

Interview with Betty (Ramsay) Osborne 1950s Graduate of Peoria High School

Name in school – Betty Ramsay (Betty Osborne today)

Graduating class – 1956

Favorite classes – Journalism and Photography - help print Panther Purrs.

Favorite teacher – Ray Mitokawa for U.S. History

Clubs – Betty was first girl enrolled in Agriculture class at the high school. She could not be in FFA because girls were not allowed in the club. She was in Saddle Club outside of school.

Sports – In Girls Athletic Association because there were no interscholastic sports for girls.

Peoria's Rival – Glendale High School even though they were a much bigger school.

Things you remember about school – “The one thing I didn’t like was that we had no choices for teachers. The school was so small everyone had one English teacher and that was Mrs. Howe.”

When did school start and end? – School started at 9:00 AM and ended at 3:00 P.M. School began after September 1st and ended about May 15th.

Did Peoria High School have a cooling system? - “There was one swamp cooler in the principal’s office, the rest of the building had no cooling system. It got hot in the afternoon and many kids would fall asleep in the afternoon.”

What did you do for fun? - “We used to water ski on the big canals around the farms. Also, the constable would close the station at 5 P.M. so we would drag race along 83rd Avenue. One thing you have to remember is that the city did not have much crime and as a result people would leave their homes unlocked even at night.”

Did you have a job during school or in the summer? - “I worked at the Glen Theatre in downtown Glendale. Kids went to the theater for 25 cents and could also go to the Glendale Drive In, which was located on Grand Avenue and 75th Avenue.”

Favorite memory of school - “My fondest memory was graduating from PHS and being a Panther.”

Betty had three children also graduate from PHS:

Carolyn - 1977

Cynthia – 1982

Caren – 1986

Bruce – 1975 – Son in law