral part of Friday nights and Saturday afternoons for many people, but that “small town” feeling began to wane in 1966 as Forty Fort combined with Swoyersville and became Forty Fort Area, and Plymouth combined with Edwardsville and Larksville to become Plymouth Area. Luzerne High School was still used until the end of the school year.

Our high school, Kingston Area, still had students only from our borough, The “Area” connotation was in preparation for the newly formed Wyoming Valley West School District. Although no students from other boroughs attended our building, they were invited to participate in extracurricular activities, such as chorus and school play productions.

By the end of the 1967 school year, all public-school students from Kingston, Forty Fort, Swoyersville, Edwardsville, Courtdale, Pringle, Luzerne, Plymouth, and Larksville boroughs graduated together on what is now the Wyoming Valley West Athletic Field in Kingston.

On August 27th and 28th in 2027, The KHS class of 1967 will hold its 60th high school reunion. The Friday night affair will be held at the Swoyersville Legion. Donations from classmates and other sources will cover the costs. It will be free to all 1967 Kingston graduates. The customary reunion “Tour of our High School,” which now serves as the WVW Middle School, will take place at 11:30 on Saturday, August 28th. The Saturday night affair will be held at AppleTree at Newberry Estate. The cost per person is \$60 and includes a fabulous selection of food and a standard open bar. For more information, please contact me if you have not received my emails with specific details on where to send money for attendance or donations. BarryKHS1967@Yahoo.com.

Thank you to our committee and all the others who helped in contacting students, putting forth ideas, documenting progress, and everything else that goes along with planning our sixth reunion since 1967.

Committee members: Gay Roberts Stahley; Kathy Krivenko; Tom Jones; Jan Conway; Lewis Thayne; Gary Gruber; Maureen Keating; Marilyn Feldman; John Frederick; Dale Evans; Barry Rogers.

The year 1967 was a special year, with monumental changes. Like us in Kingston, our friends from the other borough high schools still in existence in 1966-67 can make the same claims below about their teams and colors.

We who attended the Kingston School District from first grade to 1967 were:

The last to wear the Maroon and Gray

The last to be called the “The Huskies”

The last to be offered Kingston High School rings

The first to wear the Burgundy and Gold of Wyoming Valley West on graduation day

The first to receive a “Wyoming Valley West Spartan” yearbook

The first to receive a Wyoming Valley West diploma

By Barry Rogers / Class of 1967

Former Educational Administrator at Wyoming Valley West School District and Lourdesmont Partial Hospitalization Program