



Jack J. Anderson, Class of '55, has retired from a varied career and now spends his days writing, golfing and enjoying family and friends. His books and other writing can be downloaded for free from jjanderson.info.

When I was a freelance writer in San Francisco, I did a series of interview articles for a magazine. But I myself have never been interviewed, so, when Kathy Finley suggested I write an article for *The Dawg*, I decided to interview myself. . . .

Half a Century! Are You Sure?

The Dawg: It has been more than half a century since you graduated from AHS, what has happened to you over the years?

JJA: Wow! When you put it that way it seems like a *very* long time ago indeed! I've had many great adventures of body, mind and spirit and today I *really* appreciate life.

The Dawg: What from your AHS days did you take out into the world?

JJA: Oh my, many things. One summer I worked for Bill Davies editing film while he was out on medical leave. His training and that experience landed me a job as a film editor for KOAT. And my other Audio-Visual Aids Club experience and contacts helped get me a job as a radio announcer and disc jockey.

The Dawg: Did you pursue a career in those fields?

JJA: No, I eventually ended up in what was then called electronic data processing but is now referred to as information technology, or IT. I worked forty-five years in IT jobs.

The Dawg: So you're a computer expert?

JJA: Oh my no, *far* from it! I'm just another home computer system user. IT, like science, changes too rapidly these days for me to keep up. But speaking of science, in the fifties AHS had *great* science courses, including Doc Harrington's "Dawn Patrol"

where science students did lab experiments two mornings a week starting at 5 a.m.!

The Dawg: You liked the sciences?

JJA: I did. And also anthropology and archaeology. They were taught by another PhD, Winfred Buskirk. I took English from his wife who had a Masters Degree.

The Dawg: What did you learn from Mrs. Buskirk?

JJA: Well for one thing, I learned writing can be hard work, especially extensive research, but it can also be very satisfying.

The Dawg: Did her class inspire you to take up writing?

JJA: No, like a lot of other writers, writing is something I *must* do. Sometimes I write well, sometimes not so well, but it is an enduring part of who I am.

The Dawg: Do your AHS days influence your writing?

JJA: Well, I'm sure they do. Drama instruction from Stan Rarick, my summer at Boys State, Eldred Harrington's wide-ranging lectures on topics *other* than science, singing in the Glee Club and operettas, learning about other cultures all influenced me, although I did not realize at the time how much. And, after all, there were *girls* to think about! Even a skinny, geeky nerd thinks about girls.

The Dawg: Are you married?

JJA: I am no longer married but I am grateful for each lady who has touched my life. I have three wonderful children, nine grandchildren and a great grandchild on the way. My son and his wife added my ninth grandchild by adopting a Ugandan orphan.

The Dawg: Then you would say your life has turned out well?

JJA: I would say very well indeed. I am grateful for my AHS education and for the adventures that followed graduation.