



ALL-SCHOOL REUNION: LABOR DAY 2011

By Linda Soukup

There have been several Chamber and Alumni meetings over the past several months in regard to having an All School Reunion in 2010 or not. The Labor Day Committee had raised several questions in regard to the ASR conflicting with Labor Day Weekend events. The athletic schedule for a home football game usually runs home events every other year on Labor Day Weekend. Therefore our five year plan does not fit

with having a home school event. Plans had been made to hold the event on Saturday night of Labor Day Weekend. There has been much discussion and dissension on this subject. Decisions have been

made to schedule events so that they will not directly interfere with Labor Day events but will still allow alumni to come home for class reunions and an all school reunion. Alumni need to be aware of these decisions which may affect their vacation and travel time.



2000 All-School Reunion BBQ before football game



All-School Reunion Committee planning meeting
L-R: Becky Brunsing, Linda Soukup, Barb Johannsen, Sharon Blaha, Sandy Seiner, Trina Fousek, Sharon Haar

There will NOT be an All School Reunion Event this September, 2010, Labor Day Weekend. There IS a home football game scheduled for Friday of the September Labor Day Weekend, 2011, and we WILL have an All School Reunion Event that evening in conjunction with the game similar to the 2000 event.

A Friday evening event should not conflict with any Labor Day weekend events.

Why Labor Day weekend? Records from the Fourth of July 2005 All School Reunion showed a total of 320 registrations of Alumni. 141 registered were

from Wagner and the immediate area, 85 were from the State of SD, and only 94 alumni came from out event of this size do not make it feasible to host it on a holiday (4th of July) that changes the day of the week every single year and only attracts less than 100 out of state alumni.

The Labor Day Committee has stated that it is "NOT opposed to classes having their individual reunions on Labor Day Weekend", so continue planning your class reunion for whatever time you are considering.

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Calendar of Events

Labor Day 2010 Wagner School Addition Open House
Labor Day 2011 All-School Reunion

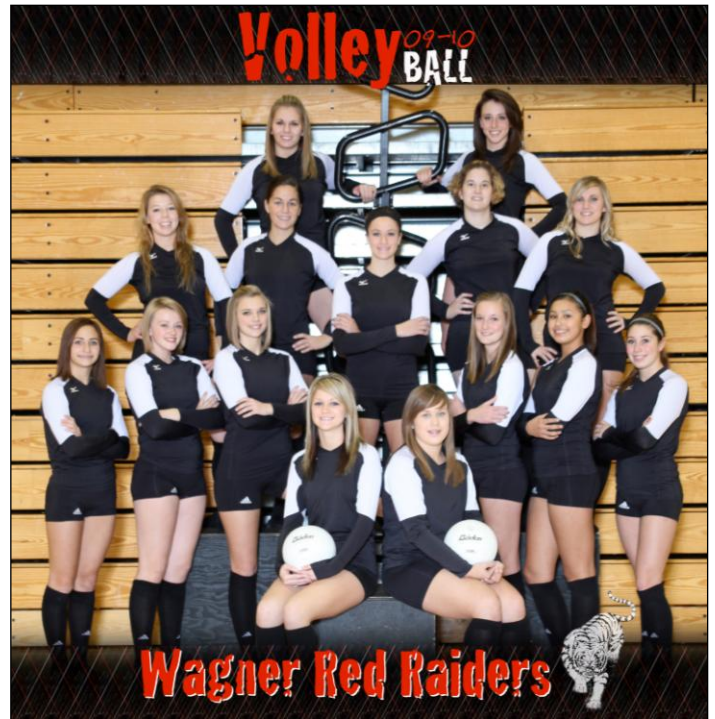
50 Yr. Reunion – Class of '59

The Class of 1959 met for their 50th Class Reunion at the Wagner Bowl over Labor Day. The night was filled with visiting, looking at pictures and catching up and news of our classmates & just having a good time just visiting. We had a great prime rib dinner and top it off with a cake with our class picture on it which all enjoyed having a piece of cake with their picture on it. Had three members that had moved before we graduated but we always felt like they were our classmates, Gerald Menor, Ellen Kennedy & Kaye Halters Carda all came this time we had a great time visiting with them. Others attending were Jack Carr, Dennis & Rose Koupal, Ken & Marianne Peters, Alyce Giedd Kafka, Shirley (Holzbauer) & Dale Weber, Eugene & Barb Slaba, Dorothy (Soukup) Walker & friend Keith, Arelene (Uecker) & Jack Mattis, Carol (Jones) & Mervin Durham, Lee & Gail Bridge. Those unable to attend were Gary & Shirley Brosz, Norman & MaryAnn Engel, Rose Gibson, Sharon (Strom) Hennis, Marcia (Mollet) Jacobs, Connie (Uecker) Murphy, Dan & Carol O'Shea, Walter Reynolds, Joyce (Efta) Sanders, Judy (Masur) Schwinghammer, Leona Soukup, James Ulrich, John Wiechmann. Ray Soukup did join later in the evening. There were 28 of us that graduated together in which we have lost 6 classmates since graduating: Clara Morgen, Larry Bouska, Dick Kinder, Weyland Fischer, Marylys Piroutek Bridge & Fred Koupal in which we had a moment of silence to remember them. Out of the 28 members there were seven of us that started school together & graduated together. Some classmates that couldn't come did send emails and pictures and we enjoyed reading them. All had a good time and in hopes we can do it again in the future.

SCHOOL SPORTING NEWS

Football – State 11B Semi-Finals

Volleyball –State A Champions for 2nd year in a row



Back L-R:Jack Carr, Dennis Koupal, Ken Peters, Alyce (Giedd) Kafka, Shirle (Holzbauer) Weber, Eugene Slaba **Front L-R:**Gerlad Menor, Ellen Kennedy, Dorothy (Soukup) Walker, Arelene (Uecker) Mattis, Carol (Jones) Durham, Kaye (Halters) Carda, Lee Bridge

Wagner Area Classifieds

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Dakota Bowl (Bowling Alley) Ph (605) 384-3895 – Marion



Payer Hardware Ph (605) 384-5771 - Jim



Jane's Country (Western Store) Ph (605) 384-5633 - Jane



Former Haar Implement Bldg Ph (605) 384-3686 – Harris



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ALL-SCHOOL REUNION – CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The Alumni Association has a core group of members who are working on updating the alumni address base. We currently have 10 members and have a lot of ideas that we want to implement. There is a Face book page for Wagner Alumni under the title of Wagner SD-Alumni. This is the official page for the Alumni Committee. The City of Wagner webpage has a link to the Chamber website, Labor Day web site, etc. Check out the Face book page and the Alumni page from time to time on www.cityofwagner.org to keep up with current events.

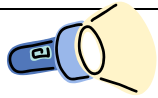
We are going to co-host an Open House with the Wagner Community School this September of Labor Day Weekend to showcase the new \$3 million dollar Commons addition to the east side of the school. This will be completed shortly before the start of school in late August. We are going to extend a special invitation to all classes who are having their milestone reunions on that weekend as well as the general public to come and see this latest improvement to our school system. There are tentative plans to possibly have the Boys and Girls Club building also open for viewing. This is where those Alumni from the beginning of the Wagner School system to 1970 attended school. The gymnasium has been restored, and the classrooms are being used but you will enjoy walking through memory lane.

We are hoping to have some DVD's, photo displays available. If anyone has old pictures, movies, etc. that they would like to lend us for the occasions please contact a committee member.

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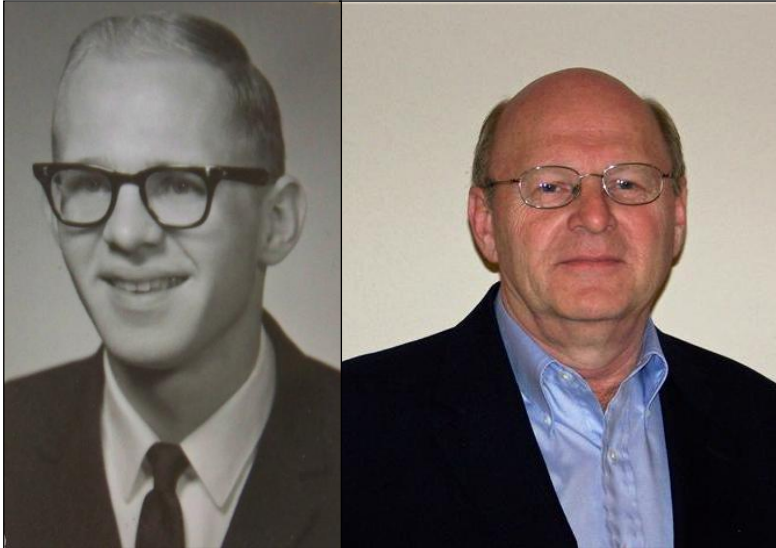


New kitchen/dining room project on east side



Alumni Spotlight - *Where are they now?*

Jim Mullen– 1964 graduate – 45 Yrs Jim and his wife Irene (Beeson) of 43 years, have spent the last 32 years in Carrollton, Tx. (northern suburb of Dallas). They have two children, Bryon and Bob, and four granddaughters, Brittany, Kelly, Katelynn and Catie. Jim graduated from SDSU in 1969 with a Mechanical Engineering Degree. He worked for Lennox International Inc. for 38 years in Product Development and



Government Relations. During his career at Lennox, Jim had several highlights: They developed some successful cutting edge products and later had the opportunity to work with the elected officials in the California and Texas state capitols and the U.S. Congress plus several Federal Departments (Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He has now retired from Lennox and currently operates a small consulting business, EER Consulting, LLC. Jim’s hobbies include spending time at a small place near Carrollton on a lake where they boat, fish and golf. Jim’s boys and their families live in Carrollton also. During the summer their family has had some great get-

togethers at the lake. Over the years, Jim was very active in the Scouts and Little League with his boys. He and his wife currently follow the grandkids with their soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball and gymnastics. Jim is currently president of a computer club at the lake. He has traveled much of the U.S., Canada, and a small part of Europe and enjoyed the variety of things to see and the different people.

Dorothy (Soukup) Walker-1959 graduate - 50 Yrs Dorothy and her companion, Keith Currey, live in Yuma, AZ in the winter and spend their summers in Riverton, WY. Dorothy has spent the last 16 years in Yuma, and has lived in Riverton for 8. Dorothy has two children from a previous marriage. Her son, John, 45

years old, lives in Silverdale, WA. Her daughter, Nancy, 50 years old, lives in Lake Stevens, WA. Dorothy has four grandchildren: Amy Oliver, 32 years old, Jesse Storbakken, 29 years old, Mandy Walker, 18 years old, Justin Walker, 8 years old. She has two great grandchildren: Madison Storbakken, 8 years old, and Lillyanna Oliver, 8 years old. Dorothy has been retired from teaching for 16 years. She taught a total of 30 years in the states of Nebraska, Alaska, and the last 22 years in Federal Way, WA. **“I have enjoyed my 16 years of retirement. Since graduation and retiring, I have traveled each summer. Right after my retirement, we sold everything, purchased a 5th wheel and lived in it for 8 years traveling through many states.”** Ten years ago, Dorothy purchased a house in Yuma. Other hobbies besides travel, include quilting. Quilting had been an interest of hers for many years and now since retirement it has become a full time hobby. Up until the passing of her mom two years ago, Dorothy had many many trips back to Wagner to visit her. Living in Alaska was probably the most interesting event in her life. It was a totally different way of life and being able to see so much wildlife, even in their backyard, was fantastic. Braving -56 degreee temperature in Fairbanks was also an experience.





Alumni Spotlight - *Where are they now?*

Mary (Soukup) Ringling -1990 – 20 Yrs

Mary and her husband, Marshall, have lived on a farm northeast of Platte, SD for the last 15 years. They have three daughters, Heidi, 14, Samantha, 12, and Tess, 7. Mary graduated from SDSU in 1995 as a registered pharmacist. She got her start at James Drug in Wagner during the summers of attending college. She also worked there one year after graduation. She is now a part-time pharmacist at Hoffman Drug on main street Platte. She has worked there for 14 years. Mary still has her farm-life roots as her family still lives on a farm. Her husband is co-owner of the Platte Livestock Market and Mary fills in when needed. Mary is an active



member of the Platte community. She has been involved in many roles in Platte. She is currently a Platte-Geddes school board member, volunteer 5th/6th grade coach, Sunday school teacher, a mentor for the community church youth group and treasurer of the Platte Cemetery. Mary also enjoys watching her girls excel in school/church activities. As far as hobbies, Mary enjoys collecting antiques, reading, gardening, and she hopes to travel more. **“I look back at my time at WHS with very fond memories and felt that my education earned there has served me well in my life and career. I look forward to my 20 year class reunion.”**

Randy Oliver -1984 – 25 Yrs

Randy has lived in Yankton, SD for the last 21 years. When Randy moved to Yankton, he purchased a Little Debbie Distributorship. He later sold that and went to work for an Anheuser Busch wholesaler. For the last seven years, he has been working at TNT Enterprises in Wagner. **“I enjoy working with the community in Yankton by being on the board of directors for Yankton Riverboat Days and The Community Feast. In my spare time I like to golf and ride my Harley.”**



Alumni News

FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT SUSAN L. SMIT



Our school year is off to a terrific start! About fifty new students have joined our educational family. Twelve new staff members have joined our ranks. New programs have been added. It is exciting! JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) is a program directed at preparing students for their futures. At the high school level JAG has been combined with the

Alternative Education Program. At the middle school level JAG is a stand alone program. JAG students participate in a career focused curriculum while at the same time planning and carrying out a community service project. A club component is another critical piece of the experience. About twenty four students in grades seven through nine are involved. Six Wagner staff members participated in training in Atlanta this past summer in preparation for getting the program off the ground.

In the spring of 2009 the school district withdrew from the Zenith Alternative Education Program offered by the South Central Cooperative. The decision was made to operate an alternative school inside the walls of Wagner Community School. Nearly all of the students receiving services at Zenith were also taking classes at Wagner High School. A lot of time was being lost between the two buildings. The infusion of computers into education has significantly changed how education can take place. Currently fifty-eight students are taking between one and four course(s) in the alternative setting. Some students are taking online AP classes while others are taking online dual credit college classes. Still others are working on credit recovery through a computer based program called APEX. Students come and go from the suite of rooms as they individually meet their educational needs. Two certified teachers provide educational support. Initial reports indicate the move to look at alternative education as more than credit recovery has been good for kids!



Library renovated in 2008

Johnson Controls has been working on an energy efficiency project targeting stabilization of heating and cooling within the building. The project is scheduled for completion within the next few months. The majority of the work was completed during the summer months. The school board is in the process of making final plans for a kitchen/dining room project to be completed the fall of



2010. The addition will be located on the east side of the building on the grassy area to the north of the gym addition. Also being



Considered is the addition of an elementary principal's office to the east side of the building. Recommendations include adding a canopy to the west side of the building and moving the high school principal's office to existing classrooms presently being occupied by the Alternative Education Program. Alternative classrooms would be reconfigured into the area presently occupied by the principals. Doors could be locked at 8:30 a.m. and all students and visitors would be required to enter through the principal's offices before gaining access to the rest of the building.

Career and Technology Module Lab

Also being recommended is renovation of the bathrooms on the backside of the theater to make them handicap accessible and bring us into compliance with fire codes when we have large events in our gym. Finally, the space currently occupied by the food service kitchen would be available for receiving of equipment/merchandise and general storage. Final decisions will be made in the very near future! The Wagner Red Raiders are doing well in fall activities. I encourage you to keep an eye out for more state champions, whether it is in sports or music or oral interpretation. Co-curricular activities support educational experiences. They help students prepare to become well rounded, contributing members of a democratic society. We are about education, but we are also about real life and 21st century skills. Learning to work together to achieve a goal is what real life is all about! We have a terrific facility! We have a strong school board invested in providing a quality education to each and every student. We have professional teachers dedicated to student growth. We have a wonderful support staff and they make sure students are provided with a safe and healthy learning environment. We are a team and we are committed to working side by side with parents in meeting the individual needs of their child. Check out our website at www.wagner.k12.sd.us and keep abreast of what is going on at your alma mater! Let us know if you are planning a class reunion and would like to tour the school. We will make sure and accommodate your needs.

Community Highlights

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BANQUET

The Wagner Area Foundation hosted a fundraiser on May 29, 2009 at the Randall Hills Country Club in Pickstown. This year's event was attended by 35



L-R: Marcia Honomichl (board member), Dave Honomichl, Ken Cotton (board member), Sue Isebrands posing after golf outing during prior to Foundation banquet

members and prospective members. The evening started with 9-holes of golf, a catered BBQ by Buches Catering of Wagner, and the awarding of many golf and door prizes. President of the South Dakota Community Foundation, Bob Sutton, was on hand to present an overview of the SD Community Foundation working with the Wagner Area Foundation. During the evening event, the Foundation introduced their new Wagner Area Foundation Builders 12 x 12 Club. This club was organized to make it more convenient to give on a regular basis to the Wagner Area Foundation. Because of the generous donations to the Wagner Area Foundation, the Foundation is able to award grant money to non-profit organizations for community projects. This year the Foundation was able to award \$6250.00 to 16 area non-profit organizations to help assist them in their endeavors.

<http://wagner.sdcommunityfoundation.org/>

PRAIRIE PATCHWORK QUILT SHOP OPENS



Jill Frei, owner, opens quilt shop on Main Street in April.

NEW VA CLINIC



Department of Veteran Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic—modular building arrived on Nov 20. Located in front of the IHS hospital on Hwy 46.

HOSPITAL FINISHED; MORE TO COME



In June 2009, Wagner Community Memorial Hospital-Avera completed a new medical clinic and physical therapy addition. Since then, renovations have been completed to relocate and update the laboratory and radiology departments. Current objectives include the most expansive plans which WCMH-A has undertaken since 1974, if not ever. In the summer of 2010 WCMH-A has aspiration of embarking on the construction of a new inpatient wing along with the complete renovation of the current hospital patient wings for expanding outpatient services. The addition will encompass 15-17 technology advanced patient rooms with emphasis on enhanced and advanced healthcare delivery while addressing patient and family convenience and comfort.

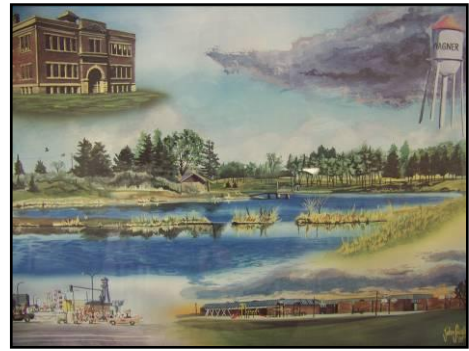
TOUR DE KOTA STOPS IN WAGNER

On June 8th, over 400 bicycle riders in the Tour de Kota stayed overnight in Wagner. The 2009 version of the annual South Dakota bicycle ride consisted of a 5 day 425 mile route that started in Harrisburg, with stops in Yankton, Wagner, Gregory, Chamberlain and Pierre and ending in Gettysburg.



Wagner Alumni Association

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Mission Statement...

To enhance and strengthen the ties between alumni and their hometown of Wagner, South Dakota.

The Wagner Alumni Association Welcomes...

- High School Graduates
- Teachers & Staff
- Past & present residents of the community who did not graduate here but feel a connection to Wagner

We encourage you to join the Alumni Association to stay connected to your hometown, former classmates, and friends. Membership is completely FREE! You can obtain access to an Alumni Email Directory and receive email alerts on important events.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please contact us today.

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