



The Old Hoots and Hooters

www.neonmall.com/fhs/



Newsletter No. 13

The Fresno High School Class of 1957 Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2004

Brotherhood of the Badge

by Brig. Gen. Ed Munger

Ken Carlson, a detective with the Fresno Police Dept., was mobilized and deployed to Baqubah, the capital of the Diyala Province, Iraq, as part of the California Army National Guard's 649th Military Police Company. Part of the unit mission was to recruit, screen, train and deploy the new Iraqi Police in that province.

He noted in an e-mail to Fresno that they had little or no law enforcement equipment and were losing many of their new officers to shrapnel from explosive devices and small arms fire as they had no individual protective vests.

A local group of law enforcement officers from the Fresno and Madera Police Departments formed "The Brotherhood of the Badge" to gather excess or obsolete equipment for this use.

This included not just protective vests, but also other equipment such as helmets, batons, leather, and radios. In the case of radios, there were only two 2-way radios for the entire province (the size of Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and part of Kern Counties); we took 200 radios plus batteries and chargers. I got involved as they were having problems arranging the shipment from California to Iraq and thought "a general" might be able to help. I was honored to get involved.

Working with the 1st Marine Division out of Camp Pendleton, we deployed with that group from March Air Force Base in late February, flying by

charter air first to Prague, then Kuwait, and after a hassle with the US Air Force, by military C-130 onto Bilad, Iraq, and from there, by armed convoy, to Baqubah. We took about 5,000 pounds of equipment plus a great deal of chocolate, coffee, and baby wipes for the troops.

When on final approach to Bilad, the pilot did wing

tip maneuvers I thought he was just another hot dog flyer. Then I heard chaff and anti-missile armament fire, that got my attention. Turned out the pilot had picked up a ground-to-air-missile lock on the aircraft thus did evasive maneuvers and a "hot" landing under mortar and automatic weapons fire. I knew we were not in Disneyland! But training kicked in, we did a rapid exit from the aircraft and realized we were, indeed, in a war zone.

While in Baqubah, we took part in training, field operations (cordon and search), and visited

with many Iraqi citizens on the street as well as those attempting to form the new provincial government. One of the elements not being explained in our media here is the fact they are forming an entire government from scratch. There has never been a local government; everything has been centralized for centuries in Baghdad. There has not been a census for 30 years so they have to somehow register all the citizens; overcome a fear of the police as they were Saddam's enforcers; try and recover millions of tons of weapons and explosives abandoned by Saddam's military; and round up a small but active group of Battiest and Al Queda who continue to try and regain power using terrorist tactics.

We also visited the Palace in Baghdad which is hard

Continued page 4



Mike Harris, Fresno PD, Ed Munger, Brian Burry, Fresno PD, Chuck Smith, Madera PD (in back)

The Red Hatters

Visiting at the last ladies' "lunch bunch" held recently at Darlene Wimer Spano's home, was "Red Hat Mama" Carol Neuman Betush all the way from Redding, California. Carol sent the following information regarding her affiliation with the "Red Hatters."

The Red Hat Society is an organization of women over 50 years of age dedicated to just having fun. It was started by a woman in Fullerton California who gave a copy of the poem "Warning" written in 1961 by Englishwoman Jenny Joseph, to a friend. They decided to follow the ideas written about in the poem and since 1998 there are now over 23,000 chapters worldwide—all with women wearing red hats and purple attire.

Each chapter has a "queen" (that's me) and name the chapter something silly or descriptive—ours is "Rebellious Elegant Dames."

There are about 25 "dames" who join me about once a month for a "play time!" We go to lunch, movies, events in the area such as jazz concerts, travel to other towns nearby to join other chapters, etc. We ALWAYS wear our red hats and purple clothes to these gatherings.

The 4th Annual Red Hat Society Convention will be held in Las Vegas June 2005. The last convention brought together over 2400 women for four days in Dallas. Check out the website, www.redhatsociety.com for more info or email me [<cwalk@aol.com>](mailto:cwalk@aol.com) I would love to hear from you. The Fresno "lunch bunch" could become a chapter!



Making Connections



Angela Petropulos Pappanastos, Judy Hegarty Roberts,
Judy Rimmer Lockhart

Classmates Judy Hegarty Roberts and Judy Rimmer Lockhart on a tour with an elderhostel group in Scottsdale Arizona met up with Giants' fan Angela Petropulos Pappanastos at a San Francisco Giants' spring training game.

"The first night we (the two Judys) were at the same table at dinner and we both knew the other looked familiar. Judy (Hegarty) asked if I went to Fresno High and then we connected who the other person was. It was fun getting to know each other all over again. Judy knew that Angie would be at the game and so we all got together afterwards."

Catching Up

From Herb Morrison

I sure enjoy The Hooters and some of the exploits of our old classmates. The article on Carol Millsap was very interesting as we were in Brigadoon together in high school. I was a sword dancer and she was a dancer. With my wife's encouragement I gave up performing, but I have gotten back into singing and performing and have redone Brigadoon and several others including Fiddler on the Roof and La Boheme. I also sing with the community chorale at Shasta College and the Northstate State Opera and Rep. Society. Maybe not good but loud. This summer my wife and I are returning to Europe on an educational tour. She teaches German at Shasta College and most on the tour are her students past and present. It should be a kick.

From Larry Beagle

We are 125 miles directly south of El Centro, California in Baja Mexico (just north of San Felipe) on the Gulf of California, (aka Sea of Cortez when we were in history classes all those years ago!!)

It's a fishing village which is growing in population as Americans and Canadians buy land and build Ramadas and houses. We have the Baja 100, 250, and 500 Races that go through the area! Our residential streets are "straw baled" as off-limits to the general public during the races. Otherwise we'd have a hard time getting home with all the extra traffic. Not many of us like to see the races come, but the local business people do—it's money in their pockets in a poor fishing village.

The resort we live in is called El Dorado Ranch (www.eldroadoranch.com) which recently allowed Americans and Canadians to "purchase" land under a special Master Trust. This doesn't happen very often in Mexico. The owner of the resort is in the process of building the first 18-hole golf course on the east side of Baja. There have been golf course lots sold in a lottery fashion for over a year now. So things are becoming crowded as more people find out about our "little place in the sun and sand."

We only get to the Fresno area for a short period of time in September every year for our yearly health physicals. We usually travel in the summer when we leave here in late May. We are in Baja from late September to late May each year. We really enjoy the sun, sand and location most of the year. We travel to Yuma, Arizona and El Centro, California for food items

we can't find here. We purchase all our drug needs in Mexico for a lot less than in the States—and don't need a prescription!

From Gary Becker

Classmate Gary Becker and 60,000 other competitors ran or walked up and down the hills of San Francisco in the May 2004 Bay to Breakers Event. The course started at the Embarcadero near the Bay Bridge, up and



over the treacherous Hayes Street hill and finished 7.4 miles later at the Great Highway at Ocean Beach.

According to Gary, "To a handful of Kenyan runners, this is serious business, but to the overwhelming majority, this is a lark in Golden Gate Park. It's a combination of Halloween and Mardi Gras. It's an opportunity to shed inhibitions and in far too many instances, to shed clothes." Gary walked the course in two hours and 13 minutes. It was his fourth time to participate in the event.

Earlier, in March 2004, Gary was awarded a First in the Over 60 bracket for a two-mile walk. This was at the Tree Fresno sponsored "Running Thru the Trees" event at Woodward Park in Fresno. Obviously, Gary didn't remember his Cross Country coach's advice that time...new shoes are a no-no. He suffered an inflamed big toe, but still won with a time of 31 minutes, 20 seconds. Obviously enjoyment of cross country training from almost 50 years ago still keeps Gary participating in these events.

The Old Hoots and Hooters welcomes your donations to help defray printing and mailing expenses. Send to FSH 57, c/o Elaine Sudjian, 2681 W. Robinwood Lane, Fresno, CA 93711. Thank you!

Brotherhood..continued

to describe as to its opulence compared to the squalor mere miles away.

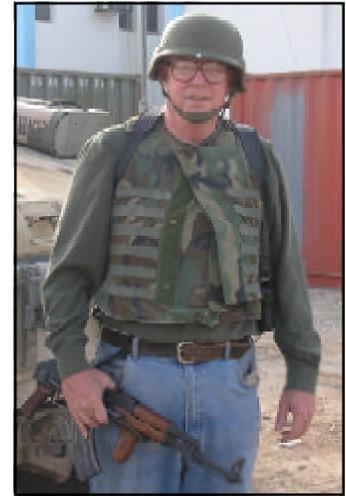
I came back with many impressions - foremost of which is a disgust with our media and their coverage of the events there. No mention is being made about the good things that are happening. For example: 250% more electricity now than pre-war; all hospitals open (barbaric by our standards but still open for all); all schools open to everyone to include girls; water systems operating; oil distribution much greater now than pre-war. No mention is made of the potential for this region to be the bread basket of the middle east. It is, after all, the original Garden of Eden; fertile and productive yet only 1% of the land is developed even though they have all the elements needed to include water.

Everyone we met said the same three things: 1) "Thank God you came and got rid of Saddam"; 2) "We want our country back, we do not want you as an occupying force"; 3) "We never want you to leave" (kind of interesting); and last, and most poignant, after watching CNN/MSNBC, one leader looked me in the eye and said, "We have our lives on the line here. Can we rely on you?"

We left in early March by military air to Kuwait and then on back to Travis Air Force Base and home.

I came back firm in the belief what we did and are doing is right; that the people in Iraq will at least have the opportunity to decide for themselves how they will self govern; and that a despot who killed millions of people will not longer be able to do so. There are hard days ahead, but that we have given those people the ability to, for the first time in years, experience freedom. God willing, if the American people are patient, this will be a major turning point in the history of that region.

I planned to go back early this month (June) but the Marine have their hands full by the small group led by Al Sadr and by the Whabbist who have their own agenda to convert the world to the Muslim faith. Another whole story there. But the media notwithstanding, bear in mind the trouble is highly localized. You do not hear of problems throughout the country; only in a small region. Have now planned a trip back in the Fall and am looking forward to visiting with the wonderful young men and women who serve in our armed forces.



Did You Know?



Fresno High School

The first new school built specifically as Fresno High was completed in 1896 as a three-story brick building on O Street just south of Divisadero Street in downtown Fresno. According to Cathy Rehart of "The Valley's Legends & Legacies" books, the campus construction was controversial. "There were those who felt it was too far from town and that the land, which cost \$7,500, was too expensive."

The current campus on Echo Avenue was completed in 1922. As originally built, the campus included Royce Hall in the center, its white-columned facade facing Echo Avenue, the two-story LeConte and Palmer classroom halls to the north and south.

The auditorium and cafeteria were condemned following the 1952

earthquake near Bakersfield. Royce Hall was reinforced to comply with the Field Act that governs earthquake building standards. In the spring of 1971, LeConte and Palmer halls, the gymnasium and two classroom wings of Royce Hall were torn down because they did not meet Field Act standards.

Rubble from the demolished school buildings was buried in a large hole, under what is now the baseball diamond. Earth from the hole was used to build up berms in front of Royce Hall.

In October 2002, a roof fire caused fire and water damage requiring a \$2 million restoration project. Fresno High School graduation exercises in 2004 were held in the SaveMart Center on the CSUF campus.



**Class of 1957 attendees at
May 1, 2004 Alumni Dinner**

FHS Alumni Association

Often at our age, our rememberers are broken while our forgetters are working fine. Yet, when it comes to Fresno High, memories abound. What a magnificent campus and a fantastic student body. Remember Palmer and Le Conte Halls? Or better yet, the columned walks you took to get there. How about North and South Halls?

Now all that remains of our once beautiful campus is Royce Hall.

We of the Fresno High School Alumni Association are creating a large group of friends of the school to raise funds through events and donations, to help improve the campus and student activities and to create an archive of mementoes of the past. We can never get back our old campus, but we can improve what they currently have. We have already made several improvements with plans for many more.

The Association, which encompasses all classes, already holds an annual dinner and is in the process of

formulating ideas for additional activities. Your membership and participation in the Association would go a long way toward helping these and future goals. We had a great school. Help us achieve that status again.

Annual membership is a whopping \$10.00 for a "Brave", \$25.00 to become a "Warrior" and \$50.00 to become a "Chief". Please Send a check to: P.O. Box 27516, Fresno, CA 93729-7516. Include your full name (first, middle, last and maiden), address, telephone, e-mail address and which class you were in. If you can afford an additional "tax free" donation it would greatly help.

The Lunch Bunch Home of Darlene Wimer Spano



Images

Many of us "old folks" are confused about how we should present ourselves. We're unsure about the kind of image we are projecting and whether or not we are correct as we try to keep current and conform to the fashions that the designers in New York City, California and/or Paris inflict upon the world. So a sincere study was made of the situation and here are the results. Despite what you may have seen on the streets, the following combinations DO NOT go together:

1. A nose ring and bifocals
2. Spiked hair and bald spots
3. A pierced tongue and dentures
4. Miniskirts and support hose
5. Ankle bracelets and corn pads
6. Speedos and cellulite
7. A belly button ring and a gall bladder surgery scar
8. Unbuttoned disco shirts and a heart monitor
9. Midriff shirts and a midriff bulge
10. Bikinis and liver spots
11. Short shorts and varicose veins
12. In-line skates and a walker



Reunion Chairperson

Elaine Parnagian Sudjian
2681 W Robinwood Ln
Fresno, CA 93711
559-431-7306
esudjian@comcast.net

Data Management

Don Hyberg
2581 E. Central Ave, Sp.21
Fresno, CA 93725
559-246-6167

Newsletter Editor

Linda Jacobs West
4088 N Maroa
Fresno, CA 93704
559-224-3564
lwest@qnis.net

Graphics

Jon Adams

Web Site

Jef Ferguson