

KIDS & COMMUNITY — Coming Together

A “Remember When” by Jack Cooke '53, Lifetime Member #44

It was January. 1950. IVHS! New! Wow! The excitement approached fever pitch as we moved in. But our enthusiasm was tempered a bit when we saw the bleak landscape. Were we going to wallow on a gridiron of muddy ruts and rocks? In the dark? Building the new high school had tapped out the district building budget. “Back in the day” budgets were taken seriously. There was no money for frills. We had to play our '50 home games on the old Robbers' Roost field. “What to do?” The cry swept from the student body out through the Valley. Quick and loud came back: “We'll do it ourselves!”

Valley organizations and businesses held “*Lights & Turf*” project meetings. Principal Harold McAbee and student body prez Jerry Linkhart '51 represented IVHS. A Westinghouse Electric engineer, Mr. Morra, donated his system design for the lights and drew up cost figures. A grading plan appeared. All we had to do was come up with the cash. Over \$16,000.

Everybody dug deep. The Eagles put on “smokers,” the American Legion held dances, the O'Brien Womens' Club, PTA, Lions, and Chamber of Commerce had fundraisers. Cabax, Rough & Ready, Moore's Lumber gave dollars. Cave Junction businesses chipped in. Copco donated the poles and cross arms.

We students were asked to come up with \$5,000. A lotta moola in 1951. Puget Timber donated land directly to the student body and we sold it for \$3,000. After tossing around ideas, we voted to sell non-interest bearing bonds for \$5 and \$100. *Anybody out there have one of those bonds?* The committee fanned out: Betty Tibbs '51, Bill Kester '51, Virginia Fuller '52, and myself as chair. Arle Scott '52 was cashier, and Lucille Kelley our faculty advisor. Competition was organized among home rooms. We spread posters all over town. In only nine weeks we had the \$2,000. Phyllis Dick '52, Hubert Blue '53, Dwain Cross '51, and Jerry Kelly '51 won top seller prizes.

The girls' PE classes picked the rocks off the field. The field got graded. Copco brought the poles. Westinghouse delivered the lights. William Menozzi's shop class assembled them and the wiring on the cross arms. Walt Farmer '52 remembers he got an “A” in shop for the long hours he spent hooking up those lights. Then the big rain arrived. A minor setback. We're talking Oregon here. Students, faculty, Copco, Larry Musil, Wayne Barry, and George Mulvey got it done at the last minute. We still had mud. And sawdust. The whole team had “Cougar gridiron itch” for days after a game. The turf part didn't happen until a year or so later. But on October 26, 1951 the cheering community of Illinois Valley joined the cheering students of IVHS. It was Homecoming on Ivy Field. Cougars 38, Eagle Point 14. **Under lights.**

Today one of the new LBMS buildings sits on our old 50-yard line.

Ed. Note: Jack is a Communications Field Engineer. He started “retiring” in 1992, but because of his expertise gets called for special jobs by Bechtel, Ericsson, and the like which he accepts when he feels like it. He and Pat enjoy time with their kids, grandkids, and the menagerie, but are especially devoted to their mountain-top estate which probably boasts the only completely outfitted train caboose in the Sierras.

The Class of '53

Celebrating 55 Years

5 p.m. Friday July 4
River Valley Village Clubhouse \$5
5:30 p.m. Saturday July 5
Junction Inn Boswell Room
Prime Rib, Salmon or Chicken
\$22 (Gratuity Included)

Details:

Jack Cooke

reunions@ivhsalumniandfriends.org

Gift Basket: Christmas in July

The Class of '58

Celebrating 50 Years

4 - 6 p.m. Friday July 4
Wild River & Pizza Banquet Room
5 p.m. Saturday July 5
Red Garter Steakhouse
Prime Rib, Halibut or Chicken
\$18 (Gratuity Included)
Reservations Required!

Details:

Gary Meredith

reunions@ivhsalumniandfriends.org

Gift Basket: Wine & Chocolate

The Class of '63

Celebrating 45 Years

5 p.m. Friday July 4
BBQ at Lynn & Lary's House
\$5 & Toting Sides
6 p.m.
McGrew's
Prime Rib, Halibut, Chicken
\$28.50, \$21.50, \$18 (Gratuity Included)
Reservations Required!

Details:

Lynn Riggan Smith

reunions@ivhsalumniandfriends.org

Ann Nora McDermott Kruger

reunions@ivhsalumniandfriends.org

Gift Basket: Stay in Touch