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Showing postings 1 - 14 of 14 in the thread: Windham High School Class of 1935.

Posting: Windham High School Class of 1935	Posting 1
Poster: William Brainard	
Date: 11 August 2006 5:00 AM	
<p>My mother, Sue Welles, was a member of that class. Her older sister Ruth was of the class of 1933 though Aunt Ruth spent her freshman year in New York City when the family lived in Riverdale during the winter. They came up to Melody Farm in South Coventry in the spring when the local roads not paved were mud holes. My grandfather old Tom Welles would rent horses and a wagon at the station in Hop River and the trunks would be sent to the house on South Street. Till the roads dried out, automobiles got stuck. South Street was paved by the late 1930s and my grandparents had lights by 1931 though Grampa had an old Delco battery system with wet cells that he ran the place with. He and his friend Cliff Linda delivered milk, cream, meats, veggies and fruit on a skiff my grandfather bought and motored around Coventry Lake to the summer people. When things went bad with the depression and the money dried up my grandmother, Ruth Welles, pounded the pavement at the college at Storrs and sold insurance to the professors. She did this relentlessly 5 days a week but she eventually earned their trust and made it pay. In 1932 after divorcing and remarrying my grandfather Tom Welles, my grandmother Ruth founded the Welles Insurance and Real Estate Agency. The first office was in the living room at the Melody Farm house; she later moved to the left shop next door to the Coventry Visitors Center across from the Bidwell Tavern. Next door was Bill's Lunch run by Bill Sledjestki (sp?) before he built the Light House and Shell Chateau. A lunch favorite was a hamburg called the Bloody Cow; it was a hamburg patty just seared and very rare, raw actually, peppered liberally with onions and condiment on a bun. It was a popular sandwich in the 1930s but had disappeared by WW Two when meat became scarce. When my grandparents died, my grandfather Welles in 1947 and Ruth Welles in 1955, my uncle Tom Welles moved the office up street after a mysterious fire burned out the office the day of my grandmother's funeral. He located the new office in the Ernest Woodworth place at the corner of Lake and Main Street (Rt.31) where the agency has been the last 50 years. Old Tom retired in 1980 and sold the real estate business to Tom Jr. and his wife Mercedes. By then the insurance business my grandmother had founded in the midsts of the Depression had been sold to Lenny Benjamin and moved to Route 44 in the Rappe office building in North Coventry. My grandmother Ruth, trained in voice and piano and a stage actress, taught music in the schools of Coventry, Columbia, Andover and Windham/Willimantic. She held yearly recitals in the late spring at her studio on Church Street. She was the first Democrat and woman from Coventry to serve in the state legislature during 1943. One of her fellow legislators was Chase Going Woodhouse. Mrs. Welles later headed up one of the first FHA offices in Hartford during the FDR years. When not tending to business matters, she painted in oils, tended her flower gardens and in 1948 started the Melody Dairy Farm after the death of my grandfather. At her death plans had been in the works to build a Shady Glen type dairy bar near the farm on South Street in Coventry. Hehee, I could have ended up a soda jerk. She was a presence in Coventry and the Windhams for decades.</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935	Posting 2
Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright	
Date: 11 August 2006 12:38 AM	
<p>My mother, Miriam Chasen, was also WHS Class of 1935. I have her yearbook somewhere. There is also a "dance card" from one of the WHS dances she attended. I believe that my brother has her scrapbooks, however. My mother's two older siblings also graduated from WHS (and Natchaug Grammar School). BTW I had some of the same teachers at WHS as they did!</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935	Posting 3
Poster: William Brainard	
Date: 11 August 2006 10:21 PM	
<p>I know; Mother talked about Miss Weathern and the girls gym teacher, "Big Jane" who lived with Edna W. They built a home in Mansfield Center and lived there for years on Rt. 195. My bros Tom and John (WHS '61) had Edna and J. Zalmon Hunt too. Poor J. Z. , he was at the 50th reunion of Mother's class in 1985 and was so depressed. Seems his mom had just died at age 99 and he was an orphan at the ripe young age of 75-plus. He really went down hill after that. Didn't he pass away not too long ago? They say his home was a treasure trove of stuff. Wonder who got it all? I recall the boys talking about the music teacher, a Mr. Quinn. John was on the Grinds Committee; could someone tell me once and for all what the Grinds Committee at WHS was all about? Thanks in advance!</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935	Posting 4
Poster: Mick Seretny	
Date: 12 August 2006 6:49 AM	
<p>Grinds committee were the people who worked on the yearbook. ( I think) heh..The school newspaper was known as The Croakings. Mick Seretny WHS 71</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935	Posting 5
Poster: Jules Corn	
Date: 12 August 2006 11:20 AM	
<p>Mr. Quinn was at the 50th reunion of the WHS class of 1954.</p>	
Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935	Posting 6

Poster: chas barrett  
Date: 12 August 2006 11:39 PM

I was in WHS Class of 1958....one of my classmates Ada often leaves postings here. We have our 50th coming up in 2008.

Any of you recall these teachers?:

Carl Gosline- Civics  
Barbara Pollard - English  
Madelyn Smith- freshmen English (what a babe she was ! )  
Mr Ebner-Math  
Mr Tom Callaghan- history, phys ed.  
Miss Avis Thompson- math

....And well of course Corky and Big Jane

Chas. Barrett

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935 Posting 7  
Poster: John Boudreau  
Date: 13 August 2006 5:15 AM

>Carl Gosline- Civics

I graduated in 1970 , but he was there then , although I vaguely remember him .

>Barbara Pollard - English

I had Miss Pollard , but if memory serves she taught Ancient History .

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935 Posting 8  
Poster: William Brainard  
Date: 13 August 2006 8:35 PM

Last I heard Avis Thompson's sister Louise was still living. She would be over 100. They had the old cape cod on Rt. 87 in Columbia. Louise worked at DMV for many years. One of the sisters posed for a Beautiful Hair Breck advertisement back in the 1930s or '40s.

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935 Posting 9  
Poster: r d  
Date: 14 August 2006 8:08 AM

Chas--did you forget Mr. Peepers?? (aka Herbert Arico) typing.

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935 Posting 10  
Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright  
Date: 14 August 2006 1:16 PM

I was on the Grinds Committee for the 1958 yearbook (The Crystal, I believe). That committee went through assigning those little "blurbs" for each person--tried to come up with something appropriate (and hopefully flattering) to say for each classmate.

Barbara Pollard did teach sophomore English. Mr. Callaghan taught Ancient History and coached the basketball team.

Also

Thomas Lawson, Math

Mrs. Maxwell, Biology

Mrs. Nightengale, Latin

Mrs. Smith, English (freshman),(she was relatively young and rather attractive (a babe, Charlie?), but I did not enjoy Ivanhoe nor

David Copperfield); Freshman English also taught by Ms. Wethern.

Mr. Stephen Tupper, Physics and Earth Science (baseball coach)

Josephine Kind (Junior English) - I can still hear her reading Act 1, Scene 1 of Macbeth

Mrs. Yates (mais oui!) French 1

Mr. Dudley, Math (Geometry)

Mr. Goodwin, Chemistry

Mr. Z. Hunt - Yes, he did teach my mother and her siblings. I was terrified of the required oral report to the class. Years later when I was having lunch with my father at Lindy's, Mr. Hunt was there (another story) and told me that they had to "burn down Amherst [College]"to get him out. I'm not sure that I believe that.

Mr. Johnson, Typing. My mother insisted that I take commercial typing, which I begrudgingly admit has been useful. Mr. Johnson was very strict, had supposedly been a drill instructor (which I do believe--"j m j space" to a marching cadence). He especially like to harrass the girls. To make matters worse, it was fourth period, which was never shortened because it was lunch period.

Mrs. Mahoney, Senior English for a couple of months before she left to remarry.

Mrs. King would substitute in Latin.

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935 Posting 11  
Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright  
Date: 14 August 2006 1:52 PM

How could I have forgotten Shirley Baldwin who took over Senior English from Mrs. Mahoney? That required "critique" kept us more than busy, to say nothing of the extensive reading each night. It was all good preparation for college, though.

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935  
 Poster: r d  
 Date: 14 August 2006 3:21 PM

Posting 12

Typing 101- I had Herbert Arrico right after gym senior year. I was usually late but not always. As graduation day approached the seniors got off classes a day early for some reason. Arrico made me come back to make up ALL the typing I missed because of gym class. The typing classroom was on the 2d floor. Arrico gave me an assignment from a typing book to do without any errors. He left the room--I was the only one there. Mr Johnson (typing teacher also) came in and asked what I was doing. I explained the situation. He told me to get up and he would type the lesson instructed I was to do. I said Arrico will still find mistakes--no way said Johnson. About 1/2 hour Arrico came back I handed the paper Johnson typed and he looked it over. At about the same time Johnson appeared at the doorway and heard Arrico commenting to me about the mistakes he found but would not make me do them over. I glanced over to Johnson and raised my eyebrows and he just looked and grinned.

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935  
 Poster: Debra Richards  
 Date: 15 August 2006 4:50 PM

Posting 13

Mr. Arrico is still teaching at Windham High School. They don't offer typing anymore, it's keyboarding, which Mr. Arrico teaches along with quite a few computer related classes. My son said he is in his 80's and isn't ready to retire.

Posting: Re: Windham High School Class of 1935  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 15 August 2006 11:47 PM

Posting 14

hi ada:

nice to "see" you here. how goes it ?? you have an excellent memory i must say, clearer than mine for sure.

I liked mr jack allen who taught art, a kind and helpful fellow. peter thorkelson who morphed into peter tork of the rock act "the monkees" was in my freshman art class in 1954 too. he was always making dry and witty remarks and hummed music constantly ala elvis.

if i have to say the least popular and most disliked teacher at WHS i ever knew was phys ed teacher chuck smith, a true bully and a particularly cruel guy, not to mention the most prodigious pompus ass i ever saw in any educator from CT to CA.

Chas Barrett