Welcome to the second issue of W ’64!

Welcome to the second or Summer issue W ’64. If you missed the premier issue, remember that you can always find the current and all back issues in PDF files on the web at: http://whs64.posterous.com. Since this newsletter is only for classmates, a password is required to view or post to the site. The password is: bulldog1964.

We received positive feedback about W ’64 from a few of you, but to make this newsletter successful, we need more classmates to submit stories, pictures, Letters to the Editor, and so on. To read more about the direction of the newsletter, please read the Q&A section on page 8 of the Spring issue available on the website.

The Fall issue will be published this November 15th, 2010. Please be sure to submit your manuscripts no later than October 1st, although earlier is always better. Instructions on story and photo submission can be found in the Masthead on page 2.

“I WANT YOUR STORIES!”

Send your articles, pictures, questions, Letters to the Editor, etc. to:

Whs.class.64@gmail.com.
The WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund, Inc.

We can do this, if we do this as a united class

By Charles Taylor

Dear Classmates,

Soon, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our graduation from Westerly High School. As cliché-ish as it sounds, ‘Where did the time go?’ In reality – a lifetime since that June day in 1964 – but for many, in our mind’s eye, just a short walk down memory lane.

Tradition has been to donate ‘something’ to the school when a class celebrates the 50th anniversary of its graduation. As you might imagine, over the years classes have given any number of plaques, pictures, benches, windows and just about anything that can be made out of granite.

To commemorate our 50th graduation, however, classmates at our 45th reunion voted to do something different – something that would make our graduation commemoration more than just a singular event. We want our anniversary to be something that becomes a living legacy from the Class of ‘64. A legacy that any graduating class or any WHS alumnus could contribute to – we want to establish an ongoing scholarship for graduating seniors.

We know it’s a very ambitious project, but we also believe that the WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund is a worthwhile project and one that is doable – with your help. The goal is to raise $50,000 during the next five years, $10,000 in the next 12 months. Once the base $10,000 is raised, administration of the fund will be turned over to the Rhode Island Foundation or similar organization that specializes in managing endowments.

It is our hope that the fund becomes self-perpetuating, with its earned income funding the annual scholarships. It’s also our hope that as other classes ponder their 50th anniversary gift to the school, they will see the WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund as a viable option and have fund raising campaigns of their own. In the coming years, think of how many graduating seniors (your grandchildren or nieces and nephews) could be helped with their continuing education if even three or four classes decided to adopt our WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund as their anniversary project. That would truly be a graduation anniversary commemoration everyone could be proud of.

But just as we know it’s an ambitious project, we’re also very aware that today’s economy has impacted all of us, and our disposable income is simply not as ‘disposable’ as it once might have been. So, we want to make giving to the Alumni Fund as economically feasible as we can.

Look for information on the WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund Wine Tasting Event coming this October 1st
Currently we have 165 classmates – if everyone contributed $15.15 every quarter for the next five years, we'd meet our $50,000 goal. We realize, however, that 100% participation is not very realistic – we’re hopeful 50% to 60% will be closer to the real participation number. All of which means if you can commit to making a quarterly $25 or $30 donation to the Alumni Fund, we can still make our goal by our 50th graduation anniversary in 2014. And obviously, if you can give more than that, it just means we can award even more in scholarships.

As the fundraising campaign progresses we will want to update everyone on how we’re doing; but we’re also keenly aware that some will prefer to keep their donation private. We respect that, so if you request your donation amount not be noted on a donors’ list, we will include it in with the Anonymous totals.

More information about the WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund was included in the first edition of W ’64 which you should have received in the Spring either electronically or in the mail.

We have also included a Q&A (page 4) about the fund, and a Pledge Donation sheet (page 5) in this edition of W ’64. If you have questions or suggestions, please call or email either me or one of the committee members. Remember, “We can do this, if we do it as a united class.”

Sincerely,

Charles Taylor
860-599-0057
WASFI.Pres@gmail.com

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1964 Pop quiz

(Do not look on your neighbor’s paper!)

1. Who were the “class singers?”
2. Who were the “class artists”
3. Who were “the best dressed?”
4. Who were the “class chatterboxes?”

Answers

1. Class singers = Bob Barber and Pat Smith
2. Best dressed = John La Plante and Liz & Sandy Murphy
3. Class artists = Pat Patron and Jim Buda
4. Class chatterboxes = Bob Barker and Pat Smith

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tRIvia questions

Are you good at trivia? Think you know interesting tidbits about Westerly and RI? Take this quiz and see just what you don’t know (answers below)

1. The first auto race on an oval track was held in what city and in what year?
2. Name the oldest business in the United States that is still owned and operated by the same family?
3. What and where is the oldest shopping mall in America?
4. Name the town/city that is home to the largest Sequoia tree east of the Mississippi River?

The questions used in tRIvia are excerpts from Roberta Mudge Humble’s book, “The Right to Crow: A Look at Rhode Island’s Firsts, Bests & Uniques.” Roberta has given us permission to use excerpts from her book for this monthly column.

If you have not read “The Right to Crow...” you may wish to go to the library and check the book out, or visit the website to learn more about the book and where to purchase it - www.westerlyarmory.com. The proceeds go to the restoration of the Westerly Armory. You can contact Roberta at: toorobert@aol.com

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tRIvia questions

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1. The first auto race on an oval track was held in 1896 in Cranston in front of 60,000 spectators.
2. The Ashaway Line & Twine Mfg. Co. was founded by the Crandall family in Hopkinton in 1824, and is still run by descendants of the founders.
3. The Arcade in Providence, built in 1828.
4. The tallest redwood is on the grounds of the Blithewold Mansion, which is open to the public.

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Answers

1. Cranston, 1896
2. The Ashaway Line & Twine Mfg. Co. was founded by the Crandall family in Hopkinton in 1824 and is still run by descendants of the founders.
3. The Arcade in Providence, built in 1828.
4. Bristol. The tallest redwood is on the grounds of the Blithewold Mansion, which is open to the public.
A The official name is the WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund, Inc. (WASFI), and its bylaws were officially adopted on April 19, 2010. It was established by the Class of ’64 as their 50th graduation anniversary gift, and the intent is to present the first scholarship(s) at graduation ceremonies in 2014.

Q What is the purpose of the scholarship??
A To provide educational assistance to qualifying WHS graduating seniors who meet the scholarship’s criteria.

Q Is support for the scholarship only open to members of the Class of ’64?
A Initially, yes. It is the responsibility of the Class of ’64 to recruit and promote the growth of the scholarship fund. The class’s vision, however, is that once the scholarship is established all Westerly High School alumni will take an active role in perpetuating its growth so that the number of scholarships awarded each year can increase.

Q Who oversees the scholarship fund?
A Currently a committee of classmates is overseeing the establishment of the scholarship, its criteria, and all of the fundraising activities. The committee has a board of officers (a president, secretary and treasurer) and directors (a minimum of four).

A In the event the fund is dissolved, all remaining monies will be awarded in the form of scholarships.

Q What determines the amount and number of scholarships?
A The financial strength of the fund will determine the number and dollar amount of the scholarships. The annual expenditure will not exceed the earned income of the fund during the preceding 12 months, plus a percentage (to be determined annually) of funds donated during the fiscal year. The committee’s officers and directors will determine the percentage. This formula will allow the endowment to grow each year.

Q Who can I contact with suggestions or questions?
A You can contact any of the following scholarship committee members:
- Charlie Taylor (committee president) at 860-599-0057 or WASFI.Pres@gmail.com
- John Gulino (treasurer) at WASFI.Treas@gmail.com
- John Clemens (secretary) at WASFI.Secy@gmail.com
- Susan Sullivan Brocato (director) at susieguidance@yahoo.com
- Charlie Cofone (director) at ccofone@lincolnschool.org
- Charlene Feraco Miller (director) at charleneferaco@gmail.com
- Marylou Serra (director) at marylouserra524@gmail.com
- Jane Nolan Zurliene (director) at wzurliene@comcast.net.
Yes, I would like to contribute my tax deductible donation to the WHS Alumni Scholarship Fund:

- Quarterly (February, May, August, November)
- Semi-Annually (August, February)
- Annually (August)

At the donation frequency selected above, my contribution will be:

- $25
- $30
- $40
- $50
- $75
- $100
- Other $____________

I would like:

- My name and donation amount included on the Donors List.
- Only my name noted on the Donors List, my donation amount to be included in the Anonymous total.
- My name and my donation amount to remain anonymous.

Name _____________________________________________________________________________ Date______/______/_______

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Email _________________________________________ Phone (______)_______-__________ Cell (______)_______-__________

All contributions are tax deductible: a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt organization. Please make checks payable and mail to:

WHS Scholarship Fund, Inc.
39 Spruce St. – Suite W
Westerly, RI 02891-1946

Thank you for your donation.

~ We can do this, if we do it as a united class ~

Before sending in your Donation Pledge / check, please make a copy for your records.
Classmate responses to Common Ground Question (CGQ): “Did you or your spouse / significant other serve in the military?”

In each issue we are asking a “Common Ground Question.” We think that finding out what things we have in common, and reading about what others have done, will be a great way to bridge all those years since high school.

In the premier issue of W’64, we asked “Did you or your spouse / significant other serve in the military?” While the responses to this first question were few, we hope that with each issue, classmates will feel more comfortable in responding to these Common Ground Questions.

Some responses we received were short, and others contained a bit more detail, including pictures. They are listed here by classmate in an alphabetical order.

John Coulombe

I might as well start at the beginning. March of 1965 I joined the Air Force, went to Basic Training in Texas. When that was finished, I went to school in Denver for Nuclear Weapons. While I was there, I completed the Instructor School so I would be able to teach in my field. I was transferred to George AFB in Victor Ville, California, home of the 8th Tac Fighter Wing. Thought I would spend the rest of my tour there, but they ended up shipping me to Nam. The flight over took 24 hours, and we ran out of food, but had plenty of booze. None of us were feeling too well by the time we got there. We landed at midnight, and when we got off the plane, you could cut the air it was so humid. Spent a few days in Saigon before shipping to Nha Trang. I ended up in the 1st Air Commando Squadron.

I wish I had known what was ahead for me, but I was young and ready to go.

They wanted to know if I was interested in going to Air Force Rescue Training & Jungle Survival School (taught by the Army Rangers) - naturally I said, “yes.” So off to the Philippines for training I went. After a few fun-filled weeks of Hell, I made it back to my base in Nam. Our outfit did go to a few different bases in Nam and in Thailand. While in Thailand I got to see a number of different places. We went from the mountains to the beach. Our main base was in the north east sector where we got to see quite a bit of action, not in Thailand, but in bordering countries. After a year and a half I had had enough fun (pun intended) and returned home to finish out my time.
I got out in 1968 and returned to Rhode Island. I spent a few years bouncing around, and joined the Army Reserves (duh!). They ended up putting me in a Ranger division in Choppers. I stayed in for a few years and got out; by then I was getting too old for that Ranger stuff. I must say that my time in the service took me to places that I would never had gone on my own, and showed me some things that taught me a hard lesson. I think if I had to do it over again, I probably would. I made many good friends in the service, and lost a few, their names are on the Vietnam Memorial Wall today, and I will never forgot them.

I have included some pictures that are of my outfit in Nam. Think that’s about it for the military. As for now, I’m down here in Florida enjoying the sun and golf. Thanks guys and hopefully, I’ll see you at the 50th.

John Gulino

I was an officer in the U.S. Army, field artillery from 1969 to 1971.

After completing Field Arty Officer’s basic course at Ft. Sill, OK, I fully expected to be assigned to Vietnam. When the alphabetical list came out most people were assigned to Vietnam or Germany (4 to 6 months there and then to Vietnam). The name before mine was my roommate’s and he went to Korea. Then I was assigned to Korea and after me the assignments were to Vietnam and Germany. Very few went to Korea so I lucked out.

In Korea I spent time as a forward observer On Guard Posts in the Demilitarized Zone or No Man’s Land. It was myself and a infantry platoon sitting in bunkers and trenches on top of a hill looking at and exchanging rude gestures with the North Koreans In there bunkers on the next hill. What many don’t realize is that we had men killed in Korea during the Vietnam War. A month before I arrived in country, a convoy traveling to one of our Guard Posts was ambushed at a point that was out of sight of both the Guard Post and the main fence that they had passed through to enter the DMZ. I’ve forgotten the exact number killed, but it was every man in the convoy maybe 13 to 16 people. Of course Vietnam got the news spotlight, so not much was said about what was happening in Korea.

After spending 13 month in Korea, I spent the rest of my time on the staff and faculty at West Point in New York state.

Rose Ann Gencarella Froberg

My husband David and I spent 22 years in the Army. He started out as a Combat Engineer, and our first assignment was with the 1st Special Forces Group on Okinawa. I saw a lot of the island in our two years; he saw a lot of the Far East. From there he went to Vietnam with the 299th Combat Engineer Battalion; and following that the Engineer Officers Advanced Course at Fort Belvoir. From there, we were off to Fort Bragg and the 307th Engineer Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. David’s next assignment was with the ROTC detachment at Niagara University in Niagara Falls (neither of us wants to see that much snow ever again). After that, we went right back to Fort Bragg for a three-year assignment with the 7th Special Forces Group, and then he was off to the Armed Forces Staff College while I stayed at Bragg.

Wanting to be closer to my parents, who by that time had moved to Miami Beach, David said ‘yes’ to orders to Mac Dill Air Force Base in Tampa and an obscure unit then known as Joint Special Operations Support Element. Today it’s the US Special Operations Command.

Summer Issue - Common Ground Question(CGQ)

We thought it would be fun to ask a ‘Common Ground Question’ in each newsletter. If the question applies to you, we hope you’ll email or send your answer to us, and we’ll report the results in the next issue. We think that finding out what things we have in common, and reading about what others have done, will be a great way to bridge all those years since high school. To that end, our first Common Ground Question is this:

“Where do you live and why there?”
Please feel free to submit pictures along with your answer.

Email your response to: WHS.Class.64@gmail.com, or mail to: Richard Koulbanis, 16 Cove Rd., Westerly, RI 02891.

“Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.”
- Redd Foxx
For the first year, he was actually home less than 100 days; and while his passport accumulated a stamp from almost everywhere, the unit's theme song was "On the road again" (seriously). From there we were off to Panama and command of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group. David saw more of Central and South America than he did Panama during that two-year tour, and I just loved having a Black Hawk helicopter parked in our backyard toward the end of our tour.

For our last Army assignment, we were lucky, and we came back to the Tampa area where David commanded the ROTC detachment at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. He retired in 1990, but stayed close to his military roots by teaching JROTC at Bartow High School for the next 11 years.

Ruth Waddill Hubbard

I served in the U. S. Navy Nurse Corps from 1968 through 1969. I was stationed at the Naval Hospital in Bethesda, MD, and met late my husband, Chuck Hubbard, who was in the Marine Corps at the time. We married and when I got pregnant, had to get out of the Navy as females at that time were not allowed to have dependents! How times have changed!

Dick Koulbanis

I joined the Army late 1968 after college, and after finishing Basic, AIT and OCS was stationed at Ft. Carson in CO for a year, before heading to sunny Vietnam (or ‘Nam’ as we use to call it) as an Infantry Lieutenant. I was stationed in “II Corp,” in the mountains of Pleiku, and later on the coast near the city of Qui Nhon before leaving the service in 1971. The photo below is a picture of my base, which sat atop a small mountain near Qui Nhon, and exactly 8568.6 miles from Westerly.

Two things stand out in my mind about ‘Nam.’ First, it seemed like my life in the “real world,” never existed; it was a movie I saw, or a book I read. The second was the smell. It was a very heavy scent that wrapped around you and hung in the air, a smell of things growing, dying and decaying, mixed with a bit of incense. Even to this day, I can be “transported back” to Vietnam in a matter of seconds, when I come across that same smell. It’s a very odd feeling when that happens.

I don’t regret having gone to Vietnam, but as the old saying goes, “It’s a nice place to visit, but I wouldn’t want to live there.” Oh wait a minute, it wasn’t a nice place to visit.

Charlene Feraco Miller

My husband Michael started his military career on the USS J F Kennedy aircraft carrier. He decided he wanted to “ride” submarines, so he transferred to the USS Groton (that is how we met). He then rode the USS Pittsburg and the USS Columbia, which was christened by Hilary Clinton. Hilary was unable to attend the commissioning of the USS Columbia (she was at Ted Danson’s wedding), so she invited the entire crew and their families to attend a special reception for the Columbia at the White House. She had her picture taken with every family on the Columbia, one family at a time.

Michael then transferred to the USS Corpus Cristi. It was a bittersweet day when Chief Petty Officer Michael S. Miller (and family) retired from military life.

During one of Michael’s deployments, my youngest son, Thomas, was serving in the US Marine Corp. He rode the USS Constitution in Boston, MA when it took its first run in 100 years. Thomas brought a piece of the sail home for Michael, since he missed the event. Tom is now serving in the National Guard Air Force Security.

We were, and are proud to be a “Military Family!”

Oops!

Corrections to: W ’64 - Spring - Vol.1, Issue 1.

Last month I offered $10.00 to the first person to find a mistake in W ’64. The winner was Keith Low, Jr. “Keith, the check is in the mail.”

Page 2: Masthead: Larry Pietraallo name was misspelled.

Page 4: In the second column of the article, Roberta Mudge Humble was misspelled.

If you or your spouse were in the military, please tell us your story!

Send to: whs.class.64@gmail.com.
We will publish them in the next edition of W ’64.
Snapshots from Westerly’s Virtu Art Festival

May 30th and 31st was the Westerly’s Annual Virtu Art show. Mary Bono, who now resides in NJ, was one of more than 140 artists to display their art and handcrafts.

Selected news - Summer ‘64

- June 11: WWII veteran Walter Seifert runs amok in an elementary school in Cologne, Germany, killing 10 and seriously injuring several more with a home-made flamethrower and a lance.
- June 12: South Africa sentences Nelson Mandela to life in prison.
- June 21: Three civil rights workers are murdered near Philadelphia, MS by members of the KKK, cops and a sheriff.
- June 25: The Vatican condemns the “Pill.”
- July 2: President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act into law.
- July 16: At the Republican Convention in San Francisco, presidential nominee, Barry Goldwater declares, “extremism in the pursuit of liberty is no vice.”
- July 27: Vietnam War: 5,000 more American military advisers are sent to South Vietnam bringing the total number of U.S. forces in Vietnam to 21,000.
- July 31: Ranger 7 space probe sends back the first close-up photos of the moon.
- August 4: U.S. destroyers USS Maddox and USS C. Turner Joy are attacked in the Gulf of Tonkin.
- August 5: American aircraft from carriers USS Ticonderoga and USS Constellation bomb North Vietnam in retaliation for strikes attacked US destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin.
- August 7: The U.S. Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution giving US President Lyndon B. Johnson broad war powers to deal with North Vietnamese attacks on American forces.
- August 16: A coup d’état replaces Duong Van Minh with General Nguyen Khanh as President of South Vietnam. A new constitution is established with aid from the U.S. Embassy.
- August 24-27: Lyndon Johnson nominated at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.


Top - Mary Bono sitting in her booth at the Westerly Virtu Art Show.
Middle - from left to right: Marylou Serra, Charlene Feraco Miller, Mary Bono and Jane Nolan Zurliene.
Bottom - from left to right: Mary Bone (sitting), Jane Nolan Zurliene and Charlie Taylor.

Pictures compliments of Charlene Feraco Miller and Charles Taylor.
“Who’s who?”

Were you able to recognize everyone from the pictures from the 45th reunion in the last issue of W ’64? If not, here’s who’s who. How many did you recognize?


“Age is a state of mind and mine is in a hell of a state!” - Elmer Cornell
A million years ago, a million memories

By Roberta Mudge Humble

Class of ’64 – wasn’t that a million years ago? And yet, so many of us have said that the memories are still clear and engaging. “Engaging,” you say? I’ll start.

During senior year, in Physics class with Mr. Palmer, Susanne Vargas and I were the only females. This was exciting; few women took Physics. The other exciting part was how women were dealt with which, overall, was pretty good.

However, some of you may remember the Van de Graaff generator – a device which produces static electricity. Whoever might put his or her hand(s) on this infernal contraption would have static electricity run through his or her body usually causing the hair to stand at “full attention.” Susanne was absent, leaving me the sole female. Mr. Palmer asked if I might put my hands on the generator. I knew it wouldn’t hurt, but having done my homework, I knew how the device worked.

I excused myself from this project – not an easy task when all the “guys” (John Nagle, Sammy Wosltencroft, et al) insisted that I try it. Finally, they gave up on me and made a young gentleman agree to the demonstration; I cannot remember who that was – Larry Pietraallo, maybe? Of course, his hair stood on end and everyone laughed heartily. I think they were disappointed it wasn’t me, especially because then I had long, blonde hair which would have amplified the comic element of this experiment.

Of course, the best time in high school was with Mr. Alfred Wood, conductor of the Westerly High School Band. George Greer, an excellent trumpeter, got to be the Drum Major (something I had dreamed about being – but whoever the drum major was had to fit in the uniform and that meant being at least 6’ tall with no hips). Mr. Wood had the Band march in various formations – something rather new at that time. It was always bad to be in front of Larry Fisher and the trombones – what a long instrument that can be. The Band practiced on the baseball-football field in some of the worst weather. The gals’ shoes, little black flats, often got stuck in the mud, but the show went on. Our band was terrific.

As player of the glockenspiel, I had the great good fortune of being in the percussion section – which meant – freedom – when we practiced in the school building. There was a large closet for music and instrument storage in the band room, and percussionists who, including Charlie Taylor, often had long periods of waiting for their musical entrance, could quietly joke and chuckle in that closet. Besides, we were way back there and the band was so loud when it was playing that fire crackers could have gone off in that closet and no one would have heard.

Gym was a learning experience. Marguerite Vangieri was in my gym class one year, and she was always full of good suggestions. She was one of the most practical people I had ever known. Almost all her ideas were clever and useful. Almost all.

If you remember those old machines for weight

And how about French class when Keith Low, the only male in the class and adored by teacher, Barbara Baruzzi, translated a passage which should have read, “She regularly visited the grave of her mother” with “She trampled on her mother’s grave.” If any of us gals such as Martha Rodman, Nancy West, or Lynn Chornyei had given that translation, wowiee. However, everyone smiled broadly (we didn’t laugh out loud, believe me) including Miss Baruzzi, and we continued translating the story.

“Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”
- Satchel Paige
reduction rich people bought, you’ll remember that they put a wide belt attached to the machine around their buttocks, turned it on; it supposedly jiggled them slim. Marguerite told us that her mom’s washing machine was an excellent alternative to buying an expensive weight-reduction machine. She said that if you lay on top of the appliance when it was running, it would have the same impact as an expensive gym machine. Hmm.

Some of you may remember, Charles Wyckoff, English teacher. For our drama assignment, he divided our class into groups of four and asked each group to write a play and present it. My group – Meredith Cushing, Freddie Buckley, Gail Bonner, (and me) wrote “The Recalcitrant Niece” – (the word “recalcitrant” was suggested by my father when he heard us agonizing over a title). The play was fine, but the production went wrong when Meredith (playing the part of the “bad kid” who was supposed to have bad manners including crude language) said her lines incorrectly. Instead of “Hand me the spuds,” she said, “Please pass the potatoes.” Bad, but we weren’t the worst.

Jill Barber’s group wrote a play that took place on an airplane. Their play was fine, but again, the production failed when the stewardess who was assisting passengers on the flight (we won’t say who played her) mistakenly walked on the outside of the passenger seats – meaning that she was not inside the airplane but in the clouds. Mr. Wyckoff was not at all pleased with these faux pas.

For all the years since high school, I have taken with me a lesson that Mr. Wyckoff taught us. When the class was taking an essay exam on Hamlet, we were hard-pressed to finish before class ended. About five minutes prior to the bell, Mr. W came around and pulled our essays out from underneath our pens. We looked up in wonder. He said, “Well, you pack up early on me every day, so I guess I can pack up early on you.” Lesson well learned; I tell my students that story even now – and it works ever so well.

Class of 1964, we were most fortunate to have a superior education at Westerly High School in the 1960s, and we can be grateful for that wonderful gift. Thanks for reminiscing with me.