



HAVING FUN TOGETHER AGAIN — Attending the balloon release are, from left (top photo): Doug Bernhoft, Carol Hornung, Karen (Skinner) Bernhoft, Mary (Wagner) Oger, John Pfeffer, Diane (Hanson) Pfeffer, Barb (Wilkosz) Lloyd and Charles Whiteman. Missing from photo: Julia (Hess) Hammon, Peggy (McCabe) Smith and Carolyn (Farner) Schapp. The bottom photo shows the seniors as they were in 1961.

WVCS's golden seniors celebrate 50 years

Ten members of the class of 1961 celebrated the 50th anniversary of their high school graduation July 9 and 10 in West Valley.

The West Valley Central School graduates began their commemoration with a get-together at Charles and Diane Pfeffer's house in West Valley.

There, the group paid respect to six of their classmates who have passed away. After a moment of silence, the present members released two balloons with the names of their old friends.

Although some are gone and five others were unable to travel to West Valley, the rest of the group spent the afternoon reminiscing about their high school days. They recalled June 26, 1961, the day they walked across the stage and received their diplomas. Some had gone to college, while others entered military service or joined the work force. Despite the different

paths they had taken, they said they were glad to be back together in the place where it all began.

An alumni banquet for all WVCS graduates was held that evening at the school. WVCS Superintendent Hillary Bowen honored the class of 1961 by presenting each member with a signed "golden graduate" degree. All of the alumni had a chance to mingle and reflect - even one member of the class of 1936.

The golden seniors finished their celebration the next day at Doug and Karen Bernhoft's cottage on Lime Lake in Machias.

While eating chicken barbecue from Crazy Jim's Catering, the group shared memories of play fundraisers that helped raise money for their class trip to Washington D.C. Later, the 10 graduates were treated to a pontoon boat ride by their hosts.

Article courtesy of Christyn Enser.