

WI-P A-HI-SC

IT WAS A GREAT REUNION!!!

From Friday night's informal gathering to the picnic on Sunday, there was never a quiet moment.

For those of you who could not attend we missed you and you missed a very warm experience.

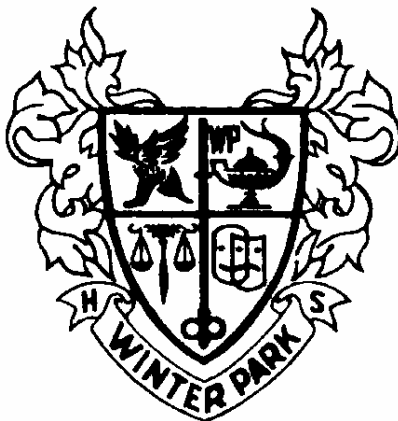
About the group photograph...

Our formal group photograph could not be used since it was out of focus and underexposed. We've been scrambling among the "amateur" shots taken by spouses and have come up with the one enclosed. The enlargement is a little grainy because the type of film used does not enlarge well, but it does record the historic event! (In case you suffer from one of Tirzah's "senior moments" sometime in the future, individuals are identified on a separate page.)

About the reunion budget...

During the planning stage of our reunion, projections were made regarding attendance, expenses and revenue. Due to a good turn-out, generous donations, rebates from several vendors, (and of course sound management!!), we closed out the books with a surplus of funds.

At the tour of our school campus we learned that WPHS is planning a 70th birthday party, tentatively set for late March 1997. In conjunction with this event, fundraising is planned to provide finances for needed equipment and building renovations that the county and state are unable to fund. Your reunion committee has agreed to donate all



remaining funds to WPHS's Huntington Avenue campus (our WPHS). Our gift will be applied to the renovation of the 900 Building (former industrial arts facility) to be used as a weight room and for the ROTC, serving both male and female students. A plaque recognizing this donation by the WPHS Class of 1956 will be displayed at the school.

If your schedule permits, you may want to attend the WPHS 70th birthday celebration. Tentative plans include involvement of the alumni, community, faculty and students. A dedication of some facilities will take place, live music, BBQ, with stories and videos depicting the history of the school are on the agenda. The exact date will be announced soon.

About our alumni directory...

An updated copy is enclosed and includes a few corrections of area codes, etc., as well as the addition of spouse's names (where appropriate) and birthdays. Let us know if you locate any more of us, if you move or add an e-mail address.

About this season's holidays...

May they all be merry and bright. Best Wishes for 1997.



One of the *many* highlights of the Reunion weekend, was the Sunday Service conducted by our own Rev. Bob Partlow. For those of you who were unable to attend we are reprinting his remarks.

Remarks by Rev. Bob Partlow
Sunday, October 27, 1996
Amphitheater at Mead Gardens
WPHS Class 40th Class Reunion

It is customary to start a worship service with a word of greeting, telling the congregation that you are glad to see them---but I need to tell you guys that I am **really** glad to see you all!! This has been a marvelous reunion! The service leaflet indicates that I will make a few brief "remarks". I specifically will not be "preaching" to you for two reasons:

First, to take the position as "preacher" is to set oneself apart, different from the assembly. That is not a position that I can take for I need to be with you, not set apart. The journey of life that I am on includes all of you; part of who I know myself to be comes from my association with you now and through the years---I cannot set myself apart.

Second, I cannot preach to you because I do not know where you all are on your spiritual journeys. I don't know the state of your faith. It may be strong and it may be lost right now. It may embrace the Christian tradition and it may not. My remarks come from the Christian tradition, but I believe that what we are about this weekend embraces a truth that encompasses all religions; so even if Christianity is not your faith, please bear with me.

I cannot preach, but I can make remarks reflecting what I do know about you and one thing for sure is that you "showed up". You showed up! That modern American philosopher Woody Allen has observed that "80% of life is showing up" ---- I think he is right; and you showed up. I would like to suggest some ideas on why we all showed up and then as the program indicates, I would ask you to respond.

Our Gospel lesson that Tom Kyner read indicates Jesus teaching that we invest our treasure in what we value. We have spent treasure to attend this reunion, perhaps not so much financial treasure but for me a weekend is an increasingly valuable treasure. Why spend it this way?

Let me suggest two reasons:

First I think we are here because we understand that life is a continuum. What we were 40 years ago is not simply past and over. What we were then we are now---certainly the externals, the packaging has changed, but in reality there is no difference between past, present and future. We live in the eternal "now". Forty years from now by the mercy of God most of us will be gone yet will still exist---that which is the essence---the soul---of what we were 40 years ago and are today will still exist. In Christian language we would express this as eternal life. To deny the importance of the past would be to deny the importance of both today and the future. Being here as we pick up conversations interrupted 40 years ago we confirm the continuum of life.

Second, I believe we are here because we understand that we need each other to understand who we are. We are all on a religious journey whether we are religious or not. We are trying to discover who we are---what the meaning of our lives are---how we fit together with the rest of creation. Ruth and I visited the Morse Museum on Park Avenue where they have such a glorious exhibition of Tiffany glass. What wonder and beauty comes from all of the glass as it has been crafted and fitted together. This is what we are about in our lives---trying to fit in the last pieces; trying to become whole---trying to become fully the people God created us to be---in Christian terminology, seeking "salvation"; wholeness, health. We are here, I believe because we know that through each other we better understand our own lives and how the pieces fit---coming together our pieces are shaped and polished to fit into the work of art that is the mosaic of our lives. I thank God that you all showed up! This has been a most important part of my coming to understand my life---I pray that it has been for you as well.



Thank You from the Reunion Committee...

For your warm responses to the mailings and various requests for information, for the great attendance, and for your enthusiasm. The success of the weekend was really yours. You made all our efforts more than worthwhile. *See you in 2006!!!*