

THE OWLETTE DISPATCH

Fresno High School Class of 1958

Newsletter No. 3

Fall, 2004



1958 Varsity Baseball Team. Front row: Marion and Ollie Bidwell. Middle row: Clark Bridgeman, Wayne Howard, Ron Levi, Gary Gostanian, Chuck Smith and Tom Jacobsen's widow. Top row: Kryn Van Elswyk, Lynn Rube, Jim Maloney, Dick Ellsworth, Fred Tuttle.

Around Fresno High

By Buddy Arakelian

How would you like to go to a reunion which included alumni from other classes, in addition to your own class? I attended the 5th Annual All-class Dinner on May 1, 2004, which honored the 1958 Varsity Baseball team. Each year in late April or early May, the Alumni Association blocks off Echo Avenue in front of Fresno High and sets up tables for dinner. You never know who you're going to run into. I plan on attending every year from now on. For more information, call Jack Fowler at 559-291-3533 or Jackie Garo Boyajian at 559-224-6643.

If you haven't seen the Fresno High auditorium since it has been restored, you might consider going to the Max Muscle Bodybuilding and Figure Championships on March 19, 2005. I will be competing in the Grand Masters (over age 50) division. The opportunity to be on stage at my alma mater after all these years is irresistible. For ticket information, call the Max Muscle shop at 559-437-9396. There are other events open to the public at Fresno High which might interest you more. The Fresno High office can give you information for coming events.

The following article appeared on the editorial page of the Fresno Bee on September 6, 2004:

Fresno High's Resurgence

Fresno High School has been a school in transition for a number of years. The city's oldest high school has often been the campus that students and parents shunned, instead choosing to attend schools to the north or magnet high schools.

That, thankfully, is changing. The addition of the International Baccalaureate diploma program is making Fresno High the school of choice for many students and is re-establishing the School's academic reputation. The IB program has a rigorous curriculum and offers advanced classes that can count toward college.

The trend is a welcome one for a school that dates back to 1922 and was once the pride of the community. *Editor's note: FHS started on the campus of Emerson School on K Street in 1889. Future issues will detail information about FHS beginnings.*

MORE FROM THE 45TH CLASS REUNION



Dancing to the beat.....Olga Ermoian Sarouhan, Gary Gostanian and Roger Beer

INTERVIEWS WITH TEACHERS

Five of our teachers attended the brunch held at San Joaquin Country Club during the 45th reunion festivities. Here are some quotes recorded on the video interview with them:

David Hendrickson, "I taught History and Senior Problems while I was at FHS and the class of 1958 was so dynamic that I left when they did and went to Fresno City College."

Wallace Taylor, "I was at FHS from 1952 to 1959 when I transferred to McLane High School. I taught History, Civics and Senior Problems. I enjoyed my experience at FHS; I'm now retired and do as little as I can get away with."

Antonio Petrosino, "I was at FHS from 1954 to 1963 when I transferred to Hoover High School. I taught Spanish and Latin. I enjoyed the class very much; enjoyed FHS, also. In fact, at that time, FHS was the school in town." Mr. Petrosino wished everyone watching the video a happy reunion in Spanish. *Editors note: Mr. Petrosino looked younger than most of our classmates at the brunch.*

Mel Wapner, "My first year at FHS was 1957 and I taught Forensics, English, Baseball and light weight football. Congratulations to the class of 1958."

Bruce Mecartea, I have spent all my life at FHS. I was a student graduating in 1942, returned in 1949 as a teacher and spent my entire teaching career there until 1985. I taught Drama for 10 years then English for 36 years. I do congratulate the class of 1958, a wonderful class." The interviewer asked how the kids have changed over the years. He replied. "Greatly! Greatly! In dress codes, attitudes, interests. Greatly, it was much better in the 50's. They cared about the school, their studies, and their classmates. They had great pride."

RECONNECTING

By Vernie Morison Rehart

How often do we hear about couples reconnecting at their high school reunions? Some of these encounters result in marriage and that's exactly what happened to a couple in our Class of 1958. **Lyn Darby** and **Jim Maloney** were high school sweethearts during their junior and senior years, but the relationship ended after graduation and each went their separate ways. The next 40 years found them each with families and careers that took them to different parts of the country.

Jim signed a major league baseball contract with the Cincinnati Reds in April of 1959. Prior to his move to the "big leagues", Jim played for the Reds farm team in Topeka, Kansas, where he met and married Carolyn Daugherty in 1961. Jim's successful career as a Red's starting pitcher lasted 10 years before a career-ending injury occurred in 1970 when he was 30 years old. It has been said he had one of the "fastest" fastballs in baseball. Jim continues to hold the Reds record for the most career strikeouts. Following his baseball career, Jim returned to Fresno in 1972 with his wife and three children.

Lyn, in the meantime, graduated from Fresno State in 1962 and moved to Los Angeles that same year to work for a national corporation as an executive assistant. Lyn married in 1963 and lived in the Southern California area with her husband, David Ellsworth, and their two children.

Each of their marriages ended in divorce...Jim's in 1989 and Lyn's in 1984. But not until September 19, 1998, at our 40th reunion did they realize that each of them was there--single and unattached.

This October Jim and Lyn will celebrate their 4th wedding anniversary. *Editor's note: I know there are more reconnecting stories; send us your story for future editions.*



Lyn and Jim in 1958



Lyn and Jim in 2000

Some email comments received by the committee about the newsletter:

From **Lonna Enos Hiatt**...when she received the last Owlette Dispatch she notified the reunion committee that her last name was listed incorrectly. It is not Heath, but Hiatt. She continued by saying, "It was good to see a familiar name and remember those times so long ago. I'm doing fine, my husband and I live a very happy, comfortable life in the Sierras. Other than the normal aches and pains of our age, life is good."

From **Arlene Mazgedian Cartozian**. "What a fine newsletter and having my photo included with Carson Mah and Bruce Brownlow was a real honor. I never thought my email would have been published but it was funny and hopefully received a few chuckles. Carol commented that her Jim got more publicity than most. All is well with us...I'm excited to announce that my sculpture site is finally on the web: sculpture-stone.com. It's still in its infancy but gives a pretty good overview of what I've done. I still think of the reunion last year and neglecting to bring my Johnny Russell cd. It would have been a tribute to have our disc jockey feature him, perhaps at the 50th."

From **Rita Comeau Martina**... "I was thrilled to receive the newsletter and felt so bad that I have missed several reunions. It always seemed that something or other was on the same date. We moved from Fresno fourteen years ago and live in a wonderful small town of less than 8,000 people, called Newman. We are very active in the town; my husband is even the mayor pro-tem. I finally graduated from college in May of 2003...what a great experience. I'm thinking about going back and getting my Master's, as I really loved the learning. My husband Bob (FHS '55) and I are going on 44 years of marriage. We have two daughters and four grandchildren. Grandchildren are so much fun, and you can give them back when you are thru playing with them. I am substitute teaching, so I really see a lot of children daily. Thanks again for the newsletter, and I might add that I'm a wee bit jealous missing all the fun."

TIME CAPSULE



The Saga continues.....no one has come forward with any information about the time capsule that was buried under our class plaque. It surprises this editor that there is no one who remembers anything about a committee.....a decision on what went in.....or the ceremony to bury it. **Pat Scheidt Austin** is still on the lookout for any information that will help us in locating and unearthing the capsule.

In Memoriam, 2004

Judy Kempf Drake, June. **Chris Bowlby**, August. **Jerry Pino**, September.

WHY A NEWSLETTER?

By Jim Shields

Most of us keep some sort of mental calendar with which we measure the passage of time. These abbreviated segments mark special events and often represent major periods of our histories. The births of our children are notably the major events of each family throughout the years. Many of us also look to periods of serious growth, such as the educational segments of our maturation and major life experiences. For most, the high school days represent the time when we all began to view the world in a much more poignant and objective light. Very likely, all of us remember those groups of experiences, awareness, and self-development more than at any other time in life, however minor it might seem now.

As the Class of 1958 lumbers on toward our 50th Year Anniversary, this benchmark needs much attention and focus. Due in a large part to Buddy Arakelian and his tireless efforts and management, we have enjoyed more reunions than most classes. His dedication and leadership has enabled us to all stay in touch over the years. And since the anniversary of the year our dispersment into the world is special, your reunion committee wants to memorialize the event in a way that none of us will ever forget. We have plenty of time (2008) to utilize the creativity and zest inherent in the members of our class who are willing to plan with us. Versions of the Newsletter you are now reading will be sent to you at least twice a year. With email, etc., contact is easier than ever. We encourage all of you to help us schedule and produce a Reunion that represents the intelligence and creativity slumbering in the brains of our classmates.

Additionally, to produce a newsletter that is both relevant and timely, \$\$ are necessary. Also, it is likely that the development of a Reunion we can brag about for decades will require some financial assistance. We would be grateful for any donations. As mentioned above, we have lots of time between this autumn and the fall of 2008. Our needs for ideas are, however, even more important than money. As you receive and glance through this and future editions, keep in mind that we'll only have one 50th Class Reunion. We hope many of you agree that it should be memorable. Send information, money, stories you remember from 40 some odd years ago, and suggestions you might have as to theme, location, etc. We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact Buddy Arakelian or one of the reunion board members with donations, stories and/or ideas.

I will to Tim Indart my English Literature book and to Evabelle Reiber my supply of Scotch jokes.

I will to Karen and Sally just one more date with Bob and Larry and to Kathy Kerber my techniques on how to ditch and get away with it.

I will my imitations of Mr. Amend to some unsuspecting "youngin" and a charter membership in the Tubby Pitts fan club to all junior girls.

I will to "Bouncy" a large size stabilizer, to Becker a big bad Chevy V-8 and to Harmon and Aram some girls.

Answers: **Pat Archuleta Chahal, Vernie Morison Rehart, Julie Caglia Rocha, Cline Jack, Bruce Cambern.**

DID YOU KNOW...

.....Cathy "Vernie" Morison Rehart is working on her sixth edition of The Valley's Legends & Legacies? What is a Legends and Legacies you ask? Al Smith, wrote of her first book, "...is about the people and places of the San Joaquin Valley. It will satisfy the curiosity of people who wonder about the people who first came to this Valley, the wonderful stories of those who followed in their footsteps, and the legends and legacies they left for us to pass to future generations." Vernie gives uniqueness to this Valley that without her historical knowledge and wonderful writing skills would be lost forever. If you remember growing up in the Central Valley, almost every story is a reminder of our past and an affirmation of our future. Over 21,000 copies have been printed since her first edition in 1996. Books can be purchased at all Fresno bookstores and online at www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com.

...you can still buy a "ranch burger" or a "flying saucer sundae" at Mars Drive-In in Fresno? The legendary Charlie Chitchjian built the renowned and popular hangout on the NW corner of Palm and Belmont with a "flying saucer" look in 1947. Which one of us does not remember "dragging the main" on Fulton Street and ending up at the drive-in. Remember the tan slacks, brown jackets and tan and brown caps worn by the car hops? And, when you could buy a 22 oz milk shake for a quarter that had to be eaten with a spoon, or buy a coke for a dime. Charlie leased the business to his manager in 1973 but the drive-in was a launching pad for Charlie who started an empire of sit down drive-in and elegant dining places spanning more than four decades. In 1978 the demise of the popular hangout happened when Frank Caglia tore the building down, but had the presence of mind to save the splendid sign. Guess what? You can get a little flavor of the old drive-in at the new Mars Drive-in on the NW corner of West and Shaw now owned by Mario Grande. Charlie was a consultant on the new drive-in that has some of the original memorabilia.

MEMORIES

Dennis Libby remembers an incident when he was in radio shop and was responsible for the high intensity spotlight during an assembly. The light was very hot and the room was even hotter, so he was sidetracked and soon the spotlight, which was focused on our principal Mr. Mulkey, at the time, slowly moved down towards his feet. He paid close attention after that, no matter how hot it was.



Some of the Lunch Bunch group, Pat Feliz Bandoni, Donna Farris Gaither, Pat Lombardi Frediani, Julie Caglia Rocha, Peggy Duggan Culp, Mickey Badiali Vermon. Contact Pat Feliz Bandoni at 559-255-2089 for the schedule of when the group meets.

SENIOR WILLS

Who Wrote:

I will to Lynn Richmond, Diane Masuda and Eddie Jester my gopher girl outfit; to Jim Laisne, Jim Hamilton, Larry Beagle and Bobby Guzzo, my Red Dot cigar butts' and to Master Tony Perales my new "Toniette."

Bob Baker remembers running around with Kenny Watson (FHS 59). Ken was a violin player in the orchestra and Bob was a trumpet player. One day during lunch they were in the auditorium and for some reason went up stairs where they had never been before to look out. In order not to get caught smoking, they stood next to the open window and let the smoke drift out. When they got back down stairs someone (he doesn't remember who) caught them at the door and told them that from the wood shop, it looked like the tower was on fire. Needless to say they never did that again. He also has some skinny-dippin parties that he won't talk about!! Want to see pictures of the "Baker Bunch?" Go to www.fototime.com. Type in rbaker@sundancenet.com at member login email. Then hit "guest login."

Notification

Please notify someone on the reunion board of any changes to your personal information. Updates on changes for street address, email address, phone number or name will keep the FHS Class of '58 database in tip-top shape.

Editor's note: When contacting any classmate by email, use FHS, or Class of '58 or something similar so the email will not be deleted.

Reunion Board Members: **Buddy Arakelian**, co-chairperson. Reach him at mrcentralv@aol.com, 529 W. Scott Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704, 559-229-0850. **Lyn Darby Maloney**, co-chairperson. Reach her at lynmaloney@sbcglobal.net, 7027 N. Teilman, #102, Fresno, CA 93711, 559-439-7525. **Pat Scheidt Austin**, austinart@comcast.net, 2500 E. Menlo Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, 559-299-8446.

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Junior High Committees:

Jan Charshaf Kelley, 2094 W. Magill, Fresno, CA 93711, 559-439-5272, and **James Palmer**, Jjf5864@yahoo.com, 559-233-7596, for Washington Jr. High. **Harold Zahlis**, hpzahlis@aol.com, 559-298-4151, for Hamilton Jr. High. **Donna Farris Gaither** is looking for anyone interested in a committee for Fort Miller Jr. High. Call her at 559-435-2411.