



# Tigerville News

***"Remembering the Past – Celebrating the Present"***

***"18th Edition–February 2014   Ephrata, Washington   Beverly Mayer"***

## **EHS-100 Reunion News**

### **Reunion Excitement Growing !**

The EHS-100 Reunion Committee is over-whelmed by early returns of registrations by the alumni of Ephrata High School. If the first four weeks of registration is any indication, the June reunion is going to be a huge success. Pre-registered attendees, whether on-line or by mail, will be rewarded by having access to an "Express Check-In" area and will be assured their copy of the reunion's commemorative booklet. As of February 10<sup>th</sup> the numbers include 248 alumni registrations with a total attendance of 333. The late 1950s and early 1960s classes are leading the way. Be sure to check the Register Now page for the February 15<sup>th</sup> report of the numbers and specifics of who will be attending the reunion.

### **Plans Are Taking On a New Life**

The reunion committee feels that they have "rounded the bend". Decisions have been made, details are being finalized, and now we just have to do it! Local alumni are offering their assistance on the various committees; "stepping up to the plate" so to speak. There are still projects to be perfected – volunteers are more than welcome to join the reunion team. There is an effort to enlist non-alumni volunteers to take on various tasks so that the committee members may be free to enjoy the reunion without having to worry about making sure "things" are being taken care of. If you know of such a person go to Contact Us page.

### **Report Individual Class Gatherings**

Is your class planning a get-together for their class members? Go to Contact Us on the ehs-100.com website and report details. Information will be included in the on-line event schedule. The EHS-100 Reunion committee has purposely allowed time for classes to reminisce with their own classmates. Plans for such events are the responsibility of the class' planning and financial committee. It could be as simple as meeting at a local eatery or attending and participating in the downtown fun event on Saturday afternoon. Over the next couple of months the EHS-100 Reunion committee will be announcing more events that may be of interest to the different classes.

### **Ephrata High School Alumni Association**

The EHS Alumni Association has announced that it will be providing two - \$1000.00 scholarships to deserving EHS Students of the class of 2014. Qualifying students may apply through the school. Presentation of the scholarships will occur during the Opening Ceremonies on Saturday of the EHS-100 Reunion. All alumni and friends of alumni are encouraged to join the association and support EHS students. Information regarding membership may be found on the Alumni Association page of this website.

## **Start Developing Plans**

### **Become Involved in the Honors Ceremony**

- A very important request that the reunion committee has of individual classes is for them to become involved in the "Walk of Remembrance" that will be held during Sunday's Honors Program. Each class is asked to create and provide a poster that will honor the memory of deceased classmates and celebrate their class' uniqueness. The presentation poster will be on display at the EHS track hung on an easel provided by the committee. A foam board, 20" x 30", is the recommended size. Deliver class poster to EHS commons area on Saturday or by 10:00 am on Sunday in order to be included in this meaningful project.
- Of equal importance will be alumni involvement in the Honors Ceremony alumni recognition program. Nominations will be accepted naming an alumni who has proven themselves to be a valued member of society through volunteer work, charitable endeavors or selfless action and service of others. An alumni may also be nominated because of having served as a role model by triumphing over personal adversity and hardships. Complete details of the program will be available March 1<sup>st</sup> in the newsletter and by going to the Tiger Talk section of this website. There are many deserving EHS alumni; this is the opportunity to show them that the Ephrata Tiger alumni are proud of them and how well they have represented EHS.
- Direct questions to Contact Us on the website. Take up the challenge - make sure each class has an opportunity to participate in honoring their class mates.

### **Get a Team Together**

All classes will have the opportunity to "team up" and take part in the Tiger Track-Walk which will be held prior to the Opening Event on Saturday at the EHS running track. Music, prizes, lots of camaraderie. Meet up with old friends while circling the track. The event will run for one hour - 9:30am to 10:30am. Everyone attending the reunion is invited to participate. Jump into the walk at any time and have some fun. Individuals and class groups are encouraged to wear crazy attire.

Plans are being formulated for an activity involving downtown Ephrata businesses from 3:00pm to 5:00pm on Saturday. Event will be advertised as soon as the committee finalizes plans. Members of the class of 1973-Linda Wanke Ebberson, Sherie Martin Patterson, Marsha Crawford Hart are being assisted by Michele Ratigan Webb - EHS '79, the EHS athletic director.

### **Create Class-Identity Project**

By May 1<sup>st</sup> class members can go to the Register Now page on [ehs-100.com](http://ehs-100.com) and find out exactly who in each class has indicated that they will be in Ephrata the first weekend of June. With that information classes can organize with matching hats, tee shirts, name tags, placards, signs, shakers, or pompoms - whatever the class thinks will set them apart from all of the attending classes.

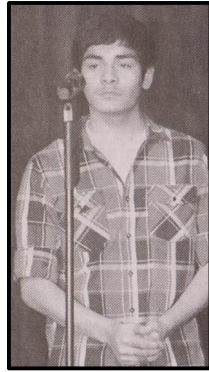
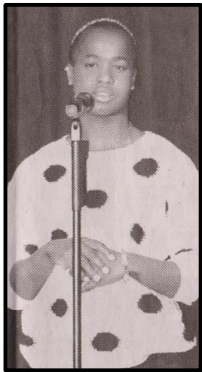
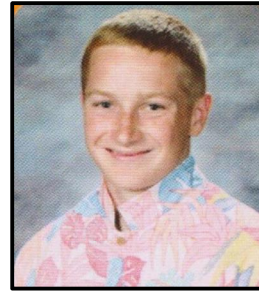


Sole Performance in Ephrata is the place to purchase EHS-100 Reunion tee shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more. Mike Scellick-EHS '71, the owner of the athletic apparel store, can set you up. Mike has arranged for a specially-designed logo to be applied to the merchandise he carries in his business.

## Ephrata High School Present & Past

### Tiger Tales

Student Body News with Chance Flanigan  
ASB Representative to EHS-100 Reunion Committee



**"Poetry Out Loud".** Congratulations to Junior Fredeline Ham and Freshman Abel Coreas for taking top honors in the second annual competition of "Poetry Out Loud". They will represent Ephrata High School at the regional contest in Yakima. In all, 17 students entered the recitation contest. A lot of preparation went into being a contestant; each entrant was evaluated for voice and articulation, dramatic appropriateness, level of difficulty, understanding, overall performance, physical presence and accuracy. Everyone who entered deserves a lot of credit for taking part in the contest.

**More Congratulations.** Recent Student of the Week, Cole Spence, was nominated by Mr. Mendoza for working hard and being a good example to classmates. Midori Blanchard was the first place winner in the Oratory for Speech and Debate recently held at Quincy. Matt Mortimer placed fourth in the State for the American Legion's Constitutional Speech Contest. Tiger wrestlers, Dalton Balentine, Tyrus Kemp and David Swenson have recently been chosen for Tiger Athletes of the Week.

**Key Club.** Members of the Key Club are busy working on a project to collect gently used clothing that will fit all age groups. The "Share the Love" clothing drive will benefit the Ephrata Senior Center who will in turn help those in the community who have a need for warm clothing. Everyone is urged to be a sweetheart and donate to the cause.

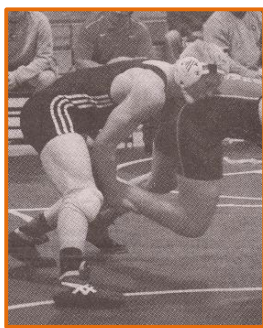
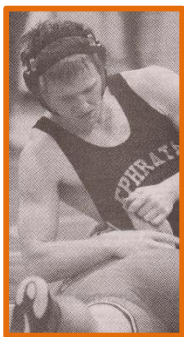
**Valentine Fun.** The EHS foods class is taking orders for Valentine cupcakes which will be ready for pickup on Valentine's Day. A real deal at just \$1.00 each. Support the bakers in the food class.



#### **Tigers Give Fans Something to Cheer About.**

The Tiger boys' basketball team knocked off #1 state ranked Grandview in a 59-52 thriller. The team is currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place (11-2) in the CWAC. The girls' basketball team is in 4<sup>th</sup> place (8-6) in the 10-team conference.

The girls begin district play February 15. The boys receives a first round bye and will compete on February 17<sup>th</sup> at their home court.



### **Tiger Wrestlers Head to Region IV Tournament February 14, 15.**

At the recent CWAC District Championships Dalton Ballentine, 170-pound weight category shown to the far left and Tyrus Kemp, 195-pounder at right were victorious in the district finals. Bryce Unruh, 160-pound, and Isaac Garcia, 220-pound wrestlers were defeated in the championship round but qualified to compete in the regional tournament. Go Tigers.... pin 'em.

## **Remember When...**



## *Kove Club Couples*

A recent 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary article in the Grant County Journal brought to mind how becoming a member of Kove Club during high school days may very well have impacted one's future choice of the person who was to become both soul mate and spouse.



Jeanette Kelly – EHS '56 and Doug Burk – EHS '53 were married on April 6, 1963 and have been residents of Ephrata ever since. The Burks are included in a long list of Ephrata High School students who began their relationship while attending the Kove Club dances on Friday nights. For whatever reasons the couples who dated at Kove and went on to marry have shown a remarkable success rate in creating marital happiness and experiencing longevity as a married couple.

Mindful that a listing of “Kove Club couples” may not identify all who qualify, here are a few that have been confirmed: Margaret Smothers and Albert Treiber, Kay Johnson and Ernie Swartout, Carol Shanklin and Jim Behrens, Sue Settle and Jay Stierwalt, Shannon Harris and Kermit Behrens, Linda Pierce and Gary Pierson, Judy Capek and Gerald Turner, Carolyn Brewington and Dean Edwards, Jan Wright and Mel Carpenter, Carol Olson and Doug Brashear, Marilyn Nickel and Russ Sage, Bev Elshire and Dick Mayer, Gayle Anderson and Bert Bargman, Joyce Brewington and Dennis Coffee, Roberta Nickel and Ben Davis, Becky Falstad and Jeff Fletcher, Loretta Waltho and Ray Mayer, Mary McMains and Terry Hunt, Deborah Lindh and Bill Roberts. Billie Sue Atkins and LeGrand Neilson, Phyliss Stone and Don Dwinell, Pat Gregoire and Ed Fitts, Susan Lough and Scott Yarger, Suzanne Beck and Ken Myklebust, Dodie Bellinger and Steve Gary – the list goes on!

Alumni who are considered to be a “Kove couple” will again have the opportunity to experience socializing and dancing at a Kove Club dance. Saturday night of the EHS-100 Reunion a dance will be held at St. Rose School gym. Members of the EHS classes of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s are invited to attend. Guests are allowed. Full details will be announced on March 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Ephrata Past and Present

### *“Grant County”*

*Adapted from a poem by  
Johna Loree, EHS Class of 1965*



*Grant County has a history  
as some of you may know.  
But many never stop to think  
what made this county grow?*

*Indians lived and hunted  
throughout this countryside.  
Cattle and wild horses, too,  
roamed here far and wide.*

*The grand Columbia River  
from Canada, its source,  
flowed lonesome in its valley  
unhindered in its course*

*The county then was Douglas,  
so big from side to side.  
The citizens decided  
would be better to divide.*

*In the year 1909  
Grant County came to be.  
Ephrata was name county seat,  
the rest is history!*

*Cattle were the mainstay then  
and in the highlands, wheat.  
Though many of the farmers  
by lack of rain were beat.*

*Farsighted dreamers then could  
see no future for the land  
unless the drought could be  
relieved, so Coulee Dam was  
planned.*

*Some thirty-five years later  
came the awaited day.  
In '52 the gates were opened  
and water flowed our way.*

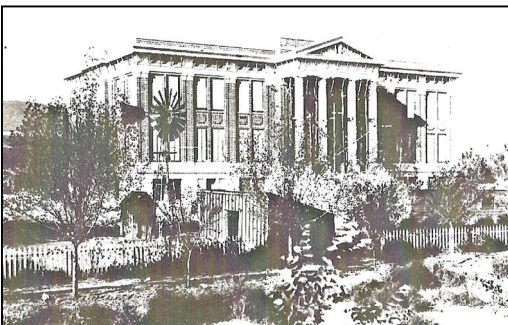
*This water so important to  
the future of our land,  
began a burst of county growth –  
just what the dreamers planned.*

*Although the dam seems  
commonplace  
to folks like you and me,  
people come from far-off lands  
this miracle to see.*

*But we must all remember  
this work is never done.  
And for our generation  
it hardly has begun.*

*I hope that we who follow  
can accomplish as much or more  
as the pioneers and dreamers  
who passed this way before.*

### Grant County Created, Ephrata Named County Seat



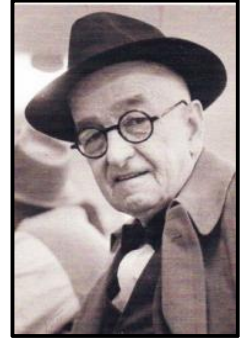
“Grant County was created by the Legislature in 1909, in Chapter 17 (HB-66) entitled ‘An Act Creating Grant County’. The bill was passed by the House on February 9, by the senate on February 15, and approved by the then Lt. Governor M. E. Hay on February 24, 1909, Governor Cosgrove being out of the state because of illness. The act contained an emergency clause providing that it should take effect immediately.” Report to Grant County Commissioners by C. A. Hawley, Grant County Auditor August 27, 1953.

### **Grant County Journal, February 1909.**

"Now that the struggle that centered about the bill for county division has been passed by such a large majority in both the house and the senate and the seat of the county fixed by the legislature to be in Ephrata, the new county can only work out its destiny successfully by forgetting all the past differences that were fought out during the struggle and by pulling together to make of this the great and wealthy county which its natural resources and future possibilities have placed within our reach. Ephrata is pleased at winning the fight for the county seat. It would be unnatural for a town to feel otherwise." "It Happened in Pioneer Ephrata" by Janet Jenkins Nelson

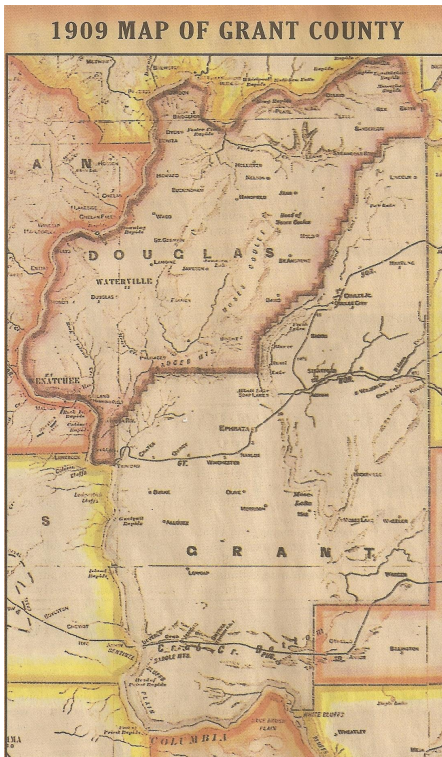
### **W. Gail Matthews, Pioneer Political Activist**

Beginning in 1917 the city of Ephrata was the site of a series of meetings between men who came to be known as the "Dam University". The group's concern was the effects of the current draught. Hundreds of families farming in the area were being forced to leave their land due to the lack of moisture. Without water the crops were sparse and the dry wind blew away the land right along with what crops could be grown. The Dam University persisted in advocating the utilization of the Columbia River for energy and irrigation. They came to be major supporters of Grand Coulee Dam, Columbia Basin reclamation, and other projects essential to regional progress.



An original "Dean" of the Dam University group was a gentleman named W. Gale Matthews. His historical mark on Grant County, as well as Ephrata, began in 1909 at the Douglas County seat at Waterville where his father, I. W. Matthews, was a staunch advocate for leaving Douglas County "just the size it was".

The senior Matthews owned the local abstract title business and he felt it was important to maintain the entire territory of Douglas which, at the time, included all of what is now Grant County. Land conveyances were limited so maintaining a large business base was imperative for his success. I. W. died in 1908 leaving his business and political views in the hands of his son.



W. Gale Matthews continued his father's political alliance with A. L. Rogers. The co-conspirators thwarted all attempts for a county division bill. In early January, just prior to the 1909 Legislative session, Matthews and Rogers realized they did not have the political clout to prevent a county division. They determined that, in their best interests, the division line should be drawn where the least possible damage would be done to the economy of the town of Waterville and subsequently, to their own businesses.

The pair met in Matthews' office which had a large map of Douglas County on its wall. Rogers took a red pencil and drew a line across the map where he determined the division line should be.

Matthews took the map to the County Engineer's office and had the line re-drawn to conform with section lines so a proper legal description could be written.

The next day Matthews and Rogers left for Olympia with the map and their proposed division bill. The coming week involved politicking, revisions, and skullduggery. "Including", reported Matthews, "getting an adversary gloriously drunk and taking him down toward the waterfront to the red light district and turning him over to the tender mercies of one of the local landladies. We undressed him and put him to bed and he promptly went to sleep. The landlady was supplied with sufficient funds to keep the gentleman, drunk, in bed, and entertained until after the bill had passed." The House passed the "Campbell Bill" February 09, 1909. This bill named Ephrata the count seat of "Big Bend County".

After two more weeks of wrangling an amendment was written into the bill regarding the name of the new county. On February 24, 1909 both Houses of Legislature passed the division bill and it was now official, the new county was named Grant and Ephrata was the county seat.

W. Gale Matthews immediately overcame the failure to prevent the county division of Douglas. He promptly



packed up 4000 pounds of abstract books and equipment and moved to Ephrata to start the first registered business in Grant County and named it the Grant County Title Abstract Company. He provided the new county with a set of abstracts, indicating, "The documents were compiled with care and exactness. The abstract of title furnished by this company would be correct and in proper form." On March 06, 1909 he was appointed temporary clerk of the Grant County Board of Commissioners. The title company remained under the ownership of the Matthews family through the third generation

1946 picture l-r: Nina Wynne, Don Moore, W. Gale Matthews, Catherine Mangold, Verne G. Matthews. Article written with permission of Matthews Family, Verne D. Matthews-EHS '28, Gail Matthews Price-EHS '62 and Marge Matthews Burckhart-EHS '65.

### Pioneer Honored

In 2009 Ephrata dedicated the city's library to a pioneer, a historian and an unofficial librarian. A plaque dedicating the library to W. Gale Matthews was revealed by Ephrata Mayor Chris Jacobson with the assistance of two of Matthews' grandchildren. According to Matthews' granddaughters, Gail Matthews Price (left) and Marge Matthews Burckhart (right), their grandfather moved to Ephrata around the time Grant County was formed in 1909, bringing a branch of his title company with him. He also brought a collection of books ranging from novels to children's stories to research books. Price remembers using both her grandfather's library and the public library to do her research for papers when she was a student at Ephrata High School. Burkhart indicated that her grandfather saw lending books as something people did to help each other in earlier days. Mark Wanke and Janet Jenkins Nelson aided in organizing the dedication project.





# Answers for All Questions Regarding the EHS-100 Reunion

[www.ehs-100.com](http://www.ehs-100.com)

**Register Now!** is the place to go if you plan on attending the EHS-100 Reunion. You can register on-line or print off a mail-in form. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month go to this page for reports on who have registered for the reunion. You can find details of who from each class is attending and which of your past teachers will also be celebrating the reunion.

**Tiger Talk** has several blogs that can lead you to information regarding Kove Club Dance, purchasing annuals, Registration Contest, helpful hints on how to involve your class in the reunion. Additions to this site appear regularly.

**Reunion Schedule** will help you make find open times to make plans for class gatherings and family reunions. Check it out and make sure you don't miss any of the committee-planned events.

**Newsletters** will keep you informed of the latest in EHS-100 Reunion committee activities and projects. Stories of Ephrata High School past and present and stories of Ephrata past and present provides readers with a nostalgic trip back to their old home town.

**Class Almanac** will provide information related to individual classes. Listing of class leaders. Provides connection with class websites.

**Teacher's Tribute** gives you the opportunity to honor an Ephrata High School teacher – past or present.

**Reunion Committee** will tell you who is working hard to make sure the reunion is a successful occasion for all attendees. Learn what their responsibilities are and how you can reach them with comments and suggestions.

**Local Accommodations** helps you to find a place to stay while you are in Ephrata for the reunion. You are able to connect directly with area hotels, motels, and campgrounds. Get information regarding the EHS camping area.

**Reunion Funding** will inform you how you can contribute to the planning and presentation of all EHS-100 Reunion activities and projects. Remember, you will not be paying a registration fee to attend the fun-filled event.

**Alumni Association** will show the way to becoming a member of the Ephrata High School Alumni Association – lifetime or yearly memberships available. Help support the reunion and contribute to the scholarships that will be presented to a 2014 graduate of EHS.

**Contact Us** is available so that you can connect with the EHS-100 Reunion committee for whatever reason you may have.