



the McNary Piper

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First graduating class reunites over the summer

By Parker Kehret
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McNary High School first opened its doors in 1965, and then in 1966 the first class walked the graduation floor. McNary's first graduating class reunited at McNary High School on Aug. 8th 2016. Out of a class of about 250 students, 12 graduates attended, where they participated in a golf tournament, a barbeque with North Salem High School's class of 1966, a tour of North Salem High School, and a tour of McNary where they reminisced over their times as students.

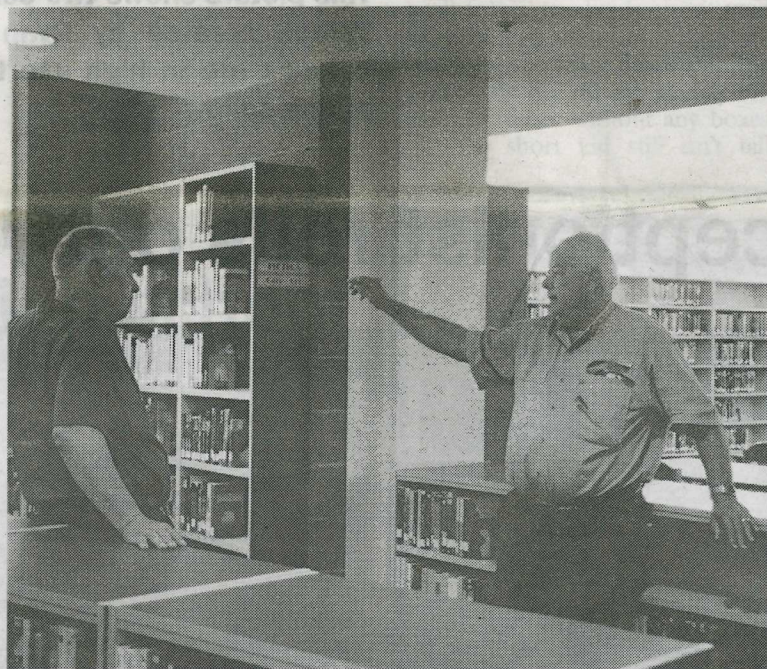
A lot of the graduates were surprised to see the changes from 1966, despite only being there for one year.

"Back then they had a girls league, but I'm not sure how long that lasted, but there were no sports for girls," Connie Bartlett, class of '66 graduate said. The first year there was no football field, because Whiteaker was being built. The kids from there were lodged in [McNary]. It was split between them, who had the first floor, and us who had the second floor."

"It's very exciting to be back. We were the first graduating class so we got to set all of the traditions, choose the colors, and we wrote the fight song, and the alma mater. Before we went here we had half days at North High School, we're the baby boomer generation so there were a lot of us, and we

were supposed to come here sophomore year, but everything was flooded and there were ducks all over the place, so they put us at North and went here later," Linda Collins said. Collins was the ASB secretary, and was also in charge of the 50th reunion. A lot of the graduates also had advice for current students at McNary.

"Think about the future and what you want to do for the rest of your life. Never stop learning, enjoy your activities, and giving yourself to other people," Merna Bender-Williams said.



Photos by Parker Kehret and Raqndom Pendragon
From left to right:
Lee Wilcox, Leslie DeLangh, Jeena Huntszinger (Kerber), Bob Claus, Steve Ernst (McNary High School custodian), Jim Smith, and his wife. Julie Eckerman (Sommeret) Nancy Moore (Clemens), Bob Moore, Linda Collins, Bill Hodges, Connie Pitts (Bartlett)

