

## Memories of Wilson High

Sandy Allem and I were conversing on face book. She seemed to marvel at my memory which triggered me writing a brief history of my time at Wilson High School:

7<sup>th</sup> grade class rooms and lockers were in the basement. We were the low lifes of the school. The Principal was “bulldog” Reese. Vice principal was Mr Ritter. Then there was Penquin Hicks. I never knew his title but he handled detentions. My English teacher was Miss Iobst. My math teacher was Pappy Patterson. We experienced study hall for the first time and a lunch period. You could either bring your lunch or buy your lunch in the cafeteria. It was all new to us. Also gym class was new to us and I had Mr Harron. That first year the new gym was not built yet and the Gym was in what was to become the library. Along with Gym we also had a Health class. Changing classes was fairly new to us especially with the crowded hallways while changing classes. Being in high school a whole new experience for us with the Band, Football Games, all the sports and musical related events. Also study hall was new to us, a chance to do home work. I also had Mr. Gerber for geography class.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade still lockers and class rooms in the basement but no longer the low lifes as there was a whole new crop of 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Incident I remember in 8<sup>th</sup> grade was some one stole brownies from the home economics class and Miss Gibson the Home economics teacher kept a bunch of us guys after school until some one confessed. No one was confessing and for some reason Tom Sweeney got the notion I took them and started spreading it. However Miss Griffiths came to my rescue as she had me for home room 7<sup>th</sup> grade and said there was plenty of chances for me to lift food and never did. To this day I always wondered who was the culprit. I always thought it might be Tom Sweeny since he was so adamant to blame me. And if it was not him and if the person that committed it reads this shame on you!!!! Only teacher I really remember was Math teacher Mr. Patterson who I had for the second year in a row. I remember in English we had a vocabulary book and each week we had to take a set of words and make sentences. I used to drive the teacher nuts because my sentences always had to do with the untouchables. It was first year of the new Gym. I had Tony “its going to cost you” Terranova for geography.

9<sup>th</sup> grade, we graduated to the first floor lockers and class rooms We had a field trip to the Harrisburg Farm Show. I will never forget that as I got Triggers autograph( I was kicked in the mouth by a Clydesdale horse. I had tried to pet the horse and his hoofs flew back. I told Butch Everett do not try to pet the animals they are jumpy. He said you just have to know how. As he petted the Clydesdale I got a hoof in the mouth and he got it in the shoulder dislocating it. 9<sup>th</sup> grade was also our first year of selecting courses. I remember one of the courses I chose was French. Also we had a mandatory history course called Pennsylvania Civics. My teacher was Frank Martinez who I remembered from my Liberty Playground days. I got off on the wrong foot with him as first day when he asked anyone that thinks Pennsylvania is not the greatest state in the union, please stand up. I stood up and was immediately sent to the office. Mr. Martinez was also known for his YOU ARE THERE records. I had another incident in Mr. Martinez class. When we were doing War of 1812, he had YOU ARE THERE record of battle of New Orleans. There was a part in the record where the general said do not fire until you see the whites of their eyes. I chimed but sir they are wearing sun glasses. Holding back the laugh Mr. Martinez sent me to the Principals office once more. He would play the record dressed in the outfit of the subject on record. I also chose Algebra which was sort of cool because it introduced me to logic. Also in 9<sup>th</sup> grade we were introduced to JV sports. In 9<sup>th</sup> grade I became interested in girls. I had a big crush on Gail Walters and said something to grade school friend Lorraine Hay. Next thing I know Gail is at my locker saying she heard that I liked her. And shy dumb ass me said that I said you were okay!!!! Boy did that end that moment!!!!

10<sup>th</sup> grade brought about the sophomore hop and the theme was hobo's called the hobo hop. The Gym was decorated just like a hobo camp. It was a fun time but the next day when Gym Teacher Earl Theme saw the gym, I thought he was going to have a coronary. He claimed we destroyed it. 10<sup>th</sup> grade also brought another must take history class World Cultures which had to do with the renaissance period. I had Stanley Carney and it was SO BORING. I had it first period and it would put me to sleep half of the time. The one I remember is that the one time I had not done my reading assignment. Well Mr. Carney called on me and asked me what year Robespierre had died. My reply was heck Mr. Carney I did not even know he was sick. Principal's office here I come. However much better as no longer under the Bulldog Reese regime as Charles Shafer was now principal. 10<sup>th</sup> grade brought about a sad event for our class. Ronnie Kulcheski who had made varsity football as starting tight end was injured in the Pen Argyl game. While throwing a block the opponent had come down with the spikes hitting him in the back. That evening Ronnie had to be rushed to the hospital and as it turned out there was kidney damage. I also remember Sidney Sigals English Class. We were doing Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. We came to Marc Anthony's famous speech Friends Romans country men lend me your ears and I with my sick sense of humor said whats the matter don't you have a pair of your own!!! I also took Typing which was a blessing in disguise because being in the computer field you need to know the keyboard. Also had French II teacher was Monsieur Mittman. From the beginning of the class to the end had to speak French. I was in with upper classmen, one being Norman Wolfinger who was a real clown. I remember 1 day he asked to go to the Mens room in French. Monsieur Mittman said Oui Oui and Norman said Poo Poo. The class roared. Funniest thing I experienced in school. I understand Norman married Janie Maloney and moved to Dade County Florida where he was involved in the Judicial system and that he recently passed away. I will never forget him from that day. I also had Mr. Klingers Biology class. There was a new guy Larry Shire whom every one called Benji. He was a real card. He was my partner when we dissected the frog. I remember the last day that the dissection was completed. Benji brought in a trumpet and played taps as we threw the frogs in the garbage can. It cracked Mr. Klinger up.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade we graduated to lockers and class rooms on the Top floor. Our junior year was saddened twice. First our classmate and class president Ronnie Kulcheski passed away as his second kidney went bad. Although I did not know Ronnie that well, I was totally amazed by him because he was always successful in anything he tried. He was on the Football, basketball, and baseball teams plus being an outstanding student. I had Lorraine Stueber for English. I wound up in Senior Math with Seniors and Donald Nolfia the teacher. I enjoyed that especially when we did a chapters on Logic, the odds, and permeatations. I had Mr Edmonds for Earth and Space Science. The thing I remember about Earth and Space Science in November 23, 1963. I had Earth and Space Science last period. I was changing classes to go to Earth and Space Science when some one asked me 'did you hear Kennedy got shot'. As I moved on to class, I thought who in the world brought a gun to school and shot Barry Kennedy? During Earth and Space Science Class Good Shepard Lutheran Church's bell began to ring and I saw the Flag come to half mast. I thought to myself it was not Barry Kennedy that got shot but JFK that was shot!!! We had off for a few days while everyone was glued to the TV. I had Wayne Grube for history. I knew him from when he was in college working at White's corner store. Mr. Grube had us make scrap books about JFK and the assassination. Mr. Grube was a good history teacher. When we did the Civil war, he got me so interested I read a book by Upton Sinclair called the Abolishnist. Although fiction, it is about a family that lives in the north and moves to the South just before the war breaks out. It truly brought out both sides. Sure the South had slaves but the North had cheap Black Labor working the factories with living conditions about as bad as the slaves. For years I had that JFK scrap book and only lost it because my 2<sup>nd</sup> wife set fire to my stuff. Our junior year there was a prom. However I never asked anyone because I had strict parents and had

a 9:00pm curfew no ands ifs or buts. What surprised me was the night of the senior prom, I was walking home about 8:30pm and saw Barbara Flagg standing on the gym stairs watching her class mates enter the prom. I thought to myself oh my god some one that nice does not get asked to the prom? During are junior year the seniors challenged the teachers to a softball game. Was that a big mistake. The teachers had Tony the “terrible” Terranova pitching who pitched in Easton’s industrial league softball. They also had good hitters Carlton Berger and Mr. Klinger(Biology teacher). What amazed me of the whole game was Mr. Klinger hit a major league shot that hit the roof of the gym on a fly. He hit a softball as far as most hit a regular baseball. The seniors got skunked.

12<sup>th</sup> grade we are the big haunchos. This is it. We are on top. Graduation is soon. I had Gil Carney for home room. Damn what a difference from his brother Stanley. Gil was fascinating compared to Stanley’s BORING!!! We lose the Turkey Day game to Nazareth 6-0. I will never forget the end of this game. Time running out I am standing outside the end zone when Scott Glaus throws a pass in the end zone to Jay Rutan who jumps gets his hands on the ball and begins falling backwards as he hits the ground the ball bounces up from his chest and he catches it. The ref rules incomplete claiming he trapped the ball. I could understand the call if he was falling forward but how can it be a trapped ball falling backward. Years later jay and I talked. He said he knew the ref and years later when they talked he admitted blowing the call. Anyway History has it Nazareth 6 Wilson 0. I will never forget Mr. Carneys thought for the day that Monday returning to school. I can still see it like it was yesterday “The will to win is in the heart not the head”. I wish I would have had Gil Carney for a class as I enjoyed my conversations with him. My favorite class of all time was Speech with Thomas Burke. I never knew why it was called Speech. It should be renamed to Public Speaking. In my career I have done many classes, presentations and demonstrations. I use all the tools that I learned from Mr. Burke in this class. I never got to thank him personally but a lot of my success is due to him. His class was so enjoyable also because he knew how to make us laugh. He was so funny at times!! Thank You Mr. Burke!!! I had Carton Berger for economics, and he had student teacher Bobby Ardnts. I had Mr. Zarbatany for English. Our class play was The mouse that roared. James Harron was cool Gym teacher our senior year. He introduced us to Flag football. He crowned a champion on each of his classes and then had us play against one another after school so he could crown a total champion. I had the fortune of being on that Flag football team that won it all. The two I remember on that team was Dave Terzino and Rodney Nace. Dave was forced out of the tournament as it conflicted with football practice and he was backup quarterback. I had finally coaxed my parents to allow me to participate in sports and was allowed to go out for the track team. I started out with the sprinters but switched to the ½ mile so I could hang out with my friends Bill Weaver and Lee Swinsburg. I should have stayed with the sprinters as messing around I beat Barry Williams, the number 1 seed a couple of times in the 220. Again I asked no one to the prom due to my 9:00pm curfew. We had a class trip to New York City to see the United Nations, Statue of Liberty and ride the Staten Island Ferry. I remember the ride back on the bus where Cheryl Eastman lead some chants. We are the Warriors mighty mighty Warriors, wherever you go people want to know just who we are and the other one was we are from Wilson can’t be prouder if you can’t hear us we will yell a little louder. As the sun was setting on our senior year we had a senior outing to Taminent in the poconos. It was a cool day of fun. Then came graduation day and suddenly it was all over. It was like what do I do now. Unfortunately I came from a very poor family so college was not an option unless I could figure out how to pay for it by myself. After then Navy in 1970, I decided to go to Intext Computer Institute and learn about Computers. It was the smartest move I ever made. No college degree but my career took off and worked my way to 6 figures. I have recalled most of my memories at good old Wilson High. I would have loved to come to the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion but October was not

feasible. If it would have been Thanksgiving weekend, I would have been there. I hope I have stimulated some memories of your own. I remember a lot of this stuff just like it was yesterday . It is hard to believe it has been over 50 years ago. I look at my high school picture and say who is this person?LOL!!!!

For anyone that would wish to share their memories with me, my email is [compsysprog@aol.com](mailto:compsysprog@aol.com). I am also on facebook in the Easton Group trying to keep tabs on my home town....