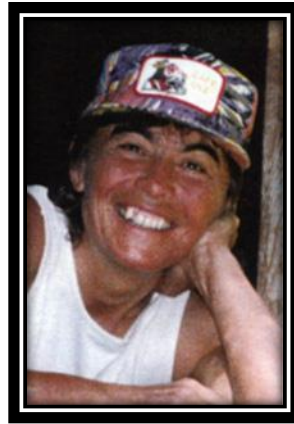
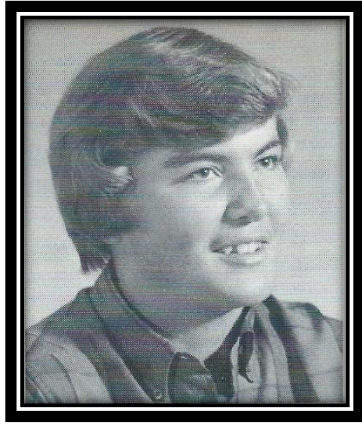


Alice Witte Class of 1965
Ephrata Alumni Association Noted Alumni



While Alice Witte attended Ephrata High School, she was a first-chair honor member of the school band, member of the Future Teachers of America (FTA) and the Girl's Athletic Association (GAA) which provided after-school athletic opportunities for girls.

When school was not in session, Alice found ways to finance her future college education. In the summer she could be found bucking bales of hay and helping to process corn at a plant in Moses Lake.

During Alice's years in high school, 1963-1965, she did not participate on inter-scholastic athletic teams because equal opportunity was not provided for the girls except for competing on the tennis team, of which, she was a member. It wasn't until 1972 that Title IX corrected that situation.

Alice took this athletic discrimination to heart and became a pioneer in women's sports. She believed that exercise was instrumental for the growth of every woman. She also challenged traditional gender roles.

After graduating from Ephrata High School, Alice...

...received a degree in Physical and Health Education from Western Washington College of Education (later Western Washington University).

...began teaching career at Centralia, WA Junior High School. After one year made a big move to Bogota, Columbia, South America to teach at an American School. In 1975 returned to the United States and began teaching at Kenny Lake School in Alaska; coaching basketball and starting a hockey program. Finally landed at Homer High School where she coached ice hockey, basketball, softball, baseball, track/field, cross-country running and gymnastics 1975-1994. Successfully led Homer's team to 1990 State Volleyball Championship and was named 1992 Alaska Volleyball Coach of the Year.

...participated in team sports where she was named 1978 Most Valuable Player on the All-Alaska Women's Basketball team and in 1980 participated in the Arctic Winter Games.

...followed her "gypsy spirit". Traveled for three months in Europe with two sisters and a friend to experience different cultures. Returned to America from teaching in South America; covering 10,000 miles on a motorcycle. Lead a group of young people on 1976 bicycle trip from Oregon to Washington DC to celebrate the nation's bi-centennial year. Completed a trip from Alaska to California to attend the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles and continued on to Mexico.

...became a much-respected citizen; was elected Mayor of Kachemak, AK 1978-1980. Was a much-loved educator and coach. At Alice's passing in 1994 the Homer High School named its gymnasium for her and a "Play Like Crazy" Volleyball Scholarship was created to honor her and her personal motto. In 2008 she was inducted into the Alaska High School Hall of Fame for her contribution to sports.

Alice Witte 1947 – 1994

Submitted by Rock Witte:

Alice Witte, exceptional athlete from Ephrata High School.

Alice Witte was in high school from 1963 to 1965. She participated in track and field and band. After graduation Alice attended Western Washington State at Bellingham. To finance her college education, she bucked hay with her family and helped process corn at a plant in Moses Lake.

Having graduated from college her first teaching assignment was at Centralia Junior High in physical education and health. After that first year Alice, her sisters Nancy and Patricia and a good friend, Pam Pogemiller, traveled to Europe for three months. They toured with motorcycles and cars; sleeping in hostels and tents. Upon return Alice started another adventure, leaving the states to teach in Bogota, Columbia at an American School. An interesting experience early in the morning was herding the livestock off the fields so the students could play soccer. At the end of her contract Alice purchased a 250 Suzuki motorcycle; driving it 10,000 miles from Bogota to Ephrata.

Alice had a gypsy spirit and unable to find a teaching job, she decided to join her sister Patricia and family in Kodiak, Alaska. She refereed men's city league basketball while looking for a teaching job. In 1975 Alice secured a teaching job at Kenny Lake, Alaska. She taught and started the hockey program besides coaching basketball. While at Kenny Lake Alice led a group of young people on a cross-country bicycle trip starting in Oregon and ending in Washington D.C. to celebrate the nation's bi-centennial. Alice led several other groups on bicycle trips in the Pacific Northwest.

Alice accepted a teaching/coaching position at Homer High School where she would spend several years coaching various sports.

Another important milestone for Alice was a bicycle trip from Homer to Los Angeles for the Olympics. She traveled on to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Alice Witte Remembered



Sports and coaching flowed in the blood of Alice Witte. Before Title IX was enacted, Witte was a pioneer in women's athletics, believing that exercise was instrumental for the growth of every woman. She challenged traditional gender roles to become an outstanding college and international basketball [player](#).

Witte moved to Alaska in 1975 to teach at Kenny Lake Elementary School. For two decades (1975 to 1994), she coached ice hockey, basketball, softball, baseball, track and field, cross-country running and gymnastics.

Her Homer High School volleyball team won the state championship in 1990. And, in 1992, she was named Alaska Volleyball Coach of the Year after her team played in the state championship [game](#).

Witte excelled in arenas other than coaching. In 1978, she was named the Most Valuable Player in the All-Alaska Women's Basketball team. She also played basketball in the Arctic Winter [Games](#) in 1980. Despite all the time she spent fostering the skills of student-athletes, she still made time to serve as mayor of Kachemak from 1978 to 1980.

After Witte died of breast cancer in 1994, Homer High School named its gymnasium after her, in recognition of her time coaching the volleyball team until 1993. The "Play Like Crazy" Volleyball [Scholarship](#) was created in honor of Witte and her personal motto.



ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008

Alice Witte
Homer High School

Rock Witte, Ephrata, (center back) was proud to accept the hall of fame honor in memory of his sister Alice.

The Class of 2008 honors three of Alaska’s finest prep athletes, five legendary coaches and one tireless contributor. These inductees demonstrate the synergy and effectiveness of interscholastic participation, and demonstrate the lifelong values of sportsmanship, integrity, teamwork, self-discipline, loyalty and cooperation that are instilled by Alaska School Activities Association.

