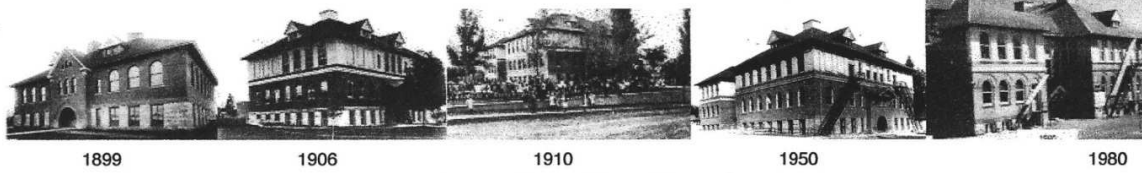


Grant Grade School



ALUMNI NEWS

*Spring Luncheon on April 16, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. at Timbercreek Grill Buffet has been **CANCELLED.***

We are looking for new leadership!

I never knew one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adj, adv, prep.

UP

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost ¼ of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now...my time is UP! Don't mess UP.

Send this on to everyone you look UP in your address book...or not...it's UP to you. Now I'll shut UP!

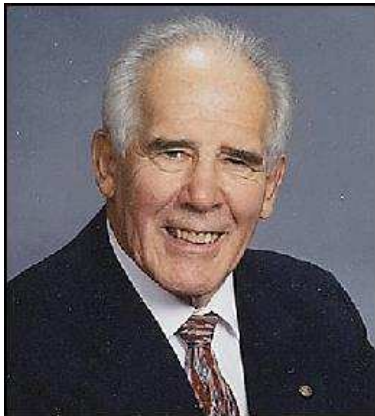
We are looking for new leadership!

Excerpts from an article in the Feb. 27 issue of the Spokesman-Review

Students in Grant Elementary School's Dancers and Drummers performed African dances at the South Hill Library Feb. 22 as part of the library's Black History Month programs. Music teacher Kevin Cope has led the group for 21 years. Cope told us that it was started in 1974 to help the African American kids to be proud of their heritage. Grant Elementary now has many minority and immigrant students. Some come from African countries. Any student from 3rd grade up can join the group. The students learn about African drumming and dances, but they also learn how to work together.

Obituaries:

Class of January 1936



George Hayes Pettis was born in Spokane on December 23, 1922 to Harry and Marie Pettis and died in early January 2020. **He attended Grant Grade School** and Lewis and Clark High School, graduating in 1940. On December 3rd, of that same year he joined the United States Navy. He served throughout World War II on destroyers in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. He received a Purple Heart during action in the Philippines. He attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer and was honorably discharged from the Navy on December 20th, 1945. Instead of a career in the Navy, he chose to go to college under the G.I. bill. He attended Gonzaga University, graduating in June 1949 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His first job was as an Engineer at Kaiser Aluminum at Trentwood, Washington where he met his first wife, Helen Huetson. Soon after they married, in September 1950, his job took him to several states. George and Helen had three children, David, Karen and Ann. In 1960 George returned to Spokane as a plant manager. He stayed in Spokane for 18 years and then moved to Vancouver, WA and Seattle, retiring in 1988. In the course of life George met and married Shirley Pozzi. They have shared many good times and adventures in their years together. George is survived by his loving wife Shirley, his three children and his three stepchildren. A memorial service was held on Thursday, January 9th, 2020 at Heritage Funeral Home on Government Way.

Obituaries continued:

Class of January 1939



Virginia Danke, a pioneer for women's sports in the region, died February 16 at the age of 94. She was born in Spokane on March 9, 1925, the oldest of 4 children. She graduated from **Grant Grade School** with the January class in 1939 and, after graduating from Lewis and Clark HS in 1943, she went on to WSC in Pullman and earned a teaching degree. Her first job out of college was a 1-year stint as the girls' PE teacher at Clarkston High School. The remainder of her teaching career was spent at her alma mater, LC. She retired from teaching high school in 1977.

She first coached golf and tennis at LC, then the only interscholastic sports offered to girls, and went on to coach basketball and volleyball, winning a city title in the latter. She helped start the gymnastics program in Spokane, and all along coached the LC cheerleaders too, acknowledging that sometimes it meant 16-hour work days. She also started the Ti-Girls marching unit at LC. Although she retired from teaching and coaching at the age of 52, she never "retired."

Virginia was a founding member of the Hobnailers hiking club in Spokane in 1951, a regular participant and "its president for 60 years," said her nephew, Bob Kenyon, of Ritzville. She was involved with Meals on Wheels, and she held an odd job or two through the years, like working the "will call" window for TicketsWest and leading travel groups.

Kenyon said Virginia was one of the pioneers of women's softball in the Spokane area. She coached at WSU (then Washington State College) when she was going to school there. Besides softball, Danke played tennis in her younger years, and was a golf "lifer," still playing the sport at 94 that she took up in her 20s.

Virginia loved Spokane and the cabin on Lake Pend Oreille. She spent a lot of time at the lake in the summers. She lived all of her life in her childhood home except for college years and her year in Clarkston.

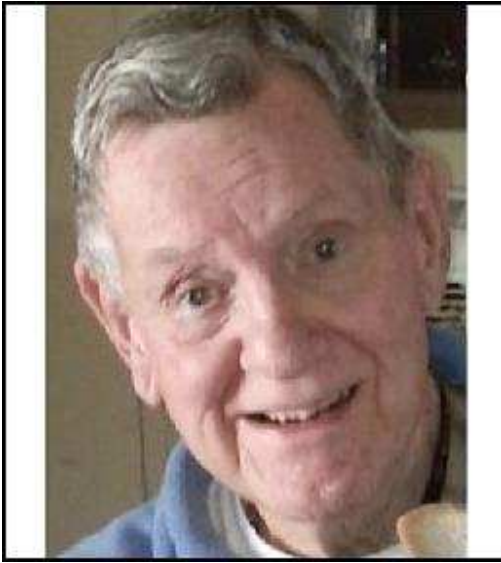
Virginia is survived by a brother, Dr. William Danke of Chelan, Washington, two nieces and nephew Kenyon. She was preceded in death by her parents and 2 sisters. A gathering of family and friends was held on March 14.

(A personal note: Jim Nyborg's wife, Carolee, was a student of Miss Danke's in Clarkston. On June 22, 2019, Virginia attended Jim and Carolee's 60th wedding anniversary party.)

The July picnic is "scheduled" for the East end of Grant Park on

Saturday, July 18, 2020. We hope we can meet then!!

Class of June 1948



Fred Peter (Pete) ASHLEY

Pete was born in Spokane at Sacred Heart Hospital to Fred C. and Ruby (Walsh) Ashley on February 1, 1933, Pete passed away March 20, 2020, in the same hospital where he was born. Pete was the youngest of six children. Having five older sisters, Pete always joked that all his hand-me-downs were dresses. As a young boy, Pete was stricken with rheumatic fever and went to live at St. Luke's. After nearly a year in the hospital, Pete was still very sick and he was sent home to die. He thrived at home and lived close to 80 more years. Pete graduated from Grant Grade School in June 1948 and from Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Class of 1952. He enlisted in the Navy Air Force, later serving in the Korean War. Following his honorable

discharge in 1956, he attended Washington State College for a year. Pete then went to work for Public Finance in Great Falls, Montana. Pete later transferred to Ontario, Oregon and, in 1962, he and Marian Malloy married. Pete worked in several cities during his career and retired in Spokane. He enjoyed his retirement years driving an airport shuttle for The Hampton Inn. Pete had a unique sense of humor, always joking around. He loved his Dodgers, 49ers, Cougar football, Gonzaga basketball and the Spokane Chiefs. Pete is survived by his daughters, Tara Ashley, Gemille Wise and her husband Jon; daughter-in-law Mauri Ashley; grandchildren, Cody, Brock, Michael and Benjamin; sisters, Pat Howard and Judy Ellis; and several nieces and nephews. He will be missed. Pete was preceded in death by his son, Merritt; parents, Fred and Ruby Ashley; sisters, Anita Johnson, Jo Peterson, Grace Brodhead; all five brothers-in-law, and three nieces and two nephews. At Pete's request, no service was held.

Excerpts from an article in the April 8 Spokesman-Review

Grant Elementary Offers Activity Packets, Food to Students

Grant Elementary School staff did a wonderful job Monday morning as they offered books, games, hygiene products and wholesome food which was put in bags and stacked at the front entrance. But some of the kids would rather have had a hug from their teachers. This had not been the plan for spring break before the coronavirus hit. Various organizations donated the contents of the bags. Some families were not even coming to get the donations, but were thankful that bags were being dropped off at their doorsteps. It was obvious many kids missed their teachers and school, but the contents of these bags are helping with food and activities for the children.

We are looking for new leadership!