

Reunion: Members of WHS's 100 graduating classes gather to reminisce

Continued from Page 1

They were part of the community. ... It was very much a family kind of place. Look at all these people that still get together."

About 150 people poured through old annuals, took photos and chatted about high school days.

Don Whetsell, who now lives in King City, was a member of the class of 1950, the first to graduate from the new WHS campus after it moved from the site of today's grade school.

"I was a Huckleberry Finn



Larremore



Dyer

type," said Whetsell, 87. "I used to disappear and be gone all day. We'd play on the log rafts on the Skipanon. They used to call me Skipanon Don."

Doris Dunn Larremore was more into music than sports and, like many teenagers, often felt as if she didn't fit in.

"I got married and dropped out and they wouldn't let me come back," Larremore said. "That's how things were

back then. I got married and so they figured I might bring some sin if I came back. But then I was told the school



board can't keep you out." So she returned, graduated and proudly calls WHS her alma mater.

There also were adjustments for Ginny Schlecht Dyer, who graduated in 1981.

"I moved from a big school to a smaller school," Dyer said. "It was a little different here at first. You don't realize everybody's related to everybody. But after living here for so many years, I can appreciate the bonds of a small community and I understand the kinship."

For Robert Vollmer of the class of 1952, high school was a time of small rebellions and the comforts of community.

The high school had no lawn back in the day, he said, and the father of a classmate who lived in a trailer across the street once came over and spun donuts with his tires in the dirt in front of the campus.

"As I look back, it was exciting," Vollmer said. "As a kid, I was mischievous."

He got a ticket at age 15 for driving without having a legal driver with him. His mother knew the judge and was able to talk him into a reduced fine.

Susan Jensen Walker, class of 1980, appreciated the small community and small classrooms.

"Teachers could look right at me and know whether I'd gotten it," she said. Later, he family moved to Corvallis "and it was totally different."



Above: About 150 people attended the July 21 reunion.

Top right: Robert Vollmer confesses he was a bit mischievous.

Left: Members of the class of 1962 sit still for a group shot.

Below: Jerry Beard of Napavine, Wash., and Warren Hubbard of Longview remember when there were no traffic lights in town.

Photos by Cindy Yingst

Her husband, Brian Walker, class of 1975, has never lost his appreciation for the small town of his youth.

"It was a nice small town and everybody knew everybody," he said. "No. It's not the same today. Today Warrenton's got its own strip (near Costco). It used to be that the only strip in town was the one down Main Street."

Would he rather forego today's better shopping oppor-



tunities?

"I'd turn it back. I loved that time."

Seaside offering beach wheelchairs

The Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District has made two beach-accessible wheelchairs available to the public.

The wheelchairs create new opportunities for those with mobility issues. Outfitted with large, wide tires, the wheelchairs can be pushed across the sand.

Manzanita was the first

community on the Oregon Coast to provide beach wheelchairs and Cannon Beach followed last year.

Randy Anderson, a local painter, was one of the driving forces behind the program. Reservations are encouraged by calling the Bob Chisholm Community Center at 503-738-7393.



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