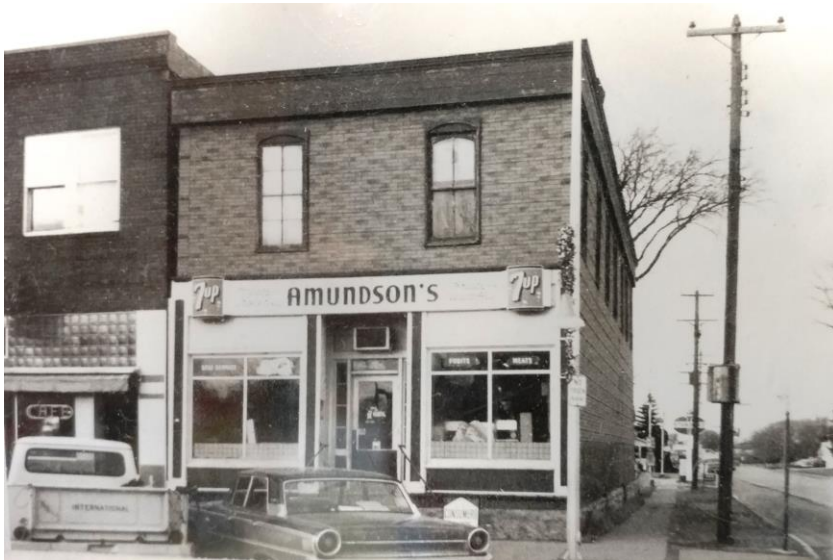


I want to open with just a word about the Memorial Day service at Concord Cemetery this year. It was an honor to speak to those who showed up on a cloudy cool day in late May. It was so good to see so many people, some I had not seen for many years. I offer my thanks again to Tom Turner, Commander for Langemo Post 295, for asking me to speak. It was a special honor to do it in front of our own WWII veteran Tommy Hall. I want to reminisce in this month's column. I remember the store on the corner that was Pirkel and Hall's Appliance and TV repair. It was the TV repair that as a lad I was most interested in. You see when our old tube type black and white TV went on the fritz, we would call the store to get on the list to have their repairman come out to the farm. It was tough waiting a day or so because I never knew if Beaver got out of that water tower or if Mr. Ed got over his laryngitis. But they would come out in a very timely matter and I would help the repairman (a.k.a. watch the repairman). I would ask him if he liked Eddie Haskell or if he knew someone like Eddie Haskell.

Tommy Hall and his son Craig (WCHS class of 1965) were tremendous trap shooters. A clay pigeon never stood a chance against either one of them. They were known nationally for their expert shooting.



At the cemetery, I saw the marker for Ernie Amundson. A few minutes later I was retelling the story about one Friday night in West Concord. You will recall that Friday nights were the night to be in town as stores stayed open until 9pm. Even the banks were open in the evening. The year was probably 1963. My classmate Dennis Wilson and I were sitting on the front steps of Amundson's grocery store. For you kids who don't remember, it was on the northwest corner of the intersection of highway 56 and Main Street,

where the park is now. We had a stop light of sorts. It had one light facing each direction. They would flash yellow for the highway traffic and flash red for the Main Street traffic. Well as Denny and I were sitting there, the light all of a sudden fell to the middle of the highway. It was never replaced and that was the end of stoplights for West Concord. That very light fixture is now on display at the West Concord Historical Society museum.

Speaking of reminiscing, Dan Lulf, a member of the All School Reunion Committee, as am I, shared some references to days gone by in West Concord on the Facebook Page 'You Know You're From West Concord.' Check it out if you haven't already. There are 350 of us on there. Dan had found a list from one of his brother Larry's reunions. Here's a sampling of some of the things that bring back memories. It was entitled 'Must be from West Concord if:

- You knew there was a bathroom under the City Park pavilion
- Used Wright's corner as a landmark
- Recognized a 1953 green on green Chevrolet sedan as the city police car

- Played all your home football games in the afternoon (We were the Wrigley field for high school football)
- Purchased items at Amundson's grocery and just said charge it
- Stores had counter checks and they would ask if you wanted 'Farmers' or 'First National'
- Called Alma Ross and Melva Starman, the phone operators, by their first name
- You remember Glenn Fellows phone number was 1 and Super Value was 8 (the old phone book is in the West Concord Historical Society museum and you can look them up)
- You played in the band directed by Clarence Lee. You remember in the summer playing under the water tower on those previously mentioned Friday nights
- Watched outdoor movies on the side of Dr. Healey's dentist office while your folks shopped in the stores
- You remember Dr. Healey had a foot-powered dentist drill
- You were whistled at by Doc Olson
- Shot pool at Nig's (Vance Nelson)
- Drank a real soda at the soda fountain in Griffin's Drug Store
- Watched Cliff Ferguson shoot pigeons that were on the roof of the old school
- Ice skated under the watchful eye of Vern McGinley



There were many more. You have to go to that Facebook page to see what you're missing. Dan also has a Facebook page called the West Concord Minnesota All School Reunion. We'll be sending out 'save the date' cards in a few months but here's a heads up, the date will be June 24th, 2018 at the Four Seasons Arena in Owatonna. As an added note here, the next All School reunion is scheduled for Sunday, June 25th, 2023

One final thought as we go down memory lane with this column. In a comment on Facebook, Tom Langer (WCHS class of 1972) mentioned riding the Rock Island line to Minneapolis when passenger trains still stopped in WC. Dahni Lermom (also class of 1972) shared this memory of riding the train.

'One time the train pulled into WC and it was around Christmas. It was a snowy evening and as the train pulled in, I was mesmerized by the snow falling on Main Street and the Christmas lights strung across the street. Dad was waiting for us standing by the car (a black and white two tone

Ford?) wearing his black fur hat. I was probably only 5 or so. A memory I won't forget. Can close my eyes and still picture that scene looking out the train window.' I told Dahni that would be so cool if there was an actual picture like that. But it's probably only in her memory. The rest of us will just have to imagine that scene. For you folks who don't remember Dahni's dad, Aldrich Iverson, Farmers State Bank.