

Tigerville News

"Remembering the Past – Celebrating the Present"

Sixteenth Edition – December 2013 Ephrata, Washington Beverly Mayer

EHS-100 Reunion News

As of today, December 7, 2013, we now have **six months** until the celebration commemorating 100 years since the first graduation from Ephrata High School occurred. Will the EHS-100 Reunion committee, Ephrata High School and the City of Ephrata be ready? You bet your Tiger Spirit we will be! We are working hard putting activities and events in place and are looking forward to a grand celebration. Could anything be more fun than returning "home" and getting together with past friends from Ephrata High School? Join us and find out.

Event scheduling is being worked out and the committee is seeking program speakers and participants for the opening and closing ceremonies. An update on "Reunion Schedule" can be found on this site. Registration is set to begin January 1st but, at this point, we have not had anyone step forward and offer to manage the site. Volunteers and suggestions will be gratefully received on "Contact Us".

Contributions are coming in every day to aid in the financing of the reunion activities and events. If all class leaders were to follow in the footsteps of 1966 Class Leader Stephanie Sherwood, who has done a tremendous job of informing her classmates, we would be able to fund the reunion and contribute handsomely to the EHS Alumni Association and its scholarship fund. The committee is grateful for her efforts and the efforts of all other class leaders and alumni.

Yearly membership dues for the EHS Alumni Association are due in January. See the "Alumni Association" page on this site for details. Life-time memberships are gratefully accepted any time during the year. Consider joining and have your name added to the list of alumni who support Ephrata High School.

A gathering of all class leaders is planned for the month of January. At this time the reunion committee will be able to determine if all EHS graduation classes are receiving the information they require in order to make an informed decision to participate in the 100-year celebration. Plans specific to individual classes will be addressed such as a display for the memorial walk, individual gatherings, etc. The reunion committee will be available to help facilitate class plans.

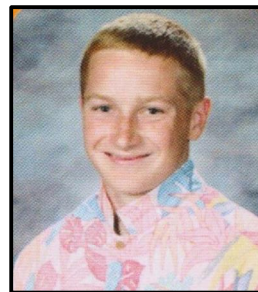


WE WANT YOU.....To help out your class leader (found listed in "Class Almanac") by supplying contact information for fellow classmates. If no class leader is listed – volunteer for the position on "Contact Us". Information via direct mail, email, and face book are ways to make sure the news regarding the reunion is received by as many alumni and friends of Ephrata High School as possible.

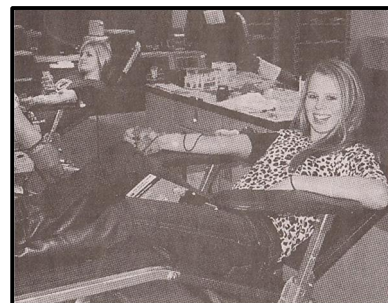
Ephrata High School Past and Present

Tiger Tales

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



'Tis the Season to be Sharing. Ephrata High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) are members of the largest and oldest business student organization in the world; they join a quarter of a million high school and middle school students, college and university students, faculty, educators, administrators, and business professionals have chosen to be members of the premier business education association preparing students for careers in business. As a service project the school's FBLA chapter, in co-operation with the Inland Northwest Blood Center, sponsored a blood collection drive to benefit the blood center. Community members, as well as students, were given the opportunity to help save lives by donating blood. This type of involvement in the community develops leadership skills, builds recognition and goodwill for the chapter, and teaches satisfaction of a job well done for the members of the local chapter. Camille Culbertson and Haley Berryman (pictured in back) took advantage of giving to the community through this project.



Ephrata High School's sophomore class took part in a project to benefit the Ephrata Food Bank. The idea of the project came as teacher Heidi White's biology class was discussing photosynthesis and how plants get energy. She encouraged the students to think on how they get energy and how they could help sustain others in the community.

The sophomores, working with Generation Alive – a non-profit, charitable organization- raised nearly \$3000 (\$1800 by the class) to fund the supplies to package 10,000 bags with rice, soy, vegetables and vitamins. Each bag was designed to feed six people a balanced meal of healthy, filling food when mixed with boiling water. More than 30 volunteers turned out to take part in the project including l-r: Katelyn Towry, McKinzie Bottineau, Tyler Hess and Sydney Urwin. The Generation Alive staff discussed world-wide hunger and volunteer involvement.



The EHS Spanish Club is getting into the holiday spirit by holding a Fiesta on December 12th in Mrs. Evenson's classroom. Members are to bring a snack food to share and may wish to participate in a gift exchange by bringing a wrapped gift that is valued at about \$5.

Feliz Navidad !

All four grades are responsible for decorating the balcony overlooking the commons area for the holidays. EHS has some very talented and artistic individuals.... The school will look very festive.

On December 20th the ASB Officers will do the annual Candy Cane Greetings by handing out the eponymous goody at school entrances and wishing EHS kids a merry Christmas. That day is a holiday dress-up day – Santa and elf hats along with reindeer antlers, and angel wings will be the dress of the day.

This is the seventh year the EHS ASB has sponsored the Toys for Teens fundraiser. Monies raised are used to purchase gifts for teenagers which are donated to the Ephrata Food Bank and given out along with the Christmas food baskets. Students are encouraged to “give up a latte” and place their change in the appropriate container. A variety of competitions take place in order to get the students involved. The sophomore class won the grade level competition. Next will be a competition among the third period classrooms and the winning classroom will be rewarded with a pizza party and get to select a teacher to kiss a llama in front of the entire student body on December 20th. They will get to choose their victim from either Mr. or Mrs. Allsopp, Mrs. White, Mrs. Ramirez, Mr. Laugen and Mr. Tempel. The goal is to collect \$3000 for the project.



Entertainment: 2013 The annual Cabaret Show was held at the Performing Arts Center at Ephrata High School. It is the school's drama department's biggest fundraiser of the year with proceeds going to fund future drama department projects. The show featured a group of emcees who introduced the performances of talented EHS singers and musicians. A variety of modern, classic, pop, rock, and gospel songs were presented. The emcees entertained the crowd with a variety of hilarious skits. The circus-themed Cabaret show, “A Night at the Circus”, featured emcees l-r: Tucker Merchant, Camille Culbertson, Son Bui, Matt Mortimer, Gavin Barnes, Alice Turnbull, Grace Beierman and Lindsey Bair.



Entertainment: 1944 The Operetta “Tom Sawyer” was performed on stage in the school which is currently known as Beezley Springs – the first red-brick school building in Ephrata. The Sunflower girls who starred in the show were l-r: Claudine Guffey, Donna Guffin, Francis Platt, Wanda Pratt, Patricia Nixon and Betty Hill, most from class of 1947.

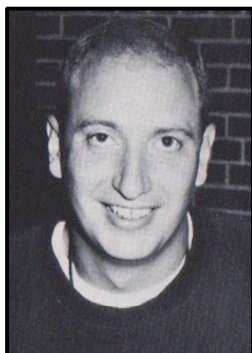


Winter Sports. The first at-home winter sports action begins on December 6th with the Quincy Jack wrestlers coming to Ephrata for a showdown on the wrestling mats. One Tiger wrestler got his season off to a good start by signing an official NCAA Division I letter of intent to join the Central Michigan University wrestling team, a team that is currently ranked 24th in the nation. Ephrata High Senior Tyrus Kemp is shown here with l-r: Ephrata head football coach Jay Mills, Tiger head wrestling coach, P. J. Anderson and assistant mat coaches Dave Laird and Zack Brissey. Last year Kemp was the district, regional, and 195-pound WIAA State 2A state champion. His goal is to be the first two-time championship winner in Tiger wrestling history. Tigerville News will be reporting the on-mat success of Tyrus for the 2013-14 season. Congratulations and good luck Tyrus.



Because he influenced so many Ephrata High School students, the story of Chuck Panerio, a well-respected wrestling coach from the past, is reprinted in the Tigerville News with the permission of Randy Bracht of the Grant County Journal.

'Recalling the Life and Career of Chuck Panerio'. August 22, 2013



If you were to paint a portrait of a successful wrestling coach, it's unlikely you'd conjure up the image of a slightly built, hard-of-hearing former basketball player of Italian ancestry, whose distinctive style of speech left him subject to affectionate mimicking by scores of athletes.

In other words, it's unlikely you'd conjure up Chuck Panerio – a man who constantly proved that looks can be deceiving.

Panerio profoundly influenced and inspired a generation of high school athletes – and many others – during his 30-year tenure as a teacher and coach with the Ephrata School District.

Panerio's legacy will be fondly remember tomorrow (August 23rd) during a memorial service, following his unexpected and perhaps inexplicable death at age 75.

News of his passing continues to reverberate in a community that he dearly loved, and loved him in return.

"Upbeat, hardworking, honest, loyal, a heckuva teacher, good for kids, good to be around," said his longtime friend and former boss, Don Gordon, a retired grade school principal and high school athletic director.

At the Ephrata City Council meeting, mayor pro tem Bruce Reim – one of Panerio's former wrestlers – asked for a moment of silence to remember and honor the longtime coach.

The son of a coal miner, Panerio's blue-collar work ethic developed while growing up in the hard-knock communities of Roslyn and Cle Elum, where he was a standout baseball and basketball player in high school. He then attended Central Washington University in Ellensburg, graduating in 1960 with a degree in physical education.

He and Gordon both came to Ephrata later that year. In 1963 Panerio became the high school's head wrestling coach – teaching a sport in which he had never competed as an athlete.

But he was a quick learner. Panerio was among a handful of coaches from central Washington – others included Ron Seibel of Moses Lake, Bill Elliott of Cashmere, and Larry Gibson of Omak – who were formative in shaping the sport at the prep level statewide.



In the 14 years that he coached, Panerio's Tiger matmen – who often competed against larger schools, including Seibel's perennial powerhouse Chiefs – compiled a dual-meet record of 184 wins, 53 losses and three ties. (Shown at left with 1964-65 Tigers)

"Charlie had the only team to beat Moses Lake at home in its heyday," recalled Gordon.

Before stepping down as coach in 1977, Panerio produced 10 conference championships, two sub-regional and regional champions, and had five teams place among the top 10 in state tournaments. He also coached 37 state qualifiers and had 10 wrestlers go on to compete at the collegiate level, including 1971 EHS graduate Lanny Davidson, who attended Eastern Washington University and won two individual national championships.

Panerio was selected as Washington State Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1972-73 and was inducted in the Washington State Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1985. That honor was followed up in 2010 when Panerio was recognized for lifetime service in the sport and inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. (Shown at right with daughters Krista and Deona)



He was deeply moved by the recognition and by the number of community members and former wrestlers who attended the ceremony in Spokane.

For several years Panerio also coached the Ephrata Tigers' baseball program, until he was succeeded in 1971 by then first-year teacher Dave Johnson.

"Chuck was a mentor to me and several other young coaches," said Johnson, now a retired Hall of Fame coach himself.

"At the time", said Johnson, "there was a coffee-shop perception among some coaches and community members that Ephrata kids were 'too soft' to compete in athletics because of their upbringing in the white-collar 'government town.'"

"Chuck showed that wasn't true," said Johnson, recalling how Panerio built a successful program – in perhaps the toughest sport of all – through his passion, dedication, hard work, preparation, and discipline.

"... all those things that sports can teach," said Johnson, who counted Panerio and another Tiger coaching legend, the late Marty O'Brien, as the most influential figures in his career.

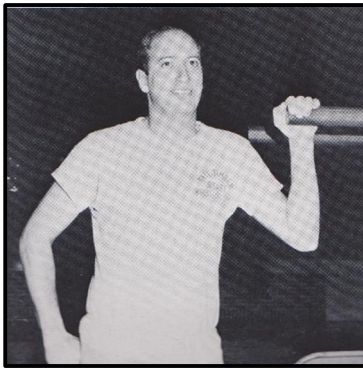
At times, Panerio could be candidly blunt: he was not, in Johnson's words, "an elegant speaker."

But with his candor came his passion for competition and his sincere belief that it was a noble pursuit. And because of that sincerity, the message was respected by his wrestlers and his P.E. students – an often squirrely lot – despite the nature of the times: the late 1960s and early '70s, when young people across the nation were challenging authority figures.

"He was old school," said Gordon. "If Charlie said it, you could count on his word. If you went to war, he's the guy you'd want in your foxhole."

Both Johnson and Gordon said Panerio viewed his wrestlers as members of his extended family.

"He took a lot of borderline kids and kept them in school, because of wrestling," said Johnson. "Some of those kids grew up in tough situations at home and he was a father figure to them."



"He showed how a man was supposed to act...He taught 'em a lot of stuff about life. And a lot of those guys are successful today," Johnson continued.

"Chuck was humble. He took a lot of pride in what he did, but he didn't brag about it. He always thanked the people who helped him."

At the time of his induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Panerio reserved special thanks for his late wife, Helen, who died of cancer in 1999, in memory of her unflagging support and "great wrestling banquets." Panerio, who also lost a teenaged son, Tony, in a vehicle accident in 1983, was proud to be accompanied at the induction ceremony by his two grown daughters, Krista and Deona.

But the loss of his wife and son profoundly affected Panerio. They were reunited with his burial at the Roslyn cemetery.

"Nobody loved their family more," observed Gordon. "He always put on a strong, outward appearance, an outward façade. But... he went into a spiral after Helen's death."

"He went through a lot of tragedy," agreed Johnson. "Helen and Tony, I know he thought about them every day."

Still, Panerio continued to reach out to others, said neighbor Brenda Follett, who spoke fondly of his invitations to meals or trips to the movies, even in recent months when his health faltered in part due to low sodium levels.

Gordon – his voice choked with emotion – summed up Panerio's legacy with these words: "Do your best. Always be fair. Think like a winner, and that's what you'll be. Set a high goal and you'll reach it. And never give up."

Ephrata Past and Present

History of Early-Day Theatres in Grant County

The first motion picture theatre to be built in the Big Bend area was built by Joe Choan at Soap Lake in 1926. Choan built the Sunset Theatre to entertain the summer tourists who had been gathering at the lake for several years to take advantage the medicinal value of the waters. Soon after the opening of the Sunset, the Kam Theater opened in Ephrata.



The story of the theatres in the Columbia Basin belongs to the John and Mary Lee family. Mary's Grant County ties began when her father Clarence "Baldy" Cole became the first field engineer on the job during the pre-construction phase of Grand Coulee Dam project. The family came from Seattle and lived in Almira where the Bureau of Reclamation office was located. Mary recalled, "There was nothing out at the dam site, just this ferry and some of the smaller houses. I had been working on the coast but I had gone home because my mother wanted me to come help her with my three younger brothers. After I came home we moved to one of the larger houses near the dam at Mason City." She said her father "worked surveying the land up above the dam that was going to be flooded. By the time that was done, his job was over."

During this same time, a young fellow by the name of John Lee moved from Chelan to take a job clerking in a store at Mason City. Eventually he opened up a hamburger shop in the Roosevelt Theatre where his mother was the operator. It was also at Mason City that he met Mary on a blind date and later married her.

One night James O'Sullivan, a main participant in winning the fight for Grand Coulee Dam, stopped by the Lee's hamburger stand while waiting for a bus and told Johnny all about the glories of the Basin. The silver-throated orator so sold him on the Basin that he quit his hamburger stand and he and Mary moved to Ephrata.

When the couple first arrived in Ephrata they stayed at the Morris Hotel. In 1936 John bought and operated the old Kam Theater, refinancing his car to make the down payment. He renovated the theater, renaming it the Capital Theater. Opening night was October 9, 1936 and the feature film was the recently released "Give Me Your Heart."

The Kam Theater had an interesting history. This Saturday night emporium was built by a sourdough from Alaska who was a bit independent in his ways; if things didn't go to suit him, he locked the doors whether customers were inside or not. Obviously he was not successful. The theater then passed through several hands before "Tubby" Harris bought it. During this time the town ladies took turns on Saturday nights playing the piano to create the sound effects. Attending movies at the Kam presented challenges what with its slanted floors and wooden seats. If it was raining a person had to be careful where they sat because of the numerous leaks.

After the theatre business purchase, John and Mary began fixing up living quarters in the back of the rented Capital building. Recalled Mary, "We lived there for about three years." Their son Jack was born during that time. "I don't think we had any really severe winters during that time because I don't think we could have handled that. We had a little combination heat and cook stove and I used a roaster for baking, you made do with what you had to work with."

It soon became apparent that running the Capital Theater was not going to generate enough income for the young family. In 1937 the Lees purchased the Sunset Theatre at Soap Lake and considered further expansion. Mary recalled taking a trip "to see what the prospects for having a portable movie circuit were." The Lees decided to refinance their car, making a down payment on portable equipment and screen, and establishing the 500 mile "Jack Rabbit"/ "Sagebrush" Movie Circuit which included Ephrata, Moses Lake, Wilson Creek, Connell, Othello, Washtucna, White Bluffs, and Mansfield.

On movie nights Mary sold tickets and John ran the projector. Later on they purchased a van with a public address system. The drove it around the towns to "ballyhoo" (promote) the showing of a movie. "Generally speaking," Mary remembered, "the movies were shown in Grange Halls where the Grange members would help set up the make-shift theatre and later tear it down. The members sold and collected tickets for a percentage of the gross."

Life on the circuit presented many challenges. Mary would bake banana nut and date nut bread, add cheese, and make sandwiches for their lunches because, "There was nowhere to eat along the way." She recalls arriving in Washtucna late one evening, "We hadn't had any dinner so the people at the crummy little hotel took us out into the kitchen to give us some dinner. There were greasy cobwebs hanging all over the kitchen ceiling." Accommodations were often less than desirable. In one town they boarded at a house where, "you

walked through a big screened porch with shelves of all of this pickled stuff in jars and smelling that stuff was just awful.” She recalls a trip to Othello when, “the underpass was so choked with tumbleweeds, we had to take off cross country in order to get there.”

The Lees operated the circuit until about 1940 at which time they opened the Marjo Theater in Ephrata. They came up with the name by using the letters MAR from Mary and JO from John.



Saturday matinees were popular with the young people. In 1940, for 24 cents, they could watch Hopalong Cassidy and Topper or Roy Rogers and Trigger gallop across the screen. By 1949, with the cost of admission at 46 cents, adults could watch “Best Actor” Gary Cooper star in Sergeant York. Musicals such as ‘Anchors Aweigh’ and ‘Yankee Doodle Dandy’ were also popular.



John and Mary opened the Lee Theatre in 1952 with the showing of the ‘King Solomon Mines’ starring Deborah Kerr and Stewart Granger. It was a major happening in the city of Ephrata. All school children were allowed to leave their classrooms and go to the theatre in order to take part in the opening event.

The film version of Leo Tolstoy's “War and Peace’ came out in 1955 and when the movie came to Ephrata the showing became a cultural event. A great deal of fuss was worked up on the evenings of the movie’s performance. The ushers were young girls wearing their high school prom dresses as they guided the attendees down the aisles. The Lee Theatre became the cultural and entertainment center of Ephrata.

Through the years Mary and John purchased property for future theaters. By 1954 they operated eleven theaters in seven towns and employed 100 people. Even though the family now included three children, Jack, David, and Mary Ann, Mary continued to be involved in the business, keeping up-to-date by reading movie industry trade journals. John was quoted in a 1954 newspaper article, “She has considerable to say about what picture is booked where and when.” Thanks to the Lee family generations of Ephrata families have been entertained over the years.

The Lee Theatre was closed for a number of years and is now owned and operated by the Lanith and Steve



Whetstone family. The Whetstones offer movie goers a complete entertainment experience at the tripled-screen movie house. There are booths and table seating in all three screen areas where patrons can enjoy pizza ordered from the Reel Pizza business operating on-site. The theatre has the largest movie screen in Grant County.

The Lee Theatre further entertains the locals with the giant mural featured on the north wall of the theatre building. Art work by Michael Bosnar – EHS '13.



Sources: Interview and manuscript by Janet Nelson of Mary Lee, a long-time Ephrata resident who will turn the century mark in July 2014. Local history book 'Pioneer Lady' by Ruth Ohlmstead. Lee Theatre website.



Holiday Greetings

Former classmates

and friends.

The Reunion Committee