



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2006

Vol. 17

Issue 2

Block S: The Rise and Fall of the "Elite" Society

Ed. Note: The following material, based on research by Josh Grace '89, was adapted by Mike Daniels '59 and first published in the Spring 1990 Foundation Newsletter. Mike has since revised and updated the content.

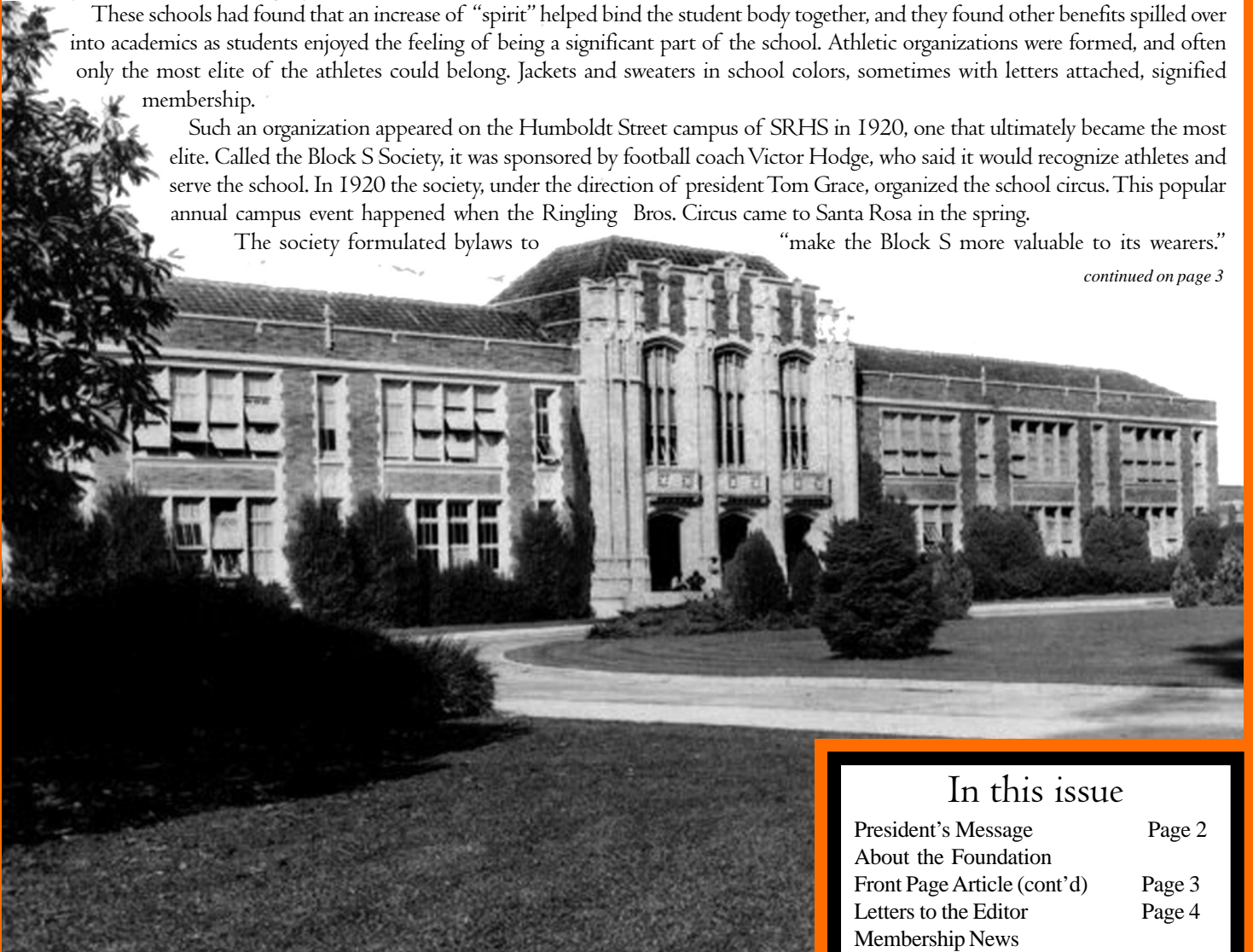
When automotive travel eased transportation in the early part of the 20th century, it also popularized interscholastic athletic competition between public high schools. Physical education then was added to the curricula, and athletic teams were organized. The high schools, eager to incorporate games and activities further, sought to reap the additional benefits they saw colleges and universities enjoying.

These schools had found that an increase of "spirit" helped bind the student body together, and they found other benefits spilled over into academics as students enjoyed the feeling of being a significant part of the school. Athletic organizations were formed, and often only the most elite of the athletes could belong. Jackets and sweaters in school colors, sometimes with letters attached, signified membership.

Such an organization appeared on the Humboldt Street campus of SRHS in 1920, one that ultimately became the most elite. Called the Block S Society, it was sponsored by football coach Victor Hodge, who said it would recognize athletes and serve the school. In 1920 the society, under the direction of president Tom Grace, organized the school circus. This popular annual campus event happened when the Ringling Bros. Circus came to Santa Rosa in the spring.

The society formulated bylaws to "make the Block S more valuable to its wearers."

continued on page 3



The primary objectives and purposes of the Santa Rosa High School Foundation are to serve as a charitable organization which unites SRHS graduates, parents of current and past students, faculty, staff and interested community members for:

- ~ Preserving and documenting the history and traditions of SRHS*
- ~ Providing financial support to the school*
- ~ Promoting community involvement*

In this issue

President's Message	Page 2
About the Foundation	
Front Page Article (cont'd)	Page 3
Letters to the Editor	Page 4
Membership News	
Student of the Month Lunches	Page 5
Project Update	Page 6
Polenta Feed	
Interred Diplomas	Page 7
SRHS Events	
Panther Project Fund	Page 8
Panther Patter	Page 9
Reunion News	Page 10
Reunions in the works	Page 11

President's Message



So much has happened already this year that I can't believe we are into 2006. This will be our 18th year of operation as the SRHS Foundation, and I know that it also will be one of the best. I am very pleased to acknowledge two new board members—well, one has been with us before. *Rosie London*, class of 1965, has rejoined the board. You may recall she is a former president of the board. *Ann Hutchinson Porrino*, class of 1961,

has also joined us. Since her older brother is also on the board, we will be well served by the Hutchinson family. Many of you will remember their father, Dr. Martin Hutchinson, was the team doctor for the fighting Panthers for many years. And younger brother Bill is a former board member and president. Thanks to all these folks for joining us.

The DeSoto building, named in honor of long-time English teacher Gene DeSoto, was finished last November, and the SR School Board held a small reception to unveil this beautiful building. Later this year some sort of public activity will celebrate the final phase of the remodeling process. Looking back on how run-down the school was prior to the remodel, it is a wonderful thrill to see the 'new look' on the old campus. If you haven't yet done so, drop by and take a look.

Also, the new agriculture department barn is up at the ag vineyard north of town. Drive out to Alba Lane just south of Cardinal Newman High School and look it over. Board member Chris Zeek spent many hours on securing donations in labor and funds for this project.

The Foundation received a City of Santa Rosa Merit award for Youth Service on October 24. It is quite an honor and demonstrates the respect the Foundation has in the community. We are able to do all we do because of your trust and support. If we just received membership money we would be nowhere near the \$108,000 we gave last school year. We can achieve these goals because so many of you donate a little extra each time you renew—and at other times throughout the school year. I want to thank you personally for going beyond the \$25 membership fee. Your generosity allows us to reach so many students and programs at SRHS.

Our museum is close to being ready. The glass should be in by the time you receive this newsletter. Mike Daniels and Mary Testorelli are scheduled to finish what Ernie Thompson started. We look forward to fully stocking the museum with significant Panther history. If you have SRHS memorabilia stored in a dusty box somewhere that you'd like to donate, I urge you to do so. Drop it by the SRHS main office.

Lastly, I urge all of you to send in a Panther Patter article on one of our grads. It needn't be lengthy—it is just nice to have our members' help in spreading the word through the newsletter about other grads. It keeps us in touch and help us stay connected. Have a wonderful 2006.

Mike Grace, President

About the Foundation

The Santa Rosa High School Foundation, a chartered non-profit organization with the State of California, was established in 1988 to provide financial support for and community involvement in the school's activities and to preserve its rich traditions and heritage.

The Foundation also functions as an alumni association, sponsoring activities for graduates, but membership and activity participation is not limited to SRHS graduates.

Santa Rosa High School Foundation News is published quarterly by the **Santa Rosa High School Foundation, P.O. Box 11002, Santa Rosa, CA 95406**. Subscription rate is \$25.00 per year, which includes membership in the Foundation. You may also sponsor an edition of the newsletter. Please contact us if you would like more information (707) 571-SRHS.

We welcome your contributions and are happy to accept your photos. Please mail your articles and photos to the above address or e-mail to mdaniels@sonic.net

Historian: Mike Daniels '59

Newsletter Editor: Alicia Hodenfield '85

Newsletter Team: Mike Daniels, Mike Grace, Penny Hastings, Alicia Hodenfield

Giving Through The SRHS Foundation

There are many ways to participate in providing a lasting contribution to the Foundation.

1. Establish your own fund (anonymously or in your name) with a gift of \$5000 or more
2. Establish a Scholarship Fund with a gift of \$10,000 or more
3. Include a bequest or other planned gift in your estate plan

A wide variety of gifts are accepted including:

- Cash
- Publicly traded securities
- IRAs or life insurance policies with the Foundation as beneficiary
- Remainder of a Charitable Remainder Trust

For further information, please contact: Doug Pavese, SRHS Foundation P.O. Box 11002, Santa Rosa, CA 95406; or call Doug at 707-524-1037 (days)

SRHS Foundation Directors

Mary Main Testorelli, '47

Gwin Stubaugh, '48

Pat Acuff Thompson, '49

Ernie Thompson, '49

Carol Laabs Patterson, '55

JoAnn Hembree MacDonald, '56

Jacky Cooper Schlich, '57

Doug Pavese, '58

Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer, '59

Mike Daniels, '59

Dick Hutchison, '59

Ann Hutchinson Porrino '61

Mike Grace, '65

Rosie Clarke London '65

Donna Dennes Peterson, '67

Paulette Guaspari Gomes, '68

Walt Ryan, '68

Chris Zeek, '68

Mary Schaefer, '76

Dave Thompson, '92

Tony Negri, Faculty

Terry Swehla, Faculty Liaison

Founding Directors - Doug Pavese, Mike Daniels, Mike Grace, & Donna Dennes Peterson

Continued from the front page

Membership was open to any male athlete who won a letter for achievement in athletics, but “the requirements for an athlete to win his letter are very high and tend to make the members of the society very distinguished in school life.” Thus, the Block S mystique emerged.

Then, when the Mendocino Avenue campus opened in 1925 after fire consumed the



The first Block S Society poses on the lawn of the Humboldt Street campus, photo 1921 *Echo*

Humboldt Street school in 1921, the society regrouped under basketball coach Orbin Fortier to make itself more visible. Principal Gardiner Spring directed Fortier, in addition to his duties as Block S advisor, to increase the sense of belonging for a student body that had been without a campus for four years.

Fortier, who came from Wisconsin, wrote the words to the fight song and set them to the music of the fight song for the University of Wisconsin. Working with student body officers, he also altered the school colors by deepening the orange color and suggesting the panther as school mascot.

In 1930 the society published in the *Echo* the vague statement that the society’s purpose was to “bring together outstanding boys in athletics” so they might “combine their interests to accomplish something worthwhile.” The society’s practice of maintaining order during assemblies and collecting tickets and acting as ushers at games began at this time.

Under Fortier and fall and spring presidents Dutch Bonfigli and Eddie Green, the distinctly familiar black sweater with an orange sleeve stripe appeared in 1935. The white sweater with three orange stripes that signified the wearer had earned letters in three “major” sports also appeared. Society officers decided each member must wear his sweater every Friday.

In 1938 football and baseball coach Jimmy Underhill joined the faculty and became co-advisor with Fortier. Underhill’s intense competitive philosophy overshadowed Fortier. Underhill engineered the “crack” committee that administered swats with a leather strap to

the posteriors of violators of the Friday sweater decree and of other rules. The office of sergeant of arms, who did the swatting, became a popular one to hold.

It also became popular to belong to this elite organization. In 1939 membership totaled over 70 letter winners.

Because of Underhill’s influence, selected initiation rites became necessary for membership. Ironically, certain of these rites would ultimately figure in the society’s demise. But early on, athletes embraced them. In the spring of 1940, the initiation was held at Hilton Beach on the Russian River and included boat races.

By 1943 rites evolved into publicly humiliating the initiates before they were accepted as members. That year they scrubbed the senior steps with toothbrushes in full view of the student body.

Underhill seemed to believe that passing a rigorous initiation would toughen athletes and weld them into a disciplined unit. His version of male bonding influenced many other campus organizations. The ag. department, Block SR and even the band developed their own versions of initiation.

In 1944 Block S initiates underwent a haircut, called a “butch.” By the 50s, the haircut was a scalping to bare skin. The initiate was highly visible on the campus the scheduled day for the rite. His hair gone, his forehead marked with a huge red lipstick S, and in clownish attire—often a dress—the initiate attended classes until noon when he was dismissed in order to participate in the initiation ceremony.

This rite of passage was a private affair for advisors, guests and members. Selected male faculty and fathers were invited as observers and in some cases as participants in humbling the initiates.

In the fall of 1958 a memo from Underhill and society president Bruce Camilli outlined initiation procedures and advised supervisory personnel as to the five stations the initiates were to visit. At the first station they were blindfolded and given a harmless pill that resulted in a disturbing color to their urine. “Hot stuff” and molasses were dispensed into open throats at the second stop. Raw liver at the

third. Raw eggs and oysters at the fourth. And at five, a strange concoction called “pot.” Some initiates were known to retch up the mess forced into their stomachs.

At each station, the initiate received a jolt from an electric shock device used on animals. The shockers were always fully charged, and the members gleefully administered the shocks, but Underhill cautioned adult supervisors to see that no one received more than six shocks. In one memo, he cautioned “some ‘C’ boys are quite small—(give) some leniency to them.”

The ceremony concluded with the initiates swearing the oath of membership. Then, in fall semesters, the group enjoyed a banquet held at a local restaurant, the site varying from the Hotel Santa Rosa, Occidental Hotel or Saddle ‘n Sirloin in Santa Rosa, and to Negri’s in Occidental. Often local and statewide business and political figures were invited. Senator Herbert Slater, for example, attended more than once.

Until 1965 the spring ceremony was held at various locations on the Russian River. Afterward, it relocated to Cloverleaf Ranch north of town. The society enjoyed a steak barbecue at these functions. Understandably, much competition took place over who would be involved in the pit crew, whose responsibility it was to dig the barbecue pit and complete other preparations. Being a member of the pit crew meant dismissal from classes for the day,

but it also meant following exactly the written directions from Underhill.

The barbecue was not inexpensive although much of the food was donated. In 1962 over \$500 was spent for food, including some 200-plus pounds of 1½-inch

steaks. The society raised money through the years by sponsoring such events as the basketball Harlem Clowns and by selling popcorn to the student body. The popcorn machine was prized duty for a long time.

The demise of barbecues and banquets and initiation rites and the society itself may have begun as early as the spring of 1959. Memos between Superintendent Lloyd Wood, Principal Fred Duey and Underhill about “incidents,” including uncontrolled use of the



Block S initiates await initiation ceremony, '51 *Echo*

continued on page 5

Letters to the Editor

The following letter was sent to Foundation Director and our web guru Dave Thompson, Class of '92.

The [Class of 95] Reunion was a great success. We really were not sure what to expect while we were planning it, but I think it went over very well. We had 110+. I talked to quite a few people that went on and on about the SRHSF website. They said that there was no way they would have found out about the reunion without the site. In fact, we would have been able to locate only a fraction of our class without it. For us, that was really useful to track people down.

The other thing the website does is it makes our generation aware of the Foundation, when we otherwise may not have known about it. In other words, It's a great way for the Foundation to have a stronger presence with us.

Ben Grace, Class of 1995

Editor:

For the gracious and generous honors bestowed on me by the SRHS Foundation and the Cheer Leaders at the Homecoming game, my most sincere "Thank You."

Saturday, Oct. 29 (the day after the game—ed.) the Spring Lake Village reception desk was decorated by that great collection of orange and black balloons. I had a wonderful time and survived quite well.

Once a Panther, always a Panther! Glad I can help support the SRHS Foundation.

**Many, many thanks,
Irene Waters Maxwell, Class of 1925**

(Ed. note: Look for Irene at the Homecoming in our Project Update article)

Editor:

Thank you so much (to the SRHS Foundation—ed) for your continued support of our photo program. The Tuff Shed will be put to good use.

I'm sending the foundation a print of Clark Gable and Carole Lombard for your enjoyment. (The movie stars appear in a photo in front of SRHS taken by Al Wood, Class of 1940. The story of the photo appeared in Vol. 12, No 2 of the newsletter—ed.)

**Sincerely,
Tanya Braunstein, Instructor**

Editor:

Thank you so much, SRHS Foundation for helping the Health Office purchase a new wheelchair.

Sheri Reed, Health Tech

Editor:

I was delighted to see my aunt's picture (Olga Berner, Class of '23) in the summer newsletter as the "oldest known living grad." She turned 100 years of age on February 3, 2005.

Susan Berner Coudeyre

We welcome your comments, ideas, feedback & questions. Please drop us a line P O Box 11002 Santa Rosa, CA 95406 or e-mail mdaniels@sonic.net



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



You continue to amaze us with your generosity. Since the last newsletter, we have had 172 renewals and 22 new members. Contributions above membership fees this period totalled \$2,610. Contributions come in all sizes, but they sure add up as you can see. Thanks for supporting SRHS through our Foundation.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Michael Brickner '57 | Paul Huntzinger '63 |
| Carol Carr-Colgazier '58 | Jean Jensen '50 |
| Edwin Ciavarelli '38 | Brendan & Claudine Kunkle '85/'86 |
| Avis & Norbert Claeys, friends | Lorene Lake '61 |
| Richard Colombini '49 | Shirley Larson '52 |
| George Connors, friend | Ron Lindley '61 |
| Sylvia Cullivan '54 | Norma Malone '41 |
| Wes & Carol Daniels '85 | Yvonne Martin '59 |
| Nick Econome '51 | Conci McKinney-Mack '77 |
| Karen Engman-Ragsdal '59 | Nilda Mulas '49 |
| Larry Fitzpatrick '44 | Jack Orme '66 |
| Lisa Fitzpatrick '69 | Fred Pedersen '41 |
| Susan Gambini '60 | Mario Pironcini '57 |
| Rae Gambini '37 | Harvey & Judy Podstata '52 |
| Sally Gard '57 | Ann & Peter Porrino '61/friend |
| Charles Garvey '64 | Craig Robbins '59 |
| Lawrence Geiger '41 | Mel & Barbara Schefer '44/'47 |
| Don Goforth, Staff | Henry Schulker '46 |
| Judy Gough '56 | Ted Smith '55 |
| Jim & Arlene Greenamyre, Staff | Roger Stone, Staff |
| Nancy Hodapp '52 | Neva Swensen '64 |
| Shirley Hurley '58 | |

Our Lifetime Memberships continue to grow with 8 new members. We now have 21 members in this \$500 category. Once a Panther, always a Panther !

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Chet & Gloria Galeazzi | 1940 and 1941 |
| Jacqueline Hightower Scheibel | 1954 |
| Veronica Popovich Charvat | 1961 |
| Naomi Kent Frumess | 1963 |
| Melanie Schodde | 1961 |
| Eric Von der Porten | 1975 |
| JoAnn Hurt Welch | 1949 |

If you have concerns or questions about your membership or contributions, please call me, Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer, at 707 544-3158 or e-mail me at nsmeds@sbcglobal.net. Thanks again!

Did you know you can Join the Foundation, Renew your Membership, or make your contributions online at www.srhsf.org? Your membership fees and contributions are all tax deductible.



Student of the Month Luncheon

Each month, during the school year, members of the SRHS Foundation Directors take to lunch students that have been honored as Student of the Month. Students are selected by their own merit and this could include a wide selection of items such as , improving grades, assisting others and teachers in class, and over all school participation. We salute these students for their ability to make a positive change for SRHS and themselves.

The October honorees are Julia Sebastain, Rachael Austin, Rosa Placarte, Mikaela Watson, Loren Anderson, Kathleen Mullari and Quinn Dizon. Asst. Principal, Mr. Don Goforth joined the group for lunch and read to the committee the outstanding achievements of each student.

The November honorees were all nominated by their Vice Principal , Mr. Brad Coscarelli, for their bravery and outstanding behavior in assisting Mr. Coscarelli with another student. All of these brave, young men put themselves in harms way to protect their Vice Principal and fellow schoolmates. Austin Williams, Ken Duncan, Danny Tewolde, Mark Goitan, Erin Jones, Therin Jones, Joseph Tewolde, Eric Ammons, and AJ Biswell were our honorees. Our hats are off to all of these find young men.

We are delighted to honor these students and acknowledge their achievements.



We expect another wonderful event! in 2006! The 2005 Golf Tournament raised over \$16,500 for the Panther Project Fund.

If you would like to sponsor a hole or get involved with putting on the tournament, dinner or silent auction, please contact Doug Pavese at 524-1037

Continued from page 3 shockers indicate that a concern for real harm was emerging.

In the mid-60s the fabric of society brotherhood began to unravel because of the force of newer, more enlightened attitudes in the larger community. As a result, some Block S members no longer demonstrated pride in membership and openly shirked their responsibilities and expressed apathy at the demands of membership. A number of qualified athletes, in fact, refused to join. Activities the membership had blindly followed for years either eroded or were ignored as new attitudes resulted in a different way of looking at the Block S.

By the spring of 1966, although initiation haircuts were still obligatory, absurd dress and initiation rites were not. The barbecue also disappeared. That semester the new members enjoyed a banquet at Los Robles Lodge and were "sworn in and allowed to wear their Block S sweaters."

Although they relaxed matters in the face of new attitudes, advisors and coaches didn't fully understand the changes. In 1967, for example, Underhill announced plans to "get tough" with the enforcement of membership responsibilities. His attempt failed and the organization continued its decline.

The remaining corps of believers, frustrated by the reluctance of qualified athletes to join and by the increasing apathy of the membership, regularly reminded its members to adhere to bylaws and purposes, an oath they had sworn.

In 1968 a meeting was held to discuss how to increase membership. The required amount of necessary playing time and earned points were lessened in order to ease qualification. Coaches, however, insisted on the clause, "any Block S winner may be subject to veto if improper conduct is proven by the membership."

Also in 1968, football, wrestling and soccer coach Lawrence Anderson became Block S advisor at Underhill's retirement, and some other traditions were abandoned. The most visible was the initiation haircut, made optional because athletes were reluctant to cut the longer styles of the period. Additionally, many members no longer wore their sweaters on Fridays.

Anderson expressed concern in 1969 over the small number of members who showed up to fulfill duty at the popcorn machine. He suggested that if Block S could not make proper use of the machine it be donated to another club.

Terry Pintane in 1969 suggested members be "kicked out for not following the rules," but Mark Noonan declared the officers should "enforce the law or revise it"

But it was the passage of Title IX by the federal government in 1972 that meant male dominance in interscholastic athletics at SRHS was at an end. After a lengthy struggle by enlightened and concerned forces to influence this legislation, public schools that received federal money were required to budget sports equally for males and for females. A host of new athletic competition now became available for girls at SRHS.

For Block S specifically, Title IX meant that girls who earned athletic letters became eligible to join. And some did. In another breakthrough, Teresa Pellegrini, the first girl to play and earn a letter on the boys' soccer team, was elected president in 1978. While her election indicated gender equity had come to SRHS athletics, it also signaled the end of male dominance in sports and the end of Block S.

Only 14 Block S athletes showed up for the annual *Echo* photograph in 1979. None wore sweaters, and 3 were girls.

In 1980 the Block S Society ceased actively to exist although it still remains chartered to operate on the SRHS campus. In the years since, some small efforts have attempted to resurrect the organization but all have failed.



Block S Society of 1978. Teresa Pellegrini, 1st female President, right. photo '78 *Echo*

Do you have a story about Santa Rosa High School you d like to share - either current or from the past? Do you need help writing it? We would love to hear from you - drop us a line at mdaniels@sonic.net or by mail P O Box 11002 Santa Rosa, CA 95406 - Photos are also welcomed!

The brand new Nevers Field Sign, designed by Kresky Signs and finished by the SRHS welding students, was recently mounted on top of the scoreboard by Colombini Construction.



The new Nevers Field sign ready for business

During the Homecoming football game, Don Coover of Kresky Signs and Dick Colombini of Colombini Construction were recognized for providing the funds to make the sign possible. Colombini was also recognized as the honorary co-captain, and wore a current #49 jersey, his number during his playing days. Dick was also presented with a replica picture of two of his teammates and him posing on the campus with the legendary Ernie Nevers in the fall of 1948, Dick's senior year. Perhaps the

Project Updates By Chris Zeek

best part of the evening occurred when Irene Waters Maxwell, class of 1925, was introduced as the Homecoming Spirit Queen.



Irene Waters Maxwell '25, 2005-06 Spirit Queen with SRHS Cheerleaders, Homecoming, 2005

The current Cheerleaders fell in love with her, when Irene led the crowd between the 3rd and

4th quarters in a spirited rendition of the school fight song. The new Ag Barn dedi-

cated to Sonoma County Agri-Businessman, John L. Ammirati, was finished



Ammirati family standing by the sign dedicated to their father

and housed some new farm animals in time for the November 5th Ribbon Cutting. The ribbon cutting was performed by Julie Renner from American AgCredit, John Ammirati, and me. I personally thank Don Carrillo Concrete and Dave Hunt Construction for their help in completing the project on time.

MUSEUM TO OPEN
A museum housing artifacts and miscellaneous records important to the history of SRHS will soon be completed. The museum is located on the upper floor of the Main Building in the room that served as the business office from the early 60s through the 90s. That office was relocated to the first floor and adjacent to the main office during the recent refurbishing of the building. SRHS students and teachers of the 30s through the 50s remember this location well. It marked the doorway by which they could gain access through a covered walkway to the health office and the teachers' lounge that sat on top of the cafete-

ria. Entry to the gym also was possible.

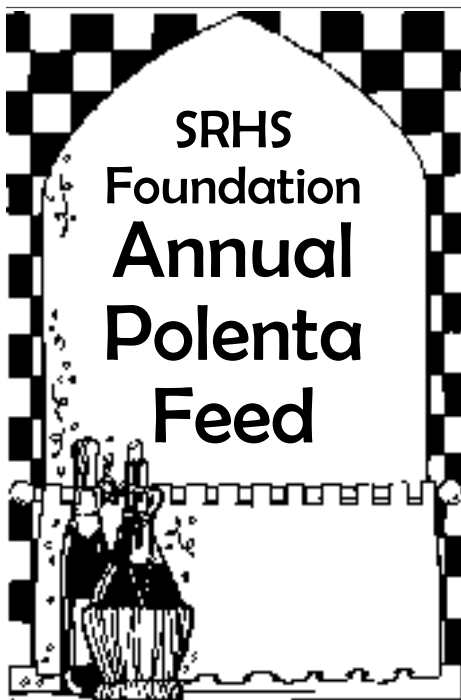
History teacher and social science department chair Art Horner, who incorporates SRHS history into his lessons, saw the potential in the vacant space and approached principal Tony Negri with the idea of using it as a museum. Negri took to the idea to the board of education, which approved the concept. Foundation board member Ernie Thompson '49, who has spearheaded a number of SRHS construction tasks over the years, solicited material and labor donations to make the idea a reality.

Mead Clark Lumber, Mountains Storm Products, Jack Smith Sash and Glass deserve credit and thanks for their support of this one-of-a-kind project. In addition to

Thompson's labor, Henry Mitz '47 and Ken Bronstert '65 contributed their construction skills.

Currently laboring to catalog and organize newspapers, yearbooks, uniforms, trophies and miscellaneous materials, a committee of Mike Daniels '59, Ernie Thompson '49, Mary Main Testorelli '47 and Dave Thompson '92 hope to have the museum ready for visiting by the first of the year.

The committee is always on the lookout for additional material. They urge alumni who have hidden away artifacts that are gathering dust to consider donating them to the new museum. Items can be dropped off at the main office.



☆ NEW LOCATION! ☆

Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building

Friday, April, 28, 2006

No host cocktails: 6 o'clock

Dinner: 7 o'clock

by Chef Ray Lazzini & Crew

Tickets: \$25.00

For Tickets - Please call your favorite Board Member

Tickets will be available beginning January 10th



Questions? Call:
Jacky Schalich 546-4631

Interred Diplomas

In June 2006 SRHS will graduate its 123rd senior class in a ceremony that will mark not the end for those students but a beginning. We call that ceremony "commencement."

Many thousands of seniors, diverse in ethnicity, interest and ability, have begun their life's journey by that common departure point.

In the spring semester of 1942, however, 5 SRHS seniors and 21 underclass students were denied participation in the graduation ceremony because of their Japanese heritage. Along with siblings and parents and relatives, those students were forcibly herded by armed U.S. Marshals onto trains at the railway station on Fourth Street.

Carrying only what belongings they could, these entire families were taken to one of ten concentration camps in Eastern Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado or the Southern California desert. They remained in these camps for the duration of World War II.

In January 1942, in reaction to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor the previous December, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. This order, which did not require

These five seniors were set to graduate on June 11, 1942 but were "evacuated" along with underclass students to concentration camps until the end of World War II. If you have information regarding any, please contact Ann Pugh.

Furuye, Chikora *	Morikawa, Roy
Fujihara, Ileen *	Morikawa, Scott
Fujihara, Molly	Murakami, Jimmy
Kai, Rose *	Murakami, Hoppie
Kasai, Asano	Murakami, Mae
Kasai, Fred	Nagase, Harold
Kasai, Tokio	Noda, Hanaye
Kimura, Jack	Noda, Hidi
Kimura, Manabu	Otsuka, James *
Kimura, Suea	Otsuka, Mary
Mayeda, Hazine (Jim)	Sameshima, Yukio
Mayeda, Shigato	Shimada, Henry
Morikawa, Tom *	
Morikawa, Mary	

Asterisk * indicates senior

ed. note: Following is a letter from interred student Harold Nagase to Marion Fuller, SRHS Dean of Girls in 1942

Dear Miss Fuller,

I am at the Rodeo Grounds in Salinas. It isn't much like home, but it's all right. Our house is a wooden house with thin oil paper outside. Inside their (sic) are cracks between the boards, so it's pretty cold in the morning and at night. We eat at 7:30, 11:30 and 5:30. How is school there, the same I suppose. Will you tell my friends to write to me (especially Roger Smith) because I wrote to him 3 times and he didn't write back yet.

Thanks,
Harold Nagase

congressional approval, directed the army to evacuate all persons of Japanese ancestry from California, Oregon and Washington, and to hold them in camps.

Today, in a delayed response to that wartime action, the Santa Rosa Board of Education is attempting to locate the former students and to provide them the diploma they were denied so many years ago.

Heading up this effort, Foundation member Ann Pugh is seeking information on the whereabouts of the students in order



Japanese Club poses on the Auditorium steps. 1941 Echo

to invite them to a public ceremony in June. Ann, married to Frank Pugh, a Director of the Board of Education, asks that anyone with information contact her at (707) 576-1135 or aannpugh@hotmail.com



Did you dream about writing for the school newspaper? Now is your chance to live the dream! We invite and encourage you to make this newsletter fun, informative and filled with SRHS tidbits and your memories of SRHS - drop us a line or give us a call... P O Box 11002 Santa Rosa, CA 95406, mdaniels@sonic.net or call the Pandy line at (707) 571-SRHS

SRHS Calendar of Events



Jan. 3rd Return after winter break.

Jan 11th 7 P.M. Winter Band Concert.

Feb. 10 8 P.M. Turnabout Dance: Would you like to chaparone? Please let us know!

Feb.21- 24th **FFA Week - Events**

- 24th; @ SRHS join us for a great BBQ; live animals, music, classic cars, more cheap food!

- 25th Ag Boosters dinner. Join us for our annual cioppino feed. 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please call for details and location 528-5292

Thank you for supporting SRHS and our students,

Terry Swehla
Faculty Liason

Once a Panther, Always a Panther: Here's Proof!

Over the years quite a number of SRHS alums have returned to their alma mater for careers in teaching a variety of disciplines. Currently, these eight Panthers are members of the faculty.

- Vic Colli '65 Auto Shop
- John Bribescas '66 English and Department chair
- Annie Thomas Samuels '74 English
- Kathy Hower '78 Physical Education
- Levi Jones '90 English
- Kira Nikiforuk '96 Choral Music
- Sara Ennis '96 Mathematics
- Laura Miraglia '97 Mathematics

We appreciate your commitment to SRHS and welcome you back!



Panther Project Fund Grants

2005-06 school year

The Panther Project Fund (PPF) is funded by your membership in the Foundation and with a large amount of additional donations including Donor Directed donations. Out of the annual membership fee (new and renewals), 65% is designated to the PPF for academic enhancement programs and 35% covers the administrative costs of operating the Foundation. 100% of all extra donations, including donor directed funds, go directly to the PPF. The PPF committee is comprised of six SRHS Foundation Directors, the Principal of SRHS and the Senior Secretary to the Principal and meets on a monthly basis during the school year.

At the beginning of each school year, representatives from the Foundation attend the school's staff meeting to update the SRHS teachers and staff of the Fund's grants for the previous school year, and to educate the

Merci, merci, merci beaucoup on behalf of the Modern Language Department to the SRHS Foundation for providing us with two (!) new television/video monitors and two (!) new video/DVD players. As you can imagine, being able to show films in the target language is enormously beneficial to the students. They are able to hear the spoken language within a varying and rich visual context, they are able to see the places where the language is spoken, and they learn a great deal about the culture as well. These pieces of equipment are tremendous assets to our department. Muchas gracias, merci, and thank you so much!

*Sincerely,
Amanda Newlon, Instructor*

new teachers and staff of the role of the Foundation and PPF.

Requests may come from parent groups, student groups, administration, janitorial, department and individual teachers. Each request submitted to the PPF Committee must declare if the requester is looking for funds from any other source, the number of students that would benefit from the granting of the request, a summary of the purpose of their request and a breakdown of the cost of the item(s) requested.

The Committee reviews the requests at the monthly meeting. Principal Tony Negri and Sec-

retary to the Principal Marlene Callen are actively involved in assisting the committee in granting funds and providing insight if other monies are available from other sources. Those requesting grants are invited to make a brief presentation to the committee at the review meeting. The committee can authorize up to \$2,000 immediately, but requests over \$2,000 must be approved by the full board. Each request is reviewed and may be approved for the full amount, a partial amount (generally directed to other resource possibilities), tabled (more information is required, timing, etc.) or denied. Upon completion of the meeting, Tony Negri immediately reports to the requester as to the decision that has been made by the committee.

In addition to grants, the committee also funds the Foundation's Annual Scholarships, Donor Directed Scholarships and other Foundation annual programs for students, such as The Student of the Month Program. The committee and the Foundation Board are excited at the funding they have been able to provide to support the students of SRHS. Last year the Foundation, through the Panther Project Fund gave over \$108,000, and is well on the way this year to meeting, if not exceeding that amount.

Many thanks must go to the members, alumni, friends, teachers and staff for their generous donations over the years, several of which are in perpetuity.

Here's a listing of the grants made so far for the 2005-2006 school year

Special Education -	
Bowser's Barkery Start up Costs - Vocational Program	\$1,200.00
Athletic Department -	
Offset cost of purchase - Shotmaker Tennis Trainer Ball Machine	\$1,000.00
Freshman Orientation -	
Refreshments for Students and Parents	\$ 165.58
Industrial Arts Automotives -	
Directed gift for Engine Scanner and Analyzer	\$5,817.42
Alldata Pro Online data Subscription	\$1,048.13
Science -	
Nine Low PPressure Experiment Sensors - AP Biology	\$1,023.00
Five Hookes Law Spring Sets - Physics Lab	\$ 407.40
48 Replacement Crucibles for Chemistry Lab	\$ 388.49
Social Science -	
Wall Maps and Atlases - US and World Geography	\$1,932.93
Fifteen Photo Sets - History Class	\$ 550.00
Ammirati Barn Project	\$9,241.69
Math Department -	
PreAlgebra and Algebra Curriculum Aids	\$ 151.24
Project Graduation - Offset Cost of Event	\$2,000.00
Fine Arts - Photography -	
Tuff Shed to Expand Existing Classroom Space	\$1,500.00
Artquest - Video -	
Offset cost purchase Professional Video Camera for Advanced Students	\$1,000.00
World Languages -	
Two Recorder/Headsets For Language Training Center	\$ 781.16
Custodial -	
Phazer Mobile Floor Care System and Initial Finish Supplies	\$ 867.24
Administration -	
Health Services - Replacement Wheelchair	\$ 377.75
Latino Health Forum Scholarships	\$ 200.00
Offset Costs of Dedication of New DeSoto Building	\$1,000.00
PE Clothing and School Supplies for Needy Students	\$ 500.00
SRHS Museum Project	\$5,461.60
Scholarships -	
Marsha & Jessie Carney Memorial Scholarship (Annual)	
2005-2006 Recipients	
Jessica Reiner & Elena Vaaldivia-Fortuna (\$500 each)	\$1,000.00

Total to date

\$37,615.63

Ever wonder what happened to **Walter Schmitter** from the **Class of '53**? Or what about **Francine Fraser** from the **Class of '58**? And then remember **Betty Morris** from the **Class of '46**?

If you visit the SRHS Foundation website at www.srhsf.org you can read the bios of these and many other graduates from Santa Rosa High School. *And we encourage you to submit your own!*

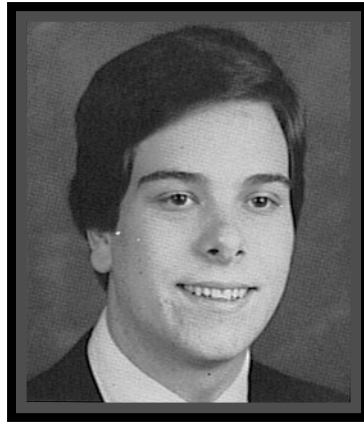
The SRHS Foundation website is chock full of great information - everything from our Bio Page to the Reunion Page (if you are the reunion coordinator or just want to find out if your class is hosting one - the website is an excellent resource). There's also a Teacher Bio Page as well as historical information about the Foundation and SRHS. We even have year-books scanned and available for your perusal - all the way back to the 1890's! (Who knew "Echo" was known as "The Porcupine" back then?) The photo gallery includes pictures from Foundation events as well as from reunions. And we are currently working on getting past issues of the Foundation Newsletter uploaded.

We welcome your comments and invite you to post your bio - www.srhsf.org.



Pandy attended the annual City of Santa Rosa Merit Award Ceremony in late October to watch board members **Mike Grace '64** and **Mike Daniels '59** receive recognition for the SRHS Foundation's excellent work and financial support. Pandy was moved as retired SRHS English instructor and member of the nominating committee **Jim Dunwoody**, presented a slide of Pandy wearing his trademark derby and said, "You can almost hear him sing out, 'Once a Panther, always a Panther' " . . . Also honored with a merit award was **Ron Perez '68**. After serving for many years as a Santa Rosa police officer, Ron maintains active involvement in a number of organizations that assist Hispanic youth in Santa Rosa . . . In other news, **George Conners '36** shared news about the upcoming fifth consecutive reunion of the **Classes of '34-'38** planned for the Summer of '06 to be held once again at Ledson Winery on Highway 12. George notes that about 85 attendees showed last summer, and he invites members of classes prior to 1934 and after 1938 to attend this next gathering by calling him at 707-431-1419 . . . **George Highland '47** sent an impressive resume that outlines his career in public health after graduation from UC. Retired since 1993 and living in San Luis Obispo, George began singing in musical productions at SRHS in 1944 and

hasn't stopped yet. . . **Rayne Kaleiwahea Reynolds '93** went to SRJC, U of Hawaii and USF, and now is a police officer in Anchorage, AK . . . **Candace Bell Roney '66**, is still living in the San Jose area after graduating from SJSU, and Candace has worked in healthcare for the last 29 years. Currently, she's Executive Director, Common Partners at the Lucile Pakard Children's Hospital at Stanford University . . . Now living in Gig Harbor, WA where he and his girlfriend opened a design business, **Bart Morrison '65** lived in Alaska for 9 years. Bart



Keven Brown '85 Echo

played sports at SRHS and stays active hunting and fishing in the outdoors . . . **Lynda Trombetta Angell '59** maintains active involvement in civic activities in Santa Rosa. Recently she was honored for her participation in the Railroad Square Association . . . Living in the Fresno/Clovis area of the Central Valley, **Letra Rutledge Fisher '59** has worked as a legal secretary and office manager for over 30 years. She has 1 son, 1 grandson, and 1 granddaughter . . . Teaching 4th grade for the last 15 years at a parochial school in Sunnyvale, **Donna Panizzera Wjtkowski '59** is a grandmother 3 times over . . . Recently retired from over 30 years of teaching, **John Brandeburg '59** moved to the Redding area where he will play and teach guitar. John performed for many years around Santa Rosa with Hugh Shacklett. They were billed as "The Perfect Crime". . . **Larry Timmer '59** and his wife Paulette have been married 40 years. They have 2 kids and 3 grandchildren. Larry plans to retire in '06, declaring "life has been good!" . . . The **Class of '55** recently enjoyed its 50th Reunion, and for the occasion published a fascinating book of bios and memories. Foundation Board Member, **Carol Patterson '55** loaned Pandy

a copy, and he spent hours reading the fascinating content. Pandy hopes the members of the class will add the information to the Foundation Web Page bio section so others can enjoy it. By the way, any Panther can submit his or her bio at www.srhsf.org . . . **Suzi Martin Lee '85** is working to provide hurricane relief in the areas hit so hard by last summer's storms . . . Teaching school in North Carolina, **Tracy Rosemark Warren '85** first worked as a law enforcement officer with INS. She's married to her "best friend, Josh," and instead of kids has a cat, two dogs and a horse . . . **Keven Brown '85** spent much time last fall helping celebrate the 90th anniversary of his family's landmark downtown business, Corrick's. . . **Jack Guenza '52**, recently retired from the investment business. He concentrated his efforts in institutional bonds . . . **Gloria Patchett Beilgard '51** traveled in the air force with her husband for 25 years and went with him to Saudi Arabia when he accepted a position with Lockheed. Evidently Gloria can't get rid of the travel bug. She's RV-ing full time . . . **Delores Lazzi '49** has been married for 55 years and has 3 grandchildren and 7 grandkids . . . **Barbara Brown '47** is the mother of 4 and the grandmother of 4. A former manager of the UNICEF Shop in San Francisco, Barbara remains active with the UN . . . **Peggy King Leiser '40** has twin daughters, **Diane and Donna** both of whom are '67 **Panthers**; Donna is a founding director of the Foundation and has remained involved on the board since 1988. Peggy worked for 20 years as counseling secretary at Santa Rosa Junior High and for 44 summers in Sonoma County Fair administrative offices. She also traveled on cruise ships teaching bridge . . . **Barbara Montgomery Paige '40** is retired and has 2 children and 3 grandchildren. She remembers long-time English teacher **Lucy Spaulding** taught her a lot. She still remembers . . .



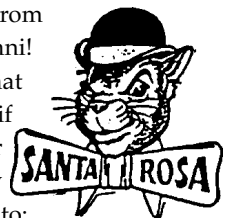
Foundation President Mike Grace and Founding Board Member Mike Daniels receive a City of Santa Rosa Merit Award for the foundation from Mayor Jane Bender



Larry Timmer '59 Echo

the occasion published a fascinating book of bios and memories. Foundation Board Member, **Carol Patterson '55** loaned Pandy

We love hearing from and about SRHS Alumni! Please let us know what you've been up to and if you run into another Panther, let Pandy know all about it! Mail to:



**SRHS Foundation P O Box 11002
Sant a Rosa, CA 95406
or email Pandy at mdaniels@sonic.net**

Reunion News

Please visit the Reunion Page on our website www.srhfsf.org to check for updated information about reunions as well as for more photos. If you are or know your class coordinator, please be sure to let us know by email info@srhfsf.org



1955 50TH Class Reunion by Carol Paterson

The Santa Rosa High School class of 1955 had their 50th class reunion June 24-26. Grad Night was held on Friday and everyone had a chance to reunite with old friends and classmates at Michelle's Restaurant.



A few Class of '55 attendees

Our reunion on Saturday night was held at The Showcase Restaurant. We had an amazing turnout and, amidst a sea of orange and black, everyone had a marvelous time rekindling old friendships and talking about the good old days! Sunday we met at the



More '55 Grads

high school for a guided tour of the school by Principal Tony Negri, which certainly brought back many memories. This was followed by a delicious barbeque put on by the Santa Rosa High School Foundation.

Here's a high-five to the committee who made it all happen – John Aguilera, Shirley



Class of '55 alumni

Rettinhouse, Don Roberts, Elizabeth Shatto and Dorothy Woodard. We're all looking forward to our next reunion!



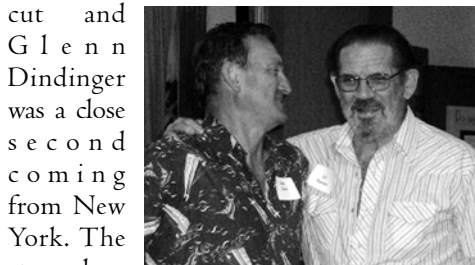
1965 Reunion Recap by Mike Grace

The class of 1965 held its grad night and reunion the weekend of Sept 30/Oct 1st. A total of 136 alumni and guests attended the Saturday night function at the Fountain Grove Inn.



'65 grads reconnect

Jeff Bower captured the "who came the farthest award" coming all the way from Connecticut and Glenn Dindinger was a close second coming from New York. The atmosphere was casual with a buffet set-up that allowed all the attendees to mingle and not feel bound to one table.



'65 Grads Bob Sloat and Ed Hanson



1965 Grads

The organizing committee was Nick and Judy Bastoni, Fran Devoto Dixon, Ted Lindquist, Cindy Bertino, Ron Falco, Rosie Clarke London (SRHS Foundation Board Member) and Mike Grace (also Board Member). Friday night's affair at the

Druids was so successful everyone had to be shooed out well past the closing time. Many of the committee members commented that the events were fun but, more importantly, it enabled old friends on the committee to get reacquainted. The committee agreed to host the 45th and possibly try to get an informal, no-host yearly function started. Another successful Panther gathering!



Class of '65 attendees Don Drennan, Vic Colli, Nick Bastoni



1995 Reunion Recap by Ben Grace

Over 110 graduates of 1995 attended their 10 year reunion on October 1st at the Hilton in Santa Rosa.

Mingling and socializing was encouraged by forgoing a sit-down dinner and serving a wide variety of appetizers instead. This was a success as most of the classmates spent the evening catching up with old friends. A familiar face was behind the music for the event. Panther DJ, Dillion Durando, who was also responsible for DJing many of the class of 1995's dances, provided the music and did a wonderful job announcing the events of the night.

The reunion committee was comprised of Matt Condron, Peter Egerton, Melissa Rangel, Ben and Christina Grace, Vanessa Meza, Renay Crosby, and Zack Alexander.

Overall, the event went very well with many classmates staying to the end, excitedly chatting away with friends. Many people at the event were grateful for the website created by Dave Thompson '92 for the Foundation, www.srhfsf.org. Without using this as a tool, many of the classmates would never have even been aware of their reunion. The class of 1995 is now looking forward to their 20th!

See more photos from these Reunions, Foundation Events, Back issues of SRHS yearbooks and more at www.srhfsf.org/photos/gallery2/main.php



Would you like to sponsor an edition of the Santa Rosa High School Foundation Newsletter? Let us know your interest by calling the Pandy Line at (707) 571-SRHS or by e-mail: mdaniels@sonic.net.

Reunions in the Works

Are you planning your 10 year or your 30th Reunion? Do you want to find out if your class has anything scheduled? Check the Foundation website for up to the minute information including dates, links, reunion coordinators, etc.! As soon as we get updates, we post the information there - www.srhsf.org

Class of 1941

65th Reunion

Saturday, June 17, 2006

Wild Oak Saddle Club at Oakmont

For more information please call

Evelyn Osten 545-6821 or

Fred Pedersen 542-5296

Attention Class of 1971

We've started the planning of our 35th year reunion! Your help is needed in finding classmates. If you would like to help plan with us, or if you know where your fellow '71 classmates are, please email: Carol (Reddick) Williams at SRHS1971@aol.com

This just in! The classes of 1976 & 1977 are planning a joint reunion! Visit the Foundation website for details and information! www.srhsf.org



CALLING ALL 1961 GRADUATES!

Our 45th year reunion planning is underway and Ann Hutchinson Porrino wants to know if you:

1. Want to work on the committee
2. Want to be part of a joint Montgomery- SRHS reunion
3. Would be able to attend reunion in August - We re looking at August 11th as a possibility

Please call or write Ann (707) 575-4745 or porrinopad@aol.com



We're still waiting to hear from....

Class of 1966 - 40 year

Class of 1981 - 25 year

Class of 1996 - 10 year



SRHS Foundation

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Please find enclosed:
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Name as printed on Credit Card _____
Signature _____

You may make tax deductible contributions, join and renew your membership on-line at our website www.srhsf.org;
OR return this form to: Santa Rosa High School Foundation, P.O. Box 11002, Santa Rosa, CA 95406