

Panther Purrs for the 1960s

- On Saturday nights a lot of people spent their time cruising Central Avenue in Phoenix and eating at Bob's Big Boy.
- The Peoria Invitational Wrestling Tournament was started in 1968.
- The library used to be in the Old Main Building on the second floor.
- Clubs and activities on campus included: Science Club, Spanish Club, Art Club, Y-Teens, Photo Club, National Honor Society, Chess Club, Auto Club, Girls Athletic Association, Lettergirls, FHA, FFA, Student Council, Newspaper, Yearbook, High Y, Band, Chorus, Poms and Cheerleaders.
- In the 60s the school would nominate usually two girls and boys to go to Girls and Boys State. They would learn about and participate in setting up state government.
- The day that President Kennedy was assassinated the students were dismissed at noon to go home.
- FHA Bachelor was a contest that they had every year.
- FFA Sweetheart was crowned at the FFA Dance.
- Randy Holmes was elected to All-State in three sports in 1968-69. This was in the sports of football, basketball, and baseball.
- Fred Miller who was an outstanding football player in 1964 went on to play on the Phoenix College National Championship Team.
- In 1969 they still had a Carnival King and Queen.
- School dances were held on campus in the cafeteria.

- Freshman basketball practiced on the cement courts outside the old gym.
- When it first started wrestling practice was in the old shed next to the bus garage.
- They had very little weight equipment so they would put cans with cement on the end of bars to create something to lift.
- The teams that Peoria played against were usually Agua Fria, Tolleson, Buckeye, and Dysart. Our biggest rival was Agua Fria.
- In 1966 and 1967 Peoria football teams both had a record of 8-1. Their losses were to Agua Fria who won the league championship and therefore got to advance to the State Championships.
- The biggest rivals in basketball were the Owls of Agua Fria and Buckeye while the best games to watch were the games against Phoenix Indian School.
- The floors in the old main building were wood and everyone had indoor lockers, which were located in Old Main.
- When it rained school was usually dismissed at noon as the Agua Fria River would rise and keep kids from the north and west of the district from going home. (Rainy Day Schedule)
- There was a dress code in the 60s and if you didn't conform you went home.
- In the 60s field day changed to more fun activities instead of track activities. Contests included things like egg toss, cotton bale rolling, Izzy Dizzy races, tug of war, etc. The craziest one was the chariot races where girls were put in a cut-out 50-gallon drum and pulled by guys around the track.

- Homecoming was a big thing with a parade, floats, dance, king and queen, and a bonfire the night before the game.
- There was an unofficial ditch day for the seniors but not as big a thing as in the earlier years.
- There were Majorettes for the band, sometimes with a drum major.
- One of the contests that occurred every year was the Junior Oratorical Contest. Students wrote up speeches on a topic and then had an Oratorical Contest within the school.
- Peoria has always honored its top students. Every year a Valedictorian and Salutatorian were chosen to give a speech at graduation.
- Freshman Initiation was part dress-up and part competition during the 1960s.
- In the early 1960s, the FHA sponsored a Miss Posture contest each year.
- Peoria graduates Jim Montoya, Jack Snyder played on the National Championship baseball team at Glendale Community College in 1967. Jim Williams who was a principal and teacher at PHS also played on that team.
- Buz Turner from the 1965 basketball team went on to play at GCC and Grand Canyon University.