



# South Salem High School

*Class of 1963* **NEWSLETTER**

2020 Spring Edition

## PANDEMIC

### *Our New Normal Consists of Social Distancing, Senior Shopping Hours, Shortages!*

Our world is in a pandemic. We want to stay in touch with YOU, and wish you good health through this difficult time. Let us know how life has changed for you. Here are a few comments from classmates as we went into the “Self Quarantining”.



**C**arol (Davis) Shelp here. We may be in the highest risk segment of the population, but we are smart, and have all the grit necessary to get through this thing. David and I are self-isolating here at the house in Fernley, Nevada. As you know, David has a transplanted kidney, so has a weakened immune system.

I have discovered the pickup service at our local Walmart. I order online and go to the pickup area at the appointed time. They bring out the order and put it in the car and off I go without ever having to be in the crowded store. It works very well except for this past weekend when panic overtook common sense for way too many people and they overwhelmed the on-line system.

I have one question, probably rhetorical, what is with the toilet paper thing?!! It is insane, right?

I hope you and yours are also taking care and God Bless you and the gang. Love Carol

**B**ob Jones writes about a Different Crisis.

As we all fight, slog, crawl our way through the current health crisis, I thought I'd share a story about another crisis almost nineteen years ago. On September 11, 2001, Anne (Holweger) and I were in Scotland playing golf and researching pubs for our first golf travel guide. We were returning to our B&B after touring a couple of nearby castles when we were met at the door by our Scottish hosts with the numbing words, “America has been attacked!” We spent the afternoon watching the horrific New York scene on various TV channels.

I was shocked, but not surprised. Before our trip I had taught a class on terrorism's threat to top debate students from around the country at a workshop at North-



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# PANDEMIC

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ern Arizona University. We had talked about the possibility of using kamikaze-style attacks, but I mostly discussed cultural targets such as the Statue of Liberty, Golden Gate Bridge, and Mt Rushmore.

It was while we watched and contemplated the carnage that we became members of the family not just paying guests — the family just encompassed us. After breakfast the next morning when we left for our day's activity, golf was not on the agenda. We were cheered to see American flags in the windows of almost every Scottish house, but we wanted to do something calming. We chose to visit a nearby small cathedral in Dunblane not far from Stirling castle. The cathedral was nice, but it didn't serve its purpose of making us feel better. Little did we know that Dunblane village school was where the Dunblane Massacre took place — on March 13, 1996, a shooter killed 16 children, one teacher, himself, and wounded 15. There is a memorial in the back of the cathedral. Since we both taught school for thirty or more years, we were really bummed now.

Upon leaving Dunblane we drove to Callander village, Rob Roy country, to look for a place for lunch. We stopped on the outskirts of the village at the Myrtle Inn, a small hotel and pub. We sat in the small bar along with a local handicapped lady who looked to be taking her one meal out a day in the pub. She heard us talk with the waitress and asked if we were Americans. We told her we were. She then asked if we were alright, was any of our family hurt, did we need anything. That little lady will never know how safe and protected her concern for us made us feel. We have since felt that the whole country adopted us.

There is a sidelight to the 9/11 in Scotland story. In the Myrtle Inn the soup of the day was Fall Vegetable. As the waitress took our order, Anne asked, "What's in the soup?" The waitress looked at Anne with a sly smile and said, "Vegetables," and walked away. It was then we knew normal could return.

**Bob has a travel blog and website.**

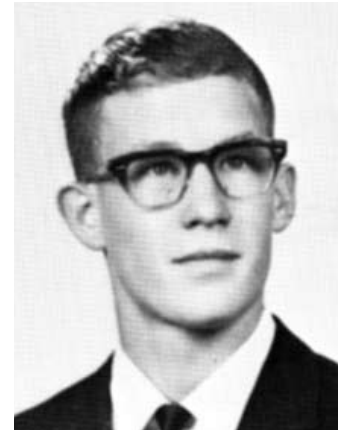
**Have pen and Camera, Will Travel -- <http://www.penandprint.blogspot.com>**

**website <http://www.penandprint.com> and click on the Blog tab**

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A note from Robert (Reg) Gipson Gentlepersons (a note to his staff)



As we prepare to get thru these next weeks together, we need to prepare for both a crisis winter and a crisis blizzard within that winter, with the sure knowledge that after winter comes spring as surely as day follows night.

This means that we need to plan and implement in several categories: a) immediate actions, b) intermediate term actions, and 3) longer term actions. We have the time to do so, and we will use the time to do so. Things will get worse, then linger, then things will get better.

1. The virus blizzard is gathering, but has not yet struck Los Angeles. We have about 10 million people in Los Angeles County and 53 reported cases. Even after those suffering with the virus double, double again, re-double, etc. it will take about two months to hit the peak of the storm.

2. Because we are very early in the process, we have the time to prepare, and we should use that time wisely. During the worst of the virus blizzard you are going to want to be able to minimize your interactions with other people so as we go forward take the time to prepare. I anticipate the worst of the blizzard will be about two weeks long, when it does hit. It will not hit this week or next. See #3, below. Even during the midst of the blizzard for the vast majority of us the heavy lifting will be psychological — living with uncertainty and in social isolation — rather than physical. As we are highly social beings that is not surprising. As the uncertainties are resolved the psychological climate will ease.

3. For those of you who are interested I can share the math with you, but the math suggests that the "viral blizzard" will hit Los Angeles County several weeks from now, perhaps in early May or in June. It is not going to be this week, or next week, so we do have time to think, plan and act.

4. After the peak of the blizzard, things will settle down a bit, but we can expect the winter to linger for another couple of months. We are anticipating a strong recovery from winter in the 3rd and 4th quarter of this year.

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# PANDEMIC

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5. As you know, we have been working on law firm plans for a couple of weeks now, and we will continue to adapt and refine them.

In the meantime, let me close with some practical steps.

1. Even when you are working from the office, when you can coordinate by email or telephone rather than in person — gather information, instructions, etc. — use the remote means.

2. When you do need in person interaction, keep your physical distance of 6 feet.

3. Outside of the work environment please do minimize your social interactions by keeping that 6 foot safe zone around yourself whenever you can. Keep your social circle as small as you can for the next little while.

Take care of yourself, and watch out for each other. We will get thru this together and eventually we will be able to look back across the valley of the crisis from the other side.

Reg (Robert) E. Gipson

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Jim Pierce sends his thoughts on what is happening in Madera, California.

Are you sheltered in place where you are?

We are, the whole state.

COVID 19 - five cases in Madera county.

All brought in from people coming here from Bay Area. Two cases from people that attended a funeral with 500 people. Clear violation of 10 person rule.

Can go to grocery store.

Highlight of day two days ago I was able to buy one package of toilet paper. After four days trying and out of stock at Walmart.

Jim Pierce

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Margie Meier Cleland shares her thoughts.

Thanks for the update. I hope you, your family, and all our classmates are doing OK during this difficult time. I'm in San Francisco and we have been "Sheltering in Place" for over a week now and most people are taking it seriously and see a lot of neighbors helping neighbors. Please take care and stay safe.



Sharon Johnson Bradford also sends thoughts and good wishes to all.

What an interesting time this has been. Like everyone, we are learning new words, "Social Distancing," "Self-Quarantine," "Virtual Hugs."

Some new skills (well some of us) using Zoom and Skype to communicate with friends.

Several of my friends are having happy hour together in their driveways! My bookclub met via Zoom, and just had a board meeting the same way.

Shortages in the grocery store have also been an adjustment. When this started and I watched people buying five and six packages of toilet paper I laughed....but when I was having trouble finding it and needed it, it wasn't so funny. Still don't know what the reasoning was since the symptoms that are listed do not include any bowel issues. One gentleman told me he thought it must be the cure!

Now flour seems to be scarce, at least in the Roseville area. My thoughts on the hoarding (if that is what you can call it) is that if you only take what you need and can use all of us might be able to get by. Just a thought!

So as we continue to meet the challenges it is nice to be able to get out for a walk, or make 100 masks for friends to use, or read 60 books in a month, and put together many jigsaw puzzles! And the most important, stay in touch with friends!

Virtual hugs to all of you and stay safe and sane!



# The Willamette Shore Trolleys

by Dave Rowe



The trolley made into a “Centerfold glossy magazine”. Here is part of the article about the Trolley’s that some of our class rode last year. We will reschedule a mini reunion again when we can.

For the last year, one of the Willamette Shore Trolleys (WST) has been hiding out in the barn undergoing

a massive surgery that will ultimately go unnoticed physically – except for the lack of generator – when the project is complete.

With support from companies in Hillsboro and Hood River, and major donations from entities like the City of Lake Oswego, the City of Portland and PGE, the trolley is undergoing a \$262,000 battery conversion project. The project removes the diesel generator and replaces it with state-of-the-art DC (direct current) batteries and AC (alternating current) motors.

This alternative – which will eventually be completed on both trolleys – is more environmentally friendly and efficient. WST will keep the generator in storage as a backup.

This is a fly by the seat-of-our-pants experiment, never been done before, “ said the Communications Manager David Harold, adding that the trolley currently uses a generator which releases carbon into the atmosphere because there is no overhead wires for the trolley to run.

The reason the trolley is switching to four AC motors is because it’s more controllable and efficient.

Each trolley currently has four DC motors, though only two are operating because it doesn’t need that much power. It will be replaced with four AC motors that will



have generative braking – think about the way Tesla operates – where upon breaking, the energy is fed back into the battery. The batteries are about the size of a AA battery and they’re three volts instead of a volt-and-a half and we have 6000 of these all tied together to make 750 volts.” Said Dave Rowe with trolley maintenance (also known as Trolley Dave), one of the workers on the conversion project.

And he said everything is going to be DC but then Tesla wants to go with AC because with AC you can step it up higher voltage and step it down. DC, once you get voltage, you can’t do a whole lot with it.

Rowe said the new battery will have power most of the day and can be charged at night.



The less carbon we burn the less the earth’s atmosphere will warm up, Rowe said. We have been talking about adding solar panels to the trolley barn which would compete the energy supply package.

The electric work has to be reconfigures from scratch – and maintenance workers say that has taken a long time.

The revamped trolley is expected to be completed hopefully by the end of the year but most likely will be finished in 2021.

After it’s finished we have to test it, get ODOT to bless it safety wise and then we have to train our operators because they’re going to operate different. Then once that’s done, we can switch out the other one, Harold added.

The trolley seasons runs on Saturdays and Sundays from the end of May to the end of October with four round trips per day, and two round trips on Fridays in July and August.



# Appelgates Travel to New Zealand!

*By Roger Appelgate*



Rochelle and I made a return trip to New Zealand Feb. 10 to Mar. 14th this year. It is the country of more sheep than people! We last visited there for three weeks three years ago and loved it. It is such a beautiful country if you love the outdoors! We knew we had to go back. Life was normal

while we were there as the virus had not yet struck. We rented a car in Auckland on the North Island and drove carefully on the left side of the road down to Queenstown on the southern end of the South Island. We took the interisland ferry (with great views) from one island to the other, staying at small lodges and youth hostels along the way.

After a couple of days I stopped turning on the windshield wipers when I meant to use the turn signal! It took a few more days for Rochelle to stop urgently reminding me to stay over to the right center line and not drift too close to the left shoulder edge of the road. We returned the car with no dents or scratches!

We went to New Zealand for the wonderful hiking and bird watching and we weren't disappointed! We hiked the Coromandel Walkway on the North Island and the Queen Charlotte Track from lodge to lodge for four days, hiking along the eastern coast of New Zealand's South Island. We spent three sunny days hiking around Mt. Cook with amazing views of the many glaciers of Mt. Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain, as well as the other nearby mountains. Quite often the tops of these mountains are covered by clouds so we felt lucky. We ended with a six day guided hike of the Greenstone and Routeburn Tracks, two long-distance trails. We got a bonus 10 minute helicopter ride over one portion of the Routeburn track that had been washed out by an unusually heavy storm a few weeks before. We hiked the trails with a wonderful New Zealand company called Ultimate Hikes. They had their own lodges and provided all our excellent meals, greeting us at hike's end with cookies, fresh fruit, tea and coffee!

We also saw some amazing birds! On the North Island we stopped in Miranda at a seaside preserve at just the right time with the tide out to see a wide variety of migrating birds feeding in the mud flats and had the help of a naturalist to identify them. We also took a boat to Kapiti Island bird preserve which has no predators (no mammals!). We saw some harder to find birds such as the Kaka (a large flightless parrot), Tui, the flightless Takahe, Weka, and many others I don't recall. On the South Island we got to see the Blue penguins coming home at night from feeding in the ocean and the nesting site of the Northern royal albatross! We often saw the common and very social and beautiful fantail along the trails.

We had a wonderful trip and met some great people whom we hope will come our way to visit some day. We were lucky coming home through LAX to get through immigration and customs quite rapidly, in part thanks to our Global Access membership. Now we are hunkering down like everyone else and checking in by phone with friends and family.

Stay safe and be well,  
Roger Appelgate



*Roger and Rochelle enjoying New Zealand.*

# The Lunch Bunch!



## April 15, 2020 Update:

Since we are all still safely in our homes protecting our loved ones and ourselves, the LUNCH BUNCH of our class has started a "check in".

The lunch bunch was comprised of previous classmates willing to help with suggestions and ideas for reunions.

It evolved into monthly coffee's at a Starbucks in the old Lipmans building.

The group has since evolved into a monthly lunch at Elmers on Market Street.

A group email was compiled from this group of classmates.

It is NOT exclusive!

The email list has now become a lifeline to classmates in isolation. If you have received an email called SSHS63 checking in, that is how you made the list.

If you want OFF the list or ON the list let Barb Cross know at [barb.cross@comcast.net](mailto:barb.cross@comcast.net). We will probably send out a monthly or bi-monthly call to "check in" just to stay connected.

Thanks to Miles, Frieda, Denny, and the Elmer's lunch crew for instigating.

For now the lunches have been suspended!

# South High Begins Remodel



This picture is of South High track with trailers on the infield beginning the remodel. We will be sending pictures as the construction continues via e-mail. You can go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMm36nZtYIY> to see an overview of the bond measure to remodel South High.



*Don Sheldon writes ...*

Great to see the school improving the facilities, but very sad also. I watched the original school being built. Doug Squire and me played in the foundation and threw a lot of dirt clods at each other. John Reid also. The retaining wall plywood forms went down about five stories. The rebar steel was in the middle of the forms. We climbed down the forms to the bottom and ran around the entire foundation. It was dark at the bottom and you would look up to sky. If you were at the bottom, you might get a dirt clod from the kids up above. What a great time we had playing all day in the construction. No time for lunch. By the end of the day we would crawl home for hot dogs, potato chips and green Kool-Aid. Hot dogs and green Kool-Aid never tasted so great. Life was simple and wonderful during those days.

The land was a park with several softball fields before it was a school. My old paper route for seven years.

*Other comments we have received:*

Very interesting. I wonder how much SSHA cost new – certainly not 66 million.

(Answer: less than 4.6 million)

So sad to see this. I can't even think of the number of times Coach Flood sent us around that oval. And Leslie will be gone. It was old when I attended.

Nice to view the ol' place once more....I remember it well.....

Things they are a changin'. I look back at Leslie and I vividly remember being there and especially my science teacher - Just can't remember his name. (it was Wayne Meyer)

**FUNDING ISSUES:** This is not a time to ask for donations to support the Class of '63. In the last newsletter we listed the two accounts. One account pays for the continuing web presence: <http://www.sshs63.com>. The other account supports our mini reunions and the next 60th reunion.

For now, stay well and stay safe!



## In Sadness...



**MARY LOUISE  
BLANCHARD-PARKER.**



*April 20,  
1945  
December 20,  
2019*

Mary Louise passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on December 20, 2019.

Mary was born on April 20th 1945 to Richard and Avis Blanchard. She was the youngest of three children. The family moved to Salem in 1953. Mary graduated from South Salem high school in 1963. Mary began working for the State of Oregon at the Department of Justice as a child support case manager in 1980. She worked there for 29 years and retired November, 30th 2009.

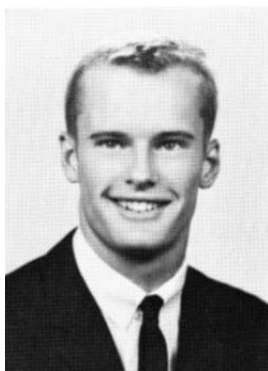
Mary was deeply devoted to her family. She adored her grandchildren and helped raise them. She was a strong and independent woman. She was the backbone of her family and she never gave up on anybody. Mary enjoyed watching Hallmark movies and she loved the holidays. She also loved cooking and baking goodies, and she was very good at it.

After retirement, Mary became an avid pool player and she played on many teams. She belonged to the STOP and APA Pool Leagues. She was often the score keeper. She made many friends from her pool leagues. Mary was also a member of the Keizer Elks club.

She will be dearly missed by all those who loved her.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Avis, Avis's 2nd husband Earl Wheeler, and her sister Wilma Blanchard.

She is survived by her brother Loren Blanchard of Culver, OR, husband Chuck Parker of Salem, son Jimmy Blanchard, daughter Tina Babb, and son Donald Smith all of Salem. Granddaughters Nichole and Courtney Babb of Salem, three great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



**JERALD J. WHITE**  
*Passed away  
October 14, 2019  
No obituary was available*

## Finding Classmates...

People are losing their landline phones or retiring and changing e-mail and home addresses. Please let Bernadette Barrett know if you have any changes to your contacts.

Please let Bernadette Barrett know if you have any changes to your contacts.: (541-753-3286 [rlbdbarrett@aol.com](mailto:rlbdbarrett@aol.com))

### List of Missing Classmates as of 3/24/19

James Alexander  
Michael Anderson  
Evelyn Cobb Lewis  
Judy Brimm-George  
Michael Butler  
Floyd Chase  
Katherine Jo (Katy) Clyde  
Ray Coopridger  
Schelly Culver  
Joan Davidson  
Larry D Davidson  
Karlet (or Carlette) Davis  
Robert A. Day  
Paul Dixon  
Carol Duggan  
Mary Jean Eller Woods  
Cheryl Franklin Pack  
Steven Ferry  
Larry Fisher  
Peter Groves  
Pam Gruel Charles

Jerry Hanson  
Joan Arlene Hudson  
Paul J Johnson  
Janet Jones  
Jane Louise Jones  
Diane Meloy Sandsburn  
Kathy Merin-Strickler  
Elaine Nelson  
Courtland Newhardt  
David L. Nicholas  
Nancy Noffsinger  
Joan Penniman Langa  
Elaine Pecht  
Stevie Romander  
Bruce Shuler  
Patricia Standal  
Sharon Thompson  
Gail Titus Redding Boatwright  
Jerry Tracy  
Mary Walberg  
Kathy Wilson

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## Notes

### From Classmates...



*Kathy Hall  
Highcove writes ...*

I've written a few stories for this newsletter but forgot to add my email address for reactions from my Saxon classmates. For example, the last story I wrote about the Columbus Day Storm, made me want to hear YOUR stories about that event. I am not able to attend the annual reunions, so please send anything you'd like to share to my e-mail address: [kghighcove@gmail.com](mailto:kghighcove@gmail.com)



# **PANDEMIC PHRASES**

**STAY HOME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE**

**PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**WEAR A MASK AROUND OTHERS**

**WASH HANDS OFTEN**

**DISINFECT REGULARLY**

**TAKE WALKS**

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS**

**ALL OF THESE WILL HELP YOU**

**STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!**