The EHS-100 Reunion planning committee is continuing with its monthly meetings. Through this newsletter and on the ehs-100.com website the committee will attempt to provide the latest information regarding reunion plans, projects, and events. The committee members are eager to receive input regarding the current and future plans for this much anticipated event. Connect with “Contact Us” on website – share your thoughts and ideas. Refer to the January 2013 newsletter and learn how you can participate in the reunion.

Reminder: The deadline for submissions to the Poster Design Contest is March 1st. Check out the website for details. In another committee project, “50 With $5.00 Challenge”, two classes from the 1960s are in a competition to collect $5.00 from each of 50 members of their classes. It has been reported that the $5.00 bills are rolling into the challenge chairpersons. If both classes are successful they will be contributing a combined total of $500.00 (or more) to the expense fund of the reunion committee. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the classmates to rise to the challenge even though the only prize is bragging rights and the posting of their victory on the website. All classes are welcome to throw down the gauntlet and take on a class that they would like to compete against. Check out the rules on the website and issue a challenge.

Some things to consider: 1. Planning for a class gathering. There will be time allotted during the time of the reunion for individual classes to get together. Locations on the EHS campus will be made available; city parks and business as well as private homes might also be considered. 2. Gathering information and pictures of departed classmates and creating a poster board for display at a designated memorial area. 3. Creating a history board showcasing clothing, hairdos, automobiles, band, principal, sports teams/champions, extra-curricular activities, etc. to be shown on a progressive history wall. 4. Designing tee shirts, hats, name tags, whatever, to set your class apart from all the others that will be represented at the reunion activities. Details will be developed in the near future; individual classes may want to start making plans. This reunion is being held to celebrate all classes that have graduated from Ephrata High School over the years. It is important that every class is represented.

Hidden Treasure: Do you have an extra annual, school pictures, or school documents that you would like to share or donate to the reunion committee? Recent donations have come from EHS graduates Doug and Madalyn Miller. For years the Millers photographed EHS graduates, EHS activities, and alumni reunions. Various annual classes donated annuals to the Millers and, in turn, they have donated them to the reunion committee. After utilizing the information in the annuals the committee will forward them to the Grant County Genealogical Society to be placed in their library which is situated in the Ephrata Library building. Interested persons have ready access to the Society’s files. Several class reunion pictures have also been donated by the Millers and will eventually be added to the “Class Almanac” section of the reunion website.
EHS Student Body News with Hunter Sears

**Brzezny Scores High**  Jordan Brzezny was a high scorer, not on the basketball court or the wrestling mat, he scored in the top five percent on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test which he took in 2011.  The PSAT examines students' knowledge in reading, writing and mathematics. Out of a possible 240 points Jordan scored 205. He has been named as a Commended Student in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program.  Jordan is taking classes at Big Bend Community College through the Running Start program. He is a member of the tennis and the math teams and he performs in the choir and musical programs at EHS. His plans are to attend a four-year research university and become involved in the medical profession. Good job Jordan!  

**Poetry Out Loud**  Over 40 EHS students competed in the Poetry Out Loud contest. This was the first time that a recitation contest involving poetry has been held at EHS. The purpose of the contest was to encourage students to learn about poetry through memorization and recitation. It also helps students to develop public speaking skills. The contest was organized by English teachers Sharon Scellick and Marla Allsopp who worked for one month with the students in preparation for the contest. Zach Friend and Courtney Lybbert were the winners of the competition; they will move on to regional competition and with a win there they will compete at the state level. Both Zach and Courtney are involved with musical and drama productions at the high school. We wish them luck at their next performances. Thanks to Mrs. Scellick and Mrs. Allsopp for the interest they have taken in promoting this contest for students.

**State-Bound Singers**  More than 40 EHS soloists and groups competed in the Regional Solo/Ensemble Contest held in Wenatchee on January 27. The singing Tigers competed well with the Harmonia, a 16-voice select mixed ensemble, the Chamber Choir Women Group (The Willow Girls), and tenor Michael Bosnar placing first in their respective categories. Soprano Jessica Buckmann, pianist Jordan Brzezny, and our Women's Quartet, which is made up of Sarah Moore, Mikaela Bosnar, Becky Herron and Jessica Buchmann, placed second and were named as first alternates. First-place winners will be spending a lot of time practicing before they compete at the State competition in April. Congrats to the music department for their success.

**Social Calendar**  M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/Chicano de Azatlan) is sponsoring the annual Tolo Dance which is scheduled for February 9th. It is a girl-ask-boy event and the attire is unique and interesting tee shirts with jeans. Tickets are $10.00 for singles and $15.00 for couples with the funds going toward the organization's projects such as taking trips to colleges and university where the members can explore what opportunities may lie ahead.

**Valentine**  The Associated Student Body Executive Board has been busy creating paper valentine hearts to hang around the necks of the girls of EHS. In what is referred to as the Silent Heart Game, the boys of EHS try to "steal the heart" of a girl by simply getting them to talk. When the girls talk they have to hand over their heart. The event is planned to create a spirit of interaction and fun between all students. Good luck boys!
**Senior Night**  Honoring senior athletes and performers, along with recognizing their parents, is a tradition at EHS. Senior Night for the winter season will be held on February 8th when the Ephrata Tigers go up against the Toppenish Wildcats in their final regular season competitions. Senior basketball girls include Aisha Merred, Cristal Garcia, and Samantha Moffard. Their coaches are Aaron Ross, Alain Bowman Black – EHS ’00 and Dale Hagy – EHS ’92. Assistants are Mallory Lotz – EHS ’10 and Sara Borck Tempel – EHS ’00.

The Tiger boys team includes seniors Tyler Clark, Layton Lange, Dekker Lovitt, Hunter Sears, and manager Justin Dourte. Coaches are Brandon Evenson, Troy Blankenship, Devin O’Brien – EHS ’03 with assistants Tobin Springs and Landen Lange – EHS ’08.

The Tiger wrestlers held their Senior Night on January 22nd and honored Eli Perez, Jose Nunez, Ben Carter, Tevin Hiatt, and manager Becky Hunter. The wrestling coaching staff includes coaches P. J. Anderson and Dave Laird with assistants, Aaron Sheneman – EHS ’92, Brandon Cruz, Raul Tejeda – EHS ’03, Josh Brewer – EHS ’01, and Zack Brissey – EHS ’06.

Spirit is high at EHS due to the supporting groups whose seniors are also being honored. That includes the senior members of the cheerleading squad Brittany Harris, Hannah Gunderson, Tessa Ratigan, Nicole Virden, and Stephanie Wulf. The cheer squad advisor is Heather Wood. And, senior members of the pep band, directed by Larry Anderson, Shannon Downey, Lauren Laird, Amber Searcy, Matt Sortomme, Michael Sortomme, Dakota Teterud and Thomas Walker. Sally Kaatz, Tigerettes Dance Team coach, reported that she has no seniors on this year’s team. The Tiger mascot has also been performed by underclassmen.

*Thank you family, friends, and fans for supporting our efforts!*

**Sports Update**  The winter sports season is winding down but the excitement is heating up. Basketball teams and the wrestling squad are positioning themselves for league, district, and state competition. It looks like the Tiger girls basketball team is out of contention for a league playoff game. They are currently tied for 7th place with two other teams and are three games out of 6th place – only six teams move on. With just two season games to go, including playing the league leader Wapato (15-0), this young team, with no senior players on the varsity team, will not be playing beyond regular season.

The boys basketball team have moved up the CWAC league standings to 5th place. Ephrata is now 9-7 in league play after defeating Selah on February 1st in a hard-fought 54-44 battle. The next night the Tigers put themselves in better position for league playoff games by pulling off an upset of the league-leading West Valley Rams (15-0). This is a story in of itself. Back in the first week of January the Tigers traveled to West Valley of Yakima for their first-ever competition on the Ram’s basketball court. The West Valley School is a new addition to the CWAC league and has a three-class school population of 1050 (largest in the league) compared to Ephrata’s population of 556 (smallest in the League). The West Valley School’s campus can only be described as “awesome”. At one end of the basketball floor there is a large student area; big enough to handle their 20 cheerleaders and lots of fans! That’s intimidating. The Tigers were defeated 70-30. Fast forward to February 2nd at the Tiger gym.....the Tigers came out to compete! They played their best game of the year and won 68-61! Needless to say, pandemonium erupted. The Tiger team has yet to play Wapato and Toppenish before their league schedule ends and their final position is determined.
Ephrata wrestlers competed February 1-2 in the Central Washington – 2A District 5/6 Tournament with a 24-man team. Those seeded in the top five were Tyrus Kemp (195) at number one with Isaac Garcia (195) and Tevin Hiatt (170) in number three spots. Dalton Johnson (138), Benny Carter (152) and Matt Derting (220) all were seeded at fifth. The top ten finishers of the district meet will qualify to compete at the Eastern Washington – 2A Region IV Tournament on February 8-9 with hopes of finishing in the top four and qualifying for a trip to the Mat Classic XV at the Tacoma Dome on February 15-16.

District report from Coach Laird: “Ephrata placed fourth as a team. We advanced 11 to Regionals. Tyrus Kemp and Benny Carter are District Champions. Eli Perez and Tevin Hiatt were 2nd. Isaac Garcia and Dalton Johnson were 4th. David Swenson and Matt Derting were 6th. Julio Maceda, Raul Pelayo, and Carlos Flores were 7th. All qualified for Regionals. Every kid that competed for EHS at Districts wrestled and competed extremely well. It was an awesome weekend.”

Ephrata High School Past
Public Presentations in the First Sixty Years

Speaking out and performing for the public has long been an important aspect of life at Ephrata High School. The earliest record of debate teams at EHS was found recorded on a huge framed picture that was won during the 1913 to 1914 school year by debate team members Adaline Sanders, Mabel Smith, and Alfred Davis. Adaline was a member of the three-girl graduating class of 1914, the first EHS class to graduate from EHS. In very early days basketball games were often followed by a debate or other such entertainment.

**EPHRATA SCHOOL NOTES** January 1916
The Sophomore boys debated the following: **Resolve that Freshmen should not associate with members of the higher classes.** The affirmative was defended by Lloyd Capp, Lester Davis and Luke Hale; the negative by Paris Kazee, Joe Stradling and Dean Smith. The boys took their places with Luke Hale playing a march entitled *Took My Girl to the Ball Last Night.* Each side desperately defended their view of the question, citing several Ephrata High School incidents and quoting from Sears catalogue. Three senior girls were judges and gave their decision in favor of the affirmative.”

The debate team, Lilly Steele, Verlan Twilligear and Marion Owen, will go to Krupp to debate the High School team there. They will debate the negative side of the question: **Resolve that the Monroe Doctrine should be abandoned.**

**EPHRATA SCHOOL NOTES** February 25, 1916
Don’t forget the debate this evening. This is the only debate held in Ephrata this year. Show that you appreciate the cause by giving it your support. In order to have a debating league in the county the people in the towns in which they are held must support it. There is a necessary expense for traveling and judges that must be met. While this expense is not great, it must be paid thru public patronage. If you believe in public debates for high schools, show it by your presence tonight. You have noticed that arrangements have been made for beginning the debate at 7:15. The management of the picture show has agreed to begin his entertainment at 8:30. This will make it possible to attend both entertainments.
According to a History of Ephrata High School document prepared by the Class of 1935, "From 1928 to 1930 Mr. A. D. Whitenack and from 1930 to 1932 Mr. Keller coached debate teams and were ‘comparatively successful’ and took part in the State Debate.” In the fall of 1930 the teams debated the question of **compulsory insurance for automobile drivers**. Some of those taking part were Nat Washington, Calvin Grant, Myrtle Noble, Ruby Phillips, George Emery, and Verne Matthews. Representing EHS in 1931, in a debate addressing **chain stores**, were Dorothy McDonald, Glenora Washington, Jeanette Harvill, John Simpson, Iris Root, and Bill Walters. Several of these debaters went on to become parents of EHS graduates.

The 1935 document also indicated that, "For many years, under the able direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins, students took part in the annual declamation contests given in the county contests. Her ability along this line enabled many of the young people of the community to win the contests. She has also assisted with the debate work. Mrs. Jenkins’ pupils won nine of the first eleven contests to be held in Grant County. It would be impossible to name here all those people who have been helped with their declamations and speeches by Mrs. Jenkins.” Early-day students participated in declamations which were described as “the delivery of a formal discourse in public; specifically, recitation of selected speeches, etc., as a school exercise.” This sounds much like the recent Poetry Out Loud contest held at EHS.

Debate flourished at EHS in the 1940s. The 1940 debate team, made up of five members, debated: **Resolve that the Federal Government should own and operate the railroad**. The team participated in the State Debate held at Washington State College. In 1949 the Tiger annual reported, “In selling world citizenship we must certainly call on Leah Britton and Fred Cronkhite.” As a speaker in the “I Speak for Democracy” contest, Fred won first prize for Ephrata, Leah placed first for Soap Lake. Both attended EHS; this was before Soap Lake had its own high school. Leah placed first in the county with her prize was being a new radio-phonograph.

In 1952 Radio Speech was added to the EHS curriculum as a junior elective class. This class gave the students the opportunity to speak out over the local airwaves. The students had to prepare their own scripts for the programs which were presented each Saturday. The programs ranged all the way from quiz programs to mystery plays. Mrs. Monson “did a swell job with the students in producing programs that interested the listeners.” During one of the programs Robert Gibbons and Sam McCormac interviewed Coach Bramble.

The “1st” EHS Debate Team
According to the 1956 Tiger annual, “Our first debate team was organized and supervised by Mr. Lyle Daverin.” Unknown to students was the fact that earlier debate teams had existed but were discontinued “because of the lack of funds to carry out an active schedule.” Since this happened back in 1932, before the 1956 students were even born, the students might well have believed that statement was true. Even though it wasn’t so, Mr. Daverin was responsible for creating an active and enduring interest in speaking at EHS. Under his leadership emphasis was put on a broader field of forensics: debate, extemporaneous, impromptu, radio, after dinner speaking, original oratory, oratorical interpretation and parliamentary procedure. The debaters became members of the National Forensics League, one of 800 schools in the United States, and participated in a league with Cashmere, Eastmont, Wenatchee and Quincy.

In the 1960s forensics was not only popular, it was successful. In 1965 the associated student body gave recognition to the debate team by awarding an honor pin to members who reached the National Forensics League Degree of Distinction. The degree was earned through winning or placing in debates. One of the year’s winners was Jim Peters who placed first in the local Soil Conservation Speech contest. In 1966 Peters, at left, went on to win first in both oratory and original oratory at the NCW competition. Mrs. Linda Clifton was Forensics coach; she and the team undertook a vigorous schedule including such activities as round-robin debates, a trip to Gonzaga University, National Forensics' League sanctioned debates and participation in oratory contests sponsored by the Washington Association of Soil and Water Conservation.

Entering into the 1970s, the EHS Forensics Club was still going strong. The 1971 State qualifying debaters were Carolyn Bellem and Dave Kimble. The topic of the 1972 debate was **resolve that the jury system in the United States should be significantly changed** and the topic of the 1973 debate was **resolve that governmental financial support for all public elementary and secondary education in the United States should be provided exclusively by the Federal Government.** Greg Smith and Judy Nelson at right display hardware they won.

District winners in the 1976 Bicentennial Youth Debating were Lisa Stevenson, Bob Livingston, and Steve Ligino. At the left Bob shows off his hardware.

Experienced debaters Jeff Ward and Monica Wolford lead the way for the 1976-77 Debate Team. Monica took first in the local Voice of Democracy and impromptu at the Ephrata Round Robin. She was 2nd in oratory and rated excellent at University of Puget Sound in impromptu speaking. Jeff Ward took first in oratory in Ephrata and was first at local, district, and regional competition in Readers Digest’s Boy Scouts of America National Public Speaking Contest. He traveled to Washington D.C. where he competed with his speech entitled “the Crossroads of America”. At the right are Jeff Ward and Monica Wolford
Ephrata Past and Present

“Winter Was Happy Time for Youth in Old Ephrata”

by Vern D. Matthews

Note: Vern D. Matthews, a native Ephratan who graduated from Ephrata High School in 1941, contributed nostalgic pieces on Ephrata’s past and future for publishing by the Grant County Journal. The articles appeared in 1964 and 1965 newspapers. This is the third article in the series which will conclude in the March 2013 edition of the Tigerville News.

"Winter time was always a happy time for youngsters of my age in Ephrata back in the early ’30s. No television chained our feet to the living room floor. No mass transit media sped us to distant hills for sports. Instead, our neighboring slopes served for sledding and our open fields were the sites for building of forts of snow which withstood the challenges of invading foes.

Wintertime was a time to dash outside...play a while and then dash back in to poke your feet in the oven of the kitchen stove to absorb warmth so again you could venture forth.

We can well remember Ben Harvill’s ice pond near the first bridge on the west road over the hill. In the winter it served as a community skating rink. The Harvills had a huge ice house crammed with sawdust and slabs of ice which was sold along with their dairy products before the advent of the electric refrigerator. The Harvill dairy farm encompassed nearly all of the residential area which hugs the foothills in southwestern Ephrata. Their cattle grazed on the hills, undisturbed by the homes which now festoon the slopes.

For ideal sledding or tobogganing or skiing on barrel staves the younger set made haste to the Herb Meyer farm northwest of town. How wonderful these nice people were to open their warm home to us frozen, but happy, youngsters.

Sledding closer to home was done largely on the east Ephrata hill, down by the gravel pit east of Dungan’s most northerly warehouse. Burning tires provided some warmth from the chill of the day. After a hard walk back up the hill, though, you again appreciated the coolness of the breeze on your face as you whistled down the short, but steep, slope.

Baseball and softball were the popular spectator sports in those days; with bowling unheard of. Every town in the county boasted of its baseball team and Ephrata was always a leader. Indeed, there is probably a great deal of truth to the remembrances that many good ball players were pirated from one community by another which offered greater fringe benefits. Entire towns would travel to witness a Saturday afternoon game. Quantities of money exchanged hands.

Softball was played on a regular league basis on the large vacant area behind the McDonald building and the Rock Café. Adults competed as fiercely then as do Little Leaguers today. Gordon Nicks was a fastball pitcher, as was Dale Lafollette, Lloyd Black and others. C. E. Pittinger, Earl Burd, and Howard and Wado Bush were just a few who could blast a softball clear over a huge tree which stood in the left field corner. Spectators by the score ringed the area each evening for the contests.

May Day was a day of great fun back in our childhood years. School classes had their May poles. We made and hung May baskets on the doors of friends, knocked, and ran under cover of darkness to wait on the fringe for the householder to come to the door.
Halloween was another favorite day of the year. Indoor toilet facilities were uncommon, making the many outdoor biffies attractive objects for the pushing of excited but scared hands. Woe to the lads who didn’t notice that the householder had been out earlier and moved his privy ahead a couple of feet leaving only a blanket of night to cover the gaping hole.

We recall one year when the older youths took wagons and hauled all available outside toilets to the city center and erected a “village” of them...complete with signs to indicate which business or county office was located in each... and on what floor. Those were the days of hoisting cows to the school belfry and moving fences closer to the front door. Trick or treat? We never heard of it and if we had we probably would have rather fought than be treated.

We weren’t angels back in those early days of the ’30s. We doubt if the generations ahead of us wore many wings themselves. We weren’t “juvenile delinquents” though because that word hadn’t yet been coined. We were simply “little brats” when we did something wrong. The youngsters of today have no monopoly on wrong doing. We pilfered our share of watermelons, siphoned gas from parked cars and lifted a few chickens off their roosts. We nipped of the forbidden wine in later years and tore about in our vehicles of Model “T” and “A” vintages. We were reckless for our day and age, just as were our parents when they raced their cutters down the country lanes or huddled under the blankets on the way home from the country dance.

Not many of our age were ever in serious trouble. This is most probably due to the respect we gained early for the law. The “law” in those days of our youth was a person, someone of flesh and blood. It was something we could see and feel and talk to in the person of wonderful Charley Anderson, Morgan Porter and Gordon Nicks, who were successively the sheriffs of Grant County in those days. Mr. Nicks and his chief deputy Ray Deycous probably did more than any to instill a respect for the law in our generation. They were good friends who steered our ways away from troubles. We were honest with them and them with us. The mutual bond that were forged then must still be paying dividends to society for we can think of no youth of our generation who has seriously broken these links of the past.  (See following stories related to Grant County Sheriffs.)

Others who earned our respect in the legal profession in those early days were Charley Duncan, an old-time justice of the peace, Judge C. G. Jeffers who later became Supreme Court Justice for the State and Judge and former prosecutor E. W. Schwellenbach who also was elevated later to the State Supreme Court bench.”

Adding to the Story

Sheriff Charles E. Anderson, Sr. was Grant County Sheriff from 1923 to 1931. He was a Democrat and resided in the town of Corfu. He won the 1922 election 1037 votes to 755 and in 1926 he won 1005 to 941.

Sheriff J. M. “Morgan” Porter was an Ephrata Democrat. He was elected in November of 1930 by a 1072 to 811 vote.
Sheriff Charles Anderson, pictured on right, and then-deputy Morgan Porter, on left, examine a bootlegging still which they confiscated as part of their law enforcement duties.

For many years prior to 1916 the question of whether Grant County should go “wet” or “dry” was a matter of contention. The debate came to an end in 1916 when Washington voters passed a law to prohibit the buying or selling of alcoholic drinks. This period of time was called prohibition, and it lasted until 1932. During this time county law enforcement was kept busy locating and shutting down stills that were being used to produce illegal alcohol.

Sheriff Gordon Nicks, an Ephrata Democrat, served as Grant County Sheriff from 1938 to 1946. He was the subject of a lead story in the Grant County Journal which was later replayed. “In the fall of 1943 Grant County was bombed, sort of, by the Japanese war machines. The bombing was thwarted by Sheriff Gordon Nicks. The Japanese would float balloons in the high altitude jet streams in an attempt to set forest fires in Washington and Oregon. One was floating at the head of Sparks Canyon near Ephrata when Nicks fired a 30-06 tracer bullet into the gas filled balloon.

‘It was about 60 to 70 feet across. It was kind of shaped like a pear with the fat end at the top,’ Nicks said. ‘When the bullet went into it there was a tremendous explosion and a fire that was huge. It was really something to see.’

‘Although several of the balloons floated across Washington State, few people knew of the Japanese attempts. When the balloons were spotted in the sky, ‘sometimes four or five P-39 fighters from the Ephrata Air Base were scrambled to shoot them down but they never did get them though,’ Nicks said. ‘The balloons were floating higher than the airplanes could fly.’

‘Nick said shooting down the balloon was difficult. ‘My first shot was way underneath it. When I saw that thing I figured I couldn’t miss, so I aimed at the middle of it and missed. The next one I shot high and it went right in,’ Nicks said.”

Pictures and information supplied by Bill Nelson – EHS ‘58.

Historical antidotes from the early pages of the Grant County Journal regarding early-day stories of county law:  
July 30, 1909...The county jail was being constructed at a cost of $1,050.00.  
September 14, 1911...The following estimate of expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910 includes a sheriff's salary of $1450.00, deputy's salary of $960.00 and an extra deputy's salary of $420.00.  
September 29, 1911...A little semi-official visit of Sheriff Robert Hill and Prosecuting Attorney Daniel T. Cross to Coulee City on the Monday before, and the serving of a criminal process on a gambling charge, together with a searching investigation of alleged illegal liquor traffic, was said to have a wholesome effect.  
February 07, 1913...The county jail is empty for the first time in several months. The last prisoner to be liberated was Adrian's wild man who prefers solitude and privation rather than civilization.  
June 18, 1913...The town jail was burned down by the city health officer after a supposed leper had occupied it for several days.  
June 18, 1915...Four prisoners broke jail Friday evening. The alarm was soon given, and, in Hupmobile cars, citizens were soon in pursuit – opened up on them with 30-40 cartridges in their guns. (No report on whether there was a capture or not.)