

## **Life at Peoria High School in the 1950s**

- **Herb Mathis who was a graduate and class vice-president in 1950, later became principal at PHS.**
- **Senior ditch day in 1950 was to the Grand Canyon.**
- **In the 1950s senior classes had both class wills and prophecies for each student.**
- **In the 1950s the school entered a float and elected a queen candidate for the Salad Bowl each year.**
- **Clubs on campus in the 50s were the Atheneum Club (National Honor Society), FFA, FHA, Annual Staff, Hi-Y, Y-Teens, Panther Purrs, Radio and Science Club, Letterman's Club, Girls Athletic Association, Cheerleading and Band which included Majorettes.**
- **In the 1950s the school went to playing 11 man football.**
- **The athletic teams began having Junior Varsity programs and eventually towards the end of the 50s Freshmen athletic teams.**
- **One of the fixtures and legends of the district, Wilma McDonald, was the secretary for the high school principal.**
- **Girls were not allowed in Agriculture classes until 1953 and were not allowed in FFA in the 1950s.**
- **In 1950 the drinking fountains in the Old Main building were cooled so students could have cold water.**
- **Lunches in the cafeteria in the '50s were 40 cents a plate.**
- **In 1951 the basketball team became the first PHS athletic team to play out of state as they traveled to play in Blythe, California.**

- **In 1953 the high school got its first swamp cooler in the form of a \$308 cooler for the administrative office.**
- **In 1953 instead of having a parent's night, the football team had a dad's night with their sons.**
- **In 1955 the school district had a fleet of 8 buses, two pickups, one jeep, one station wagon, and one mechanic.**
- **Raymond Kellis began teaching at Peoria High School in 1956. In 1978 he became the superintendent for the school district.**
- **The woodshop in 1956 was between the Old Gym and Old Main.**



**Woodshop in 1956  
PHS**

- **Peoria High School won the 1957 State Baseball Champ and was State Runner-Ups in 1956 and 1958.**
- **The scoreboard for the football field was donated by Saliba's market.**
- **Peoria became much more successful when the same coaches started coaching together as a group. Mitokawa, Arney, Johnson, Kellis, Kiel, Hunter, and Arduengo.**
- **Peoria also stopped playing all the big schools as they were put in a conference, which made them more successful.**