

# IN GENERAL

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## *My Impressions of The Penman Magazine: Snapshots of Washington-Lee Students and Signs of Their Times*

The Washington-Lee High School Alumni Association's Digital Year Book Project involved scanning all the W-L yearbooks and placing them on the Internet Archive, a non-profit digital library, for anyone with an Internet connection to view.

The W-L Alumni Association decided to add nearly 3,000 pages to the almost 22,000 pages in the 87 yearbooks produced by the students of W-L almost as an afterthought. The addition permitted a significant decrease in the cost to digitize the yearbooks.

After attempting to find 4,000 pages of uncopyrighted text, the current W-L Publications sponsor, Catherine Misar, mentioned that the bound copies of The Penman Magazine might provide the necessary number of pages. All bound Penman Magazines from 1948 through 1973 consisted of almost 4,000 pages and were sufficient to surpass the 25,000 page requirement for the reduced scanning price.

This was my first experience with The Penman. As a student from 1950 to 1953, I was not aware of the contents of this magazine. I can't remember if I ever read one during my student years. However, as I began counting pages in each bound set I soon became aware of this treasure trove. Short stories, drawings, poems and advertisements filled the pages. Even so, I did not spend a lot of time perusing the magazines until they were finally scanned and placed on the Internet. Then I had a word-search capability provided by the PDF format. The collection of bound magazines was placed on the Internet Archive in the summer of 2013. Access to these issues of The Penman can be obtained from the W-L high school web page under the "ALUMNI" tab. They can be accessed on-line (for the best resolution) or downloaded in PDF format for storage on local systems.

Naturally my first search used the word "High" and so many citations were produced I revised my search using my sister's name, Darrell-High, and scanned the set. This

quick search found her short story – "Chariot" which was the ELOS (Arts Honor Society) Short Story Award Winner in 1951. That search piqued my curiosity and I have conducted many searches since then.



Staff of The Penman dedicated the Spring 1960 issue to faculty founder Mary Councill. It was the last issue produced under her direction. Drawing of Mary M. Councill, The Penman, Spring, 1960.

The Penman was the idea of Mary M. Councill, an English teacher at W-L from 1945 until 1960. Its first issue was published in April of 1948. The first few years of the magazine produced primarily textual stories and poems with very little artwork. The articles then and through the early 50's had themes related to World War II. Advertisements were initially attached to the end of each issue of The Penman. Over time the staff began to integrate the advertisements along with the text and art. Some of the artwork is startling.

Poetry ranged from the abstract to the real world and often reflected the personal feelings of the student authors. Short stories addressed contemporary events and provide interesting insights into from students' viewpoints.



Illustration by Robin Bray accompanying "By the Sea, at Nightfall" by Richard Puckett, *The Penman*, Spring 1972.



"Successful Bid for a State Title" by John Hummer, *The Penman*, Spring 1965-66.

Stories of teachers who had made great impressions upon student writers are sprinkled throughout the magazine. The magazine also speaks of the great sports victories during the mid-1960's from the eyes and hearts of the players themselves. I found Milton Irvin's March 1951 story of the first W-L Crew and its founder and coach, Charlie Butt an exciting read.

The artwork becomes more and more fascinating. Brock Read's auto rendering is one of the finest I've seen. Robin Bray's galleon above was certainly another fine example of the artwork that brought awards *The Penman* garnered over the years.

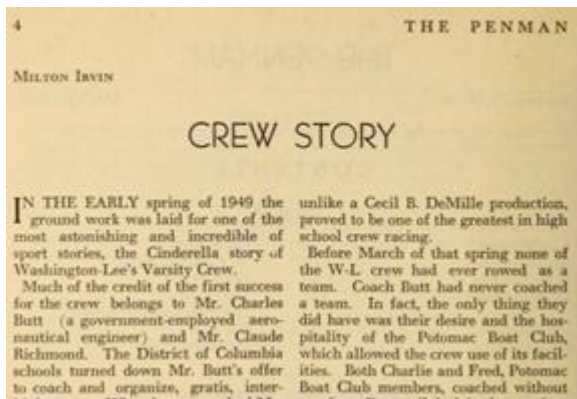


Image of "Crew Story" by Milton Irvin, *The Penman*, March 1951.



This detailed illustration of a 1959 Corvette by Brock Read, accompanies "Our Neighborhood Sports Car Clan" by Paul Williams. *The Penman*, Winter 1959, Courtesy Internet Archive.

The Basketball teams of the 1960's were very successful. Ed Hummer, one of W-L's finest ballplayers, wrote "Story of a State Title" in the Spring 1963 issue after his team won the Virginia State Basketball Championship. That year, Ed was a senior and co-captain of the basketball team. Three years later team co-captain John Hummer, Ed's younger brother, wrote about his own team's 1966 state title win. John followed his brother to Princeton University that autumn.



This illustration by Nick Hoover accompanies short story "Dahlias and Decay" by Holly Windle. The Penman, Fall 1970-71, Courtesy Internet Archive.

This drawing is one of the most eye-catching items found in the Penman during the period 1948 through 1973.

Take a spin through the 30 years of The Penman and don't forget the word search capability. It is a fun ride.

*Editor's Note: Penman founder Mary Council served as faculty sponsor for 15 years. Mrs. Patricia Grafton briefly served as sponsor until 1963, when a newly-arrived faculty member, John Harocopos became the sponsor. Mr. Harocopos served as The Penman's sponsor for 36 years until his retirement in 1999. Issues of The Penman from 1948-1973 are available via the Washington-Lee Alumni web page at: <http://www.apsva.us/domain/2429>. Look for the link under the contents tab on the left side of the page. Do you have memories of The Penman you would like to share? E-mail the Newsletter Editor at [wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com) or add your comment to the "Memoirs" thread located under the "Alumni Soapbox" at <http://www.apsva.us/Page/10580>.*

Submitted by Pete High '53, edited by Jennifer M. Lane '95. Photographs courtesy the Internet Archive. Contact Pete High [wlaa.president@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.president@yahoo.com) for further information on the yearbook and digitization effort.

### *Meeting and Greeting at the Arlington County Fair*

The Alumni Association's booth at this summer's Arlington County Fair showcased the results of the recent Yearbook digitization project. While we had paper copies of the Blue and Gray on hand for classes holding reunions, alumni could access digital copies on a laptop computer.



Sherry Rose '83 and Tim Cooke page through a paper edition of the Blue and Gray



Michelle Beal Hackley '89 and her son Josiah found some familiar faces in a digitized Blue and Gray.

Our fabulous team of friendly alumni volunteers greeted fellow alums, curious fairgoers, future Generals, and even folks from rival high schools who stopped by. A big thank you to all who helped with the W-L booth before, during and after the Fair: Ann Felker; Betsy Lockman; Dede Macekura; Gail Chisholm; Jan Burchard; Jennifer Lane; John Lumsden; John Peck; Lynne Lilly; Mary Strehle; Mila Albertson; Nancy Scudder; Pete High; Phil Sheridan; and Sharon Lovering.



Pete High '53, Mila Albertson '66, Sharon Lovering '89 welcome a visitor to our booth.

Thank you to those who purchased W-L memorabilia or became active members. A portion of the funds raised from sales and memberships helps underwrite activities we do to support current W-L students, including support of the Blue & Gray, Senior Boat Party, Foundation Scholarship donation, and more.



Classmates Pete High '53 and Marjorie Melnick '53 share a smile.  
Submitted by Mila Albertson '66 and Jennifer Lane '95

### *Football District Champions*

Generals sports teams experienced many accomplishments during the fall sports season, but we wanted to highlight this one in particular. For the first time in 38 years, our Washington-Lee Varsity Football team claimed the District title. Even sweeter, the National District title came with a 10-0 victory over rival Yorktown Patriots, completing a perfect 7-0 National District record. The 1975 Generals, seen in action below, were the previous team to win a District title. Go Generals!



Photo Blue and Gray 1976, courtesy the Internet Archive.  
Submitted by Jennifer Lane '95

### *Robert McAtee '31 Turns 100!*



Happy Birthday, Mr. McAtee! Washington-Lee alumnus Robert McAtee celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this October. Mr. McAtee has been generous in sharing his memories with alumni, including during our high school's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Those of you who attended the "W-L Through the Decades" program co-sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Arlington Historical Society in September 2011 will remember Mr. McAtee sharing his memories of W-L during its first decade. I recently sat down with Mr. McAtee and talked with him about his memories of W-L (in a forthcoming issue) and presented him with a card, flowers, and a W-L blanket on behalf of the alumni association. Do you know an alumnus who is or is about to turn 100? We'd love to speak with them. Please contact me at [wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com).  
Submitted by Jennifer Lane '95

### *Memories As Shared on Tour...*

Every fall, local Washington-Lee High School alumni look forward to welcoming our fellow alumni who return to the D.C. area for their class reunion weekends. We give tours of the new school building and bring memorabilia for purchase to reunion events. Along the way, you share fascinating remembrances of your time at W-L and tell us what you've been doing since then. It's a privilege and a joy to meet you and to show you our school – in its latest form there are still echoes of previous years and shared experiences. Below are some photographs and a few fun things shared on our tours this fall. Thank you for asking us to show you around. We hope to see you again soon!



Jim Thomas '81 and John Peck '96 point out the Washington-Lee High School lettering from the original school building. After the building's demolition, the sign was hung above the Stafford Street entrance to the Commons on the new building. Today, it welcomes students, visitors, and alumni in the Entrance #1 lobby.

#### Class of 1963

- Jeanne Kingsbury Jacobs '63 reported at her reunion that her grandparents lived in the "White House" before the land became part of W-L. The White House housed the SCA, Blue and Gray, Crossed Sabres, and Penman staffs before it was torn down in 1968. She said that it was a bit nostalgic to go in the house while she was a student knowing that her grandparents had lived there.

#### Class of 1973

- During the '73 tour the electricity kept going off due to power damage from the storm the night before (October 4). At one point a group was touring a room where there were no windows and out went the lights. Thanks to the cell phone era, out came the flashlights on the iPhones and all went well.
- Susan Williams Bryan '73 asked: "What happened to the wooden seal in the center of the old gym floor when they built the new gym?" Anyone have a clue?



Members of the Class of '78 recall sports victories past as they gaze at sports banners in the gymnasium.

- Classmates enjoyed seeing class of '73 Vice President Steve Buckhantz, now a sports announcer for FOX news, at the reunion.

- Julia Money Crull, class of '73, noted that her mother, Mae Money Dulin '33 will soon be 98 years old. She still lives in her home on N. 19<sup>th</sup> street.

#### Class of 1978

- Jim Thomas '81 led this tour for his brother Johnny's class. Jim is faculty at W-L in the Social Studies department. Jim shared memories of the George Washington bust that used to be in the school's library... when it wasn't "removed" as a class prank. The bust showed up in many unexpected places. He recalled that one class buried the bust up to its neck in the school librarian's back yard, giving her quite a surprise when she stepped out the back door. The bust now enjoys a much more peaceful existence in Principal Gregg Robertson's office, from which it has never been stolen.
- We also heard that our Crew team received some funds from The Exorcist movie because they were on film. The cameo appearance by our crew team ended up on the cutting room floor, but they kept the funds.



Members of the Class of '78 take in the fabulous view of War Memorial Stadium from the school library's balcony.

#### Class of 1988

- The class of '88 had a very successful Walk-a-Thon around the track in honor of two classmates who they lost due to cancer. After the Walk-a-Thon they purchased memorabilia from a table that we set up for them outside the alumni closet. They then joined together for a tour of the building.

Submitted by Betsy Lockman '60 and Jennifer Lane '95.

## *Recent Additions Outside the Washington-Lee Theater Highlight Student and Alumni Achievements in the Arts*

Alumni touring the school this fall were greeted by two recent additions outside the Washington-Lee High School Theater related to the arts – one showcases contributions by current students while the other highlights achievements by our alumni.

Across from the Alumni Conference room, just outside the theater doors stand two new trophy cases filled with Band and Choral trophies. The awards displayed highlight the high caliber of Washington-Lee High School's music programs – and these represent only 2012-13 school year competitions. The choral, band, and orchestra rooms hold many more awards from previous years.



The case on the left holds choral and orchestral awards from the 2013 WorldStrides Heritage Performance in New York. WorldStrides sponsors student performance festivals and events around the country and abroad. The awards case incorporates photographs of orchestra members along with the awards. The right-hand case contains the band's awards from the 2013 Fiestaval competition in Myrtle Beach, which the band has participated in for many years. The new trophy case can barely hold all the awards won by the band at this year's Fiestaval, including four "Champion" and one "Grand Champion" awards. We look forward to seeing future musical achievements on display!

Passing through the doors into the theater lobby brings students and visitors face to face with framed movie posters showcasing five of our Academy Award winning alumni. Under each poster is a plaque with their names, graduation year, and awards. The display, in place since last January, was Facilities Manager Doug Zebrak's idea:

"We needed to dress up the lobby of the theater, and with such a rich history of successful alumni in Hollywood it seemed to me like a perfect match." The first poster from the movie *Gloria* represents Gena Rowlands '47.

Rowlands was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actress twice and won for *Gloria* (1980). Rowlands has been nominated for a Golden Globe multiple times, and her two Best Actress wins are noted here: *A Woman Under the Influence* (1974) and *The Betty Ford Story* (1987). Next is a poster for *Terms of Endearment* (1983) representing Shirley MacLaine '52, then *Reds* (1981) for Warren Beatty '55. Beatty received a Best Director Academy Award for *Reds*, beating out Hugh Hudson for *Chariots of Fire* and Steven Spielberg for *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.



Members of the Class of 1963 examine the plaque listing awards won by Stan Winston '64 for his visual effects work.

Four-time Oscar winner Stan Winston '64 is represented by a poster for his first win for Best Visual Effects, *Aliens* (1987). Sandra Bullock '82 is the final alumna represented here by a poster for *The Blind Side* (2009). Her performance won her an Academy Award for Best Actress, among other awards. Zebrak hopes that the display inspires current students: "Those alumni on the wall were in the same position as them at one point. Anything is possible with some hard work." Submitted by Jennifer M. Lane '95.

### *Upcoming Meetings*

January 8	April 9
February 12	May 14
March 12	June 11

Meetings take place the second Wednesday of each month (except August and December) at 7:30 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School (1301 N. Stafford St.) in the Alumni Conference Room, located on the first floor on the Main Concourse. Use the Stafford St. entrance for access. All are welcome!

## *From the Archives*

Early issues of The Penman included faculty contributions. The first issue's April 1948 "Faculty Features" premiered with two poems that English faculty member and 1938 W-L alumna Betty Toone wrote during her studies at Madison College (now James Madison University). October's "Faculty Features" included two contributions by Edith Purcell under the penname (her maiden name) Edith Winfrey. Mrs. Purcell taught typing and shorthand to W-L students from 1938 to 1959. "Days," republished below, is one of those poems.

DAYS

By Edith Winfrey

In all the misty scenes of days gone past,  
Some are forgotten and like autumn leaves  
Fallen from the trees, have lain down at last  
Upon old leaves, that upon older leaves,  
Have become a part of the ages vast.

But among these scenes some are as sweet flow'rs  
Sent to us like patches of heaven  
On earth, and plucked in a few golden hours,  
Pressed in mem'ry's pages like a leaven  
Of rare perfume, they linger and are ours.

*Editor's Note: This is the first of a regular feature highlighting little gems found in digitized issues of Blue and Gray and The Penman, now published online in the Internet Archive. I hope it inspires you, our readers, to spend some time with the digital issues. Let us know if you find any favorites!*

Submitted by Jennifer M. Lane '95.

## *Alumni Association Officers*

Congratulations to our newly-elected slate of officers!

**President:** Pete High [Class of '53]

[wlaa.president@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.president@yahoo.com)

**Vice-President:** Betsy Lockman [Class of '60]

[wlaa.veep@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.veep@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Ed Peetz [Class of '70]

[wlaa.treasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.treasurer@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Susan Clay [Class of '62]

[wlaa.secretary@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.secretary@yahoo.com)

This newsletter is being edited by Jennifer M. Lane [Class of '95]. Questions, comments, ideas and newsworthy information may be sent to her at [wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:wlaa.newsletter@yahoo.com).

The W-L Alumni Association website, including the Alumni Database is available at [www.apsva.us/washingtonlee](http://www.apsva.us/washingtonlee) then click on the [Alumni](#) link at the top.

## *Upcoming Reunions*

2014

Class of 1959	Oct 10-11, 2014	Jane/Bob Lanham	<a href="mailto:rjlanham@aol.com">rjlanham@aol.com</a>
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**Current reunion information is always available on the [Reunion Scorecard](#).**