



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2012

Vol. 23

Issue 2

The primary objectives and purposes of the Santa Rosa High School Foundation are to serve as a charitable organization to unite SRHS graduates, parents of current and past students, faculty, staff and interested community members; to preserve and document the history and traditions of SRHS; to provide financial support to the school; to promote community involvement

Base Ball: the early years at SRHS

by Mike Daniels '59

No one knows with certainty when the sport of Base Ball emerged at SRHS (The term wasn't compounded into one word until 1922.) because most records were lost in the 1921 fire that consumed the Humboldt Street campus. Statistics for the sport are also generally missing or incomplete because of yearbook deadlines before the season's end and because other publications and scorebooks have disappeared.

Nevertheless, poking through available material uncovers some fascinating stuff about baseball at SRHS.

As one example, in a game with San Francisco's Lowell High in March 1901, with SRHS leading 7-6, Lowell refused to take the field in the ninth inning because the team felt it had been "unfairly treated" by the umpire. Petulance aside, what team hasn't felt that way about an official?

Early on, the Maroni name surfaced in local baseball. It was synonymous with organized play in mid-twentieth century Santa Rosa. In 1912 three Maronis played on the SRHS team—A. Maroni, first base; J. Maroni, third base; and George Maroni, left field. First names

were often omitted in student publications in those days, and it would seem none of the three graduated as their names can't be found in existing records. But it was fairly common then for students not to graduate, as work and other

duties sometimes carried more importance.

Peter Maroni played for SRHS in 1917 and he did graduate that year. In 1923 Peter, playing for the local semi-pro Rosebuds, returned to coach SRHS, guiding the team to a 5-2 season. As a student, Norm Maroni in 1924 coached and played on the team. He later managed Santa Rosa Rosebud teams for many years.

Funding, like today, was limited or non-existent. In 1914 student manager Arthur England gathered \$47 "to buy suits" for the team through "hard and persistent work," with help from the Mothers' Club and with funds from a dance.

The 1919 team recorded 5 wins and 1 loss. SRHS played two games with Healdsburg and one each with Petaluma, Sonoma and Analy. The single loss happened in the first game with Healdsburg, 16-6, but in the second contest the "Locals" (not yet the Panthers) managed a 13-9 win. For the season, Will Carithers of the White House Department Store family hit .663, though he did come to bat just eight times.

The school year 1920-21 was a powerful one for SRHS athletics. The football team, led by Ernie Nev-ers, won the North Western League Championship but lost to Berkeley High in the North Coast Championship game. The basketball team also lost in the championship game--by one point to Mt. Tamalpais Union High School--but the baseball team was league champion with a 4-2 record.

The 1922 team recorded a .500 season with a 3-3 record. In the first game, a 12-7 loss to Petaluma, the 1922 Echo reported, "Our team was so excited they forgot how to throw and catch the ball." Talmadge "Babe" Wood, later to become the local Pontiac/Cadillac dealer and live to age 101, was on the mound that year for SRHS.

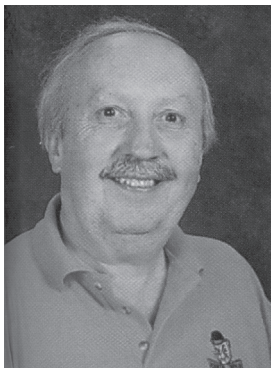
When the campus moved to Mendocino Avenue in 1925, the team finally had a "home" diamond. The legendary Orb Fortier was hired that year and took over as baseball coach. Among many changes he engineered

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President's Message



As Foundation president, I wish all of our present and prospective members a healthy, happy and successful new year. With your active support, I have no doubt that 2012, our 24th year of continuous operation, will prove to be highly productive.

In particular, a number of ongoing and new initiatives will allow us to support our ever expanding operation. These include the expansion of the SRHS museum, the construction of a new website and the expansion of the One Thousand Panthers program. We also will continue the very successful Crab and Polenta Feeds.

The expansion of the SRHS museum will begin in earnest in 2012, with two well known alumni contractors, Dick Colombini '49 and Dave Hunt '66, continuing to provide invaluable assistance. Dick will lead the effort by removing a wall that will turn two small rooms into one larger space. Once the work is completed, Dave's crew will increase the display and storage space. Ultimately, the Foundation will have more museum room for Panther memorabilia. Panther supporters who have items of value to share should make donations to our museum director Mike Daniels. He can be contacted at 526-6347 or mdaniels@sonic.net.

Construction of the new Foundation website will take place over the next six months. Linda Franzman, a local website analyst with the County of Sonoma and wife of popular SRHS social science teacher Dave Franzman, will provide the Foundation with a state-of-the-art website that will integrate the technology needed to run a modern nonprofit. Specifically, the updated website will be compatible with all major desktop browsers as well as such latest devices as iPads and mobile phones. Also, dynamic content will be accommodated and donations and participation will be increased simultaneously by driving traffic to websites and social media sites via a variety of methods. Donor, contact and event management tools will be seamlessly integrated.

The Development Committee announced that the recent One Thousand Panthers program is providing permanent endowment funds at a record pace. Under the leadership of committee member Ann Porrino, 68 people have joined the Parade of Panthers as of the end of 2011, over 20 new donors in December alone. This program will continue and expand this year with the ultimate goal of enlisting 1,000 Panther supporters each to provide \$1,000 or more for the endowment effort.

The 3rd Annual Crab Feed, held at the Santa Rosa

Veterans' Memorial Building in January, was another big success. Special thanks go to the committee chair Denise Fossi and lead chef Randy Apel. In April, we look forward to the 17th Annual Polenta Feed. Committee co-chairs JoAnn MacDonald and Jacky Schlich are in charge of the festivities, also held at the Vets'. As this is a very popular event for SRHS Foundation members and other interested alums, plan to buy your tickets early.

As we are always looking for new board and committee members who want an opportunity to serve, please call me at (707) 571-7747 or e-mail me at asnagri72@yahoo.com for details. Presently, our 25-member board has 12 very active committees. Our current committees include Membership, Newsletter, Scholarship, Student-of-the-Month, Technology/Website, Finance, Development, Golf Tournament, Crab Feed, Polenta Feed, Panther Project Fund and Auditorium Plaques.

Tony Negri
President 2010-2012



From the editor . . .

In response to a request by KPIX TV, members of the Sonoma County Historical Society, one of our favorite local organizations (second to the SRHS Foundation, of course), recently supplied a list of notable local events that happened in 1912. The television station plans a program this year to celebrate the passage of 100 years. You'll want to watch for it. A few events on the list follow.

- Roy Simpson graduated from SRHS and later became California State Superintendent of Schools. With Governor Edmund Brown and UC President Clark Kerr, he helped develop the Master Plan for Higher Education
- Jennie Colvin became the first woman to register to vote in Sonoma County.
- Tomales High School was founded and will host an "all-years" reunion to celebrate its anniversary in August.
- The Stonehouse in Santa Rosa was built as a boarding house for Italian stone masons who were recruited from San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake.
- The great auto racer Barney Oldfield appeared in Santa Rosa in November for a race at the track that was claimed to be the fastest in the world. The race was rained out.
- Pilot Weldon Cooke made a successful airplane flight 2,500 feet over Santa Rosa.
- The City of Sonoma opened its Carnegie Library.
- Immigrant Russian Baptists bought land for a 500 person settlement on land now known as the Sea Ranch. They were unable to make payments and foreclosure forced them to leave.

to develop school spirit was the Panther mascot. The '25 team, forecast to be a strong contender for the brand new North Bay League championship, won 6 games and lost 2.

With Fortier at the helm, baseball's popularity increased to the extent that 50 prospective players tried out for the Orange and Black in 1926. A home game with Analy High that season ended in a spirited Fortier protest. The ball diamond was located in the field just west of the main building, long before the music building, Burke Hall, the science building and DeSoto Hall were built. Home plate on this diamond was located in the southwest section of the open field and faced north, and a pile of wood sat in the far reaches of right field near the under-construction gym. It sparked the objection.

Fortier's protest to the secretary of the North West League was the result of a rule



The 1928 team gathers around Coach Fortier
--1928 Echo

that said any ball hit to the right of or into the pile by the new gymnasium building would be limited to a double.

With Analy leading and SR's Leo Feliz on first, left-handed batter Norm Maroni hit the ball to the right of the wood pile. Feliz scored on the play and

of the protest and the game.

The Panthers lost a 1926 contest to St. Helena, 6-2, because of errors "mostly through the second base territory. Don Burgess, the regular second baseman, was not able to play as he was in court as a witness." The game aside, just what did Burgess witness?

SRHS lost a 5-3 game to Tomales High in 1927 because "the Locals were quite off form on the To-

males diamond, which is quite rough and uneven. It was necessary to throw the ball uphill in order to get it to first base. This was quite a handicap, as our men are used to playing on a smooth level field."

In 1928 SRHS played a practice game with Middletown in which the Panthers won 18-2 and followed that lopsided victory with another one--a 25-6 win over Healdsburg. The Echo said of the victory, ". . . the tilt was a good running carnival. Healdsburg muffed the ball ten times and their four pitchers hung up a new CIF record when they hit every Panther with pitched balls, Hartman being socked twice."

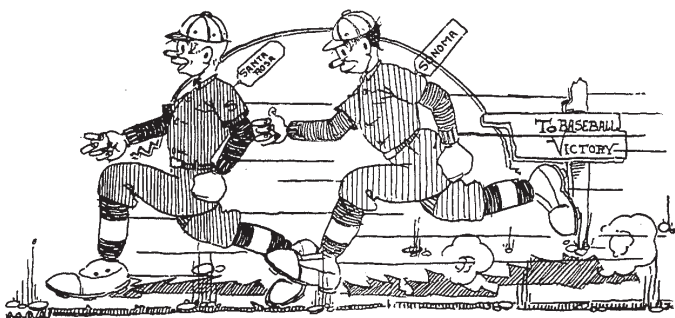
Throughout those early years SRHS produced a number of baseball players who tried professional ball. Notable pitchers include Ernie Nevers, who threw three seasons for the St. Louis Browns and gave up a home run to Babe Ruth in 1927, the year the Babe hit 60 round-trippers. Another is Lloyd "Lefty" Johnson who pitched for 12 seasons at the Triple-A level, and Lindy McLean, who signed with the San Francisco Missions in 1928 after trying out for the San Francisco Seals.

There are games of every sort,
But baseball's the best sport.
The umpire is yelling with all his might,
Our heroes are ready for the fight.

Rattle trat de trat,
The boys are at bat!
The baseball is about to begin
And we know that Santa Rosa will win.

Kenneth Brooks
1925 Echo

Maroni went to third as the Analy outfielder chased down the ball. A heated discussion followed. The Analy coach insisted that the play, according to rule, should have been a two-base hit. The score in his team's favor, Fortier



cartoon by S. Meeker '22

disagreed but did send Feliz back to third and Maroni to second anyway. One can only wonder about the outcome

• • • • •
The 2012 Panther baseball squad, soon to take the field, is led by second-year coach Paige Dumont, and SRHS senior Gabe Camer, who's a Stanford University-bound pitcher. Dumont, a two-sport star at SRJC and SSU, is determined to put SRHS back on the North Bay League baseball map.
With the help of donated funds and labor, several improvements are underway at the baseball complex. The second annual Alumni Game will take place this spring.
Team expectations are high as the Panthers look to regain the spirit and success of the old Local side.
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Letters to the Editor

Editor:

On behalf of the science department, I would like to thank the Foundation for its generous support of the equipment request we submitted. It would be so much more difficult to do our best without you.

Sincerely,
Lori Simerly
Science Instructor

Editor:

On August 10 the Board of Education formally accepted the Foundation's generous donation of \$2,400 to Santa Rosa High School. Per request, the funds will be allocated toward the athletic department as part of the Gymnasium Sign Sponsorship Program and toward the purchase of basketball uniforms.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the students of Santa Rosa High School, I am writing to thank you for your support of our schools. It is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Frank C. Pugh
President
Board of Education

Editor:

Vicki Carpenter and I want to sincerely thank the Foundation for providing the funds to purchase Scantron cards. Most of our teachers now give some of their tests in a multiple choice format. Having the students take these tests on forms that can be scored by a machine is a real time-saver.

The Foundation also provided the funds to buy a special form that tells the teachers how many students missed specific questions. This is extremely valuable information for re-teaching.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the English department.

Sincerely,
Rob Camm and Vicki Carpenter
Co-Chairs, English Department

Editor:

On September 28 the Board of Education formally accepted the Foundation's generous donation totaling \$4,686.51 to Santa Rosa High School. As per instruction, funds will be allocated toward the following:

- . \$2,830 for the welding class
- . \$100 to the Special Education Department
- . \$100 to Building and Construction Pathway
- . \$250 toward the baseball field

. \$500 for Visual and Performing Arts

On behalf of the Board of Education and the students of Santa Rosa High School, I am writing to thank you for your continued support of our schools. It is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Frank C. Pugh
President
Board of Education

Editor:

We just want to thank the Foundation for its generosity. We are enjoying learning about our world with the newspaper gift subscription.

The Elmo will help us learn more about each other's writing, and we'll read models of writing as the papers can be projected now.

Sincerely,
Jessie Kroeck and her students
English

Editor:

I thank the Foundation for the Santa Rosa *Press Democrat* newspapers. The entire department uses them in a variety of levels as well as the Life Skills class.

Many thanks,
Terry Swelha
Social Science Instructor

Editor:

Thanks for all the SRHS Foundation does. Retirement means more time to fish. Photo attached.

Sincerely,
Chuck Mertel

ed. note: The fish Chuck holds in the photo is a 24-inch plus rainbow trout. He's a retired Superior Court Judge in Washington State's King County, but we don't know the year he graduated from SRHS. Can a reader help us find out?



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 alumni.

Santa Rosa High School Foundation News is published quarterly by the Santa Rosa High School Foundation, P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406. Subscription rate is \$25 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.

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Newsletter Publisher: Alicia Hodenfield '85

Newsletter Team: Mike Daniels '59, Mike Grace '65, Penny Hastings '59, Alicia Hodenfield '85, Carol Laabs Patterson '55, Jacky Cooper Schalich '57, Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer '59

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Giving Through the SRHS Foundation

- 1.) Establish an Unrestricted Fund (in your name or anonymously) with a gift of \$10,000 or more
- 2.) Establish a Restricted Scholarship Fund with a gift of \$10,000 or more
- 3.) Include a Bequest or Planned Gift in your estate plan
- 4.) An unrestricted cash gift of any amount that will be directed by the board to a current-need program

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 Trust

For further information, please contact Doug Pavese, SRHS Foundation, P.O. Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 95406, or call Doug at 707-538-3167.

Please speak with your tax advisor regarding your charitable contribution.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Article submissions are invited. Limit to 850 words and letters no more than 150 words. All submissions are subject to editing and become the property of the Foundation.

Please submit articles and letters without anchors and in unformatted text. Submissions are also invited to Panther Patter.

Please submit photos and graphics separately from text but do provide identity of subjects and other relevant information.

Submissions can be made through US Postal Service to PO Box 11006, Santa Rosa, CA 96406-1006 or through e-mail to mdaniels@sonic.net.

NEXT DEADLINE:

April 1, 2012 for the
May, 2012 mailing



In Memoriam

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Ruth Carlson | 1933 |
| Guido Lombardi | 1936 |
| Anthony Maccario | 1942 |
| Barbara Gaddis | 1943 |
| Carl Lawson | 1943 |
| Dorthea Cohen Williford | 1946 |
| William Magers | 1951 |
| Henry Matteri | 1951 |
| Ken Mills | 1951 |
| Joe Negri | 1951 |
| Robert Thompson | 1957 |
| Richard Martin | 1958 |
| Pat Moore | 1959 |

Authors' Night revisited

ed note: One aim of the Foundation's Mission Statement is to provide opportunities for community involvement in SRHS activities. The Foundation certainly hit the target last November when it hosted a free admission "Authors' Night" in the auditorium. Over 350 persons, including students, listened to a conversation with Press Democrat columnist Chris Smith and Panther alum-authors Scott Gummer '82 and David Vann '85. Elenor Paul, the writer of the following observation, is a student in Terry Swelha's Academic U.S. History class. Her paper has been edited for length.

On the stage cozily set with armchairs, SRHS Principal Brad Coscarelli and SRHSF President Tony Negri welcomed the audience and introduced the evening's activity. Press Democrat columnist Chris Smith moderated the discussion.

David Vann and Scott Gummer are only three years apart in age but are incredibly different. Vann is refined, quiet and unimposing. He wore a dusty blue sweater and khaki pants. Gummer, on the other hand, is boisterous and excited, his orange sweater and blue jeans matching his attitude.

Gummer went to the University of Oregon, where he met his wife. They have four children. Intending to major in business, he has written for numerous magazines and published non-fiction sports books and his recent first novel, *Parents Behaving Badly*.

David Vann went to Stanford, Cornell and back to Stanford. He met his wife at a merengue dancing class. Currently teaching at San Francisco State, he has also taught at Stanford, Cornell and Florida State. He too has written for magazines, and he has published five books.

On writing while at SRHS, Gummer said he wrote only to pass notes to girls. While studying didn't occupy him much, he recalled teachers who picked good books made an impact on him.

Vann remembered SRHS differently. His father's suicide when he was 13 settled him into unhappiness, as he lived what he called a "double life." SRHS changed him. At SRHS he made his first true friend, wrote his first stories and was motivated by the drama program. While going to college in the East, he saw the expensive college preparation programs at private schools, and he understood that SRHS readied him just as well, if not more so.

Gummer and Vann agree on discipline but not how to write although they both recommend writing every day. Gummer said fear is his greatest motivator but that he has learned to "turn it on and off." He writes the ending, the beginning, the middle and then maps each character's "arc." Vann religiously writes for two hours every day, insisting that writing is mostly an unconscious activity, stemming from a combination of everything you read, study or experience. He does not plan his work. In fact, he didn't know that one character would die "until I was halfway done with the sentence."

They also agree that writing is not for everyone. Both tried other careers before settling into writing.

Gummer likened writing nonfiction to decorating a house—the structure exists and you fill it in. It's not too difficult, he says, as you have only the facts to use. But fiction is the opposite, completely free. He would find it hard to write in just one genre; he requires the balance.

Vann said writing nonfiction is "distracting and annoying" because you don't own it whereas he can make fiction his own. Writing fiction, he said, is keeping emotions but changing facts.

Magazines pay well, they said (about \$2 a word) and novels are chancy. Basic rates are standard but advances, royalties and sales are variable. Neither could live off his novels.

They discussed reading. Gummer sent his novel to a trusted friend for his advice. He doesn't keep his work from his family but rarely finds time to share it. Vann insisted that writing is not a group project. Not even his wife reads the manuscript before his editor.

The authors disagreed about reading books themselves. Gummer reads to research and to learn for his own writing, but he does not consider himself a "reader." Vann reads, rereads and re-rereads his favorites. Reading influences writing in his opinion. Studying Latin and Old English helped his grammar, structure and style. "If you want to write, you have to read and ingest," he said. Of his creative writing class at SFSU he said, "I can't make better writers, but I can make better readers."

During the question and answer section that concluded the evening, Gummer indicated *The Catcher in the Rye* is the book that influenced him in high school. For Vann it was *On Walden Pond*.

It was clear that both authors love what they do and have great things to offer, even if it is, as Gummer said, "just rearranging the same 26 letters."

Author-alums to be shelved

The success of the Foundation-sponsored Authors' Night in November produced a plan to establish a shelf or a display case in the SRHS library of books authored by Panther alumni.

If you are a published SRHS author, please send the foundation an autographed copy of your book(s) for this collection. If you know of a graduate who's published, please tell the Foundation his or her name—and contact information if you have it. The books will be listed on the Foundation website now undergoing revision. Writers could be invited to a repeat of Authors' Night.

The Foundation welcomes works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography and other genres, either new or old publications. The only requirement is that the author be a SRHS graduate.

Please, no theses or dissertations.

Annual Polenta Feed nears

by Donna Dennes Peterson '67

The time is here! Tickets are on sale for the Foundation's annual Polenta Feed. Scheduled this year for Friday, April 27, the event will again be held at the Santa Rosa Veterans' Memorial Building. No-host cocktails will be available at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 7 pm,

Tickets are \$35 per person and are available for a members-only purchase until March 15 by calling the PANDY Line, 571-7747. Tickets sell out quickly, so be sure to call and order yours today.

Foundation members receive first priority to purchase, and they may order up to four tickets. Spouses are considered Foundation members. Leave your name and telephone number on the PANDY Line, and your call will be returned the following day.

After the March 15 date, tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis to all supporters of SRHS.

Because tickets to this popular event sell so quickly, there will be no waiting list. You are urged to call now.

Pete Winters wins Gutzman

by Mike Grace '65

At the conclusion of the 2011 Panther football season, the prestigious Myron Gutzman Heart of the Panther Award went to Pete Winters, the team's stalwart lineman who was the on-field leader. The season was a challenging one with few victories, but Pete's never-say-die spirit and unwillingness to give up kept his teammates playing their best.

Pete follows in the footsteps of the previous winners: Austin Solheim in 2009, Chris Smith in 2008 and Rylan Thew in 2007 and 2006.

The award is named for a 1965 Panther. The inscription on the trophy reads: "This award is given in memory of Myron Gutzman, 1965, who loved playing football for SRHS. This award is given to the athlete who best exemplifies Myron's love of the game and the school."

Myron was not the biggest or most skilled on the gridiron, but he definitely cherished his playing days. Later in life, he was diagnosed with cancer. He struggled against the disease, thinking he had it beat, but the cancer came back with a vengeance to ultimately take his life.

Even as the cancer ravished his body, Myron never gave up, never gave in to why me? Toward the end he often spoke of his love of playing for the Panthers and how he enjoyed his time at SRHS. In spite of his lack of athletic talent, he showed he was a winner.

Sue Soso Gutzman, Myron's widow, agreed the Heart of the Panther trophy is a fitting tribute. The Foundation is proud to present the award each year.



Pete Winters and the Myron Gutzman Heart of the Panther trophy

♪ '34-'38 enjoy musical reunion

by George Conners '36

The SRHS classes of 1934-38 were serenaded by a nine-piece band during their 12th consecutive reunion in July at the Ledson Winery.

Forty-three classmates, plus an equal number of spouses, friends and caretakers attended a gourmet sit-down dinner on the beautiful grounds of the winery and its pool.

Steve Ledson again hosted the annual gathering in memory of his father, Noble, class of 1934 and a member of the national championship dairy cattle judging team that competed at the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City.

At age 98, Nello Bassignani was the oldest Panther attending the reunion. Valet parking as well as transportation from Santa Rosa was provided.

The 13th reunion will be held in July 2012, the date to be announced. If you are a '34-'38 alum but haven't received an invitation and would like to attend, please contact George Conners, telephone 707 431-1419. ♪

The good news to share with all of you is that the Foundation welcomed 23 new members and received 98 membership renewals since the last newsletter. Contributions and memorial gifts this period are \$3,666. Thanks to all of you who included the Foundation in your gift-giving this past holiday season.

The following members and friends contributed additional funds over and above their membership fees:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Authors' Night Friends | Donald and Madeline Getts Friends | Donna McClelland '64 |
| Connie Barnett '53 | David Gervais '59 | Dan and Karen McCulloch Friends |
| Marian Boyrie '65 | Charlene Greiner '54 | Dorothy Mercer '57 |
| Robert and Arlene Bush '51 | Jack Guenza '52 | William Mitchell '63 |
| Class of '66 | Julie Hanson '66 | Michael Panas Friend |
| Joe Coggins '69 | Carol Hemenway '54 | Joel Parker '66 |
| Carol Colglazier '58 | James and Shirley Hurley '58 | Judith Podstata '52 |
| Sylvia Cullivan '54 | Michael and Donna Jeye Friends | Norma Rettinhouse '55 |
| Dorothy Curry '52 | Jim and Diane Keegan '66/'67 | Nicolas Reyes '04 |
| Richard Decroff '65 | Martha Keegan '47 | Lorna Romano '67 |
| Jack and Julia De Meo '51/'52 | Dan Kelly '59 | Belva Sager '57 |
| Gloria Duncan '54 | Fred King '64 | Kathleen Strickler '58 |
| Jeff and Lisa Elliott Friends | Bruce and Connie Kinnison Friends | James Streeter '76 |
| Dennis Escola '58 | George Lawry '48 | Mike and Christine Tonelli '88 |
| Sharon Fernandez '62 | Alex Malaspina '52 | Beverly Totemeier '53 |
| Dolores Fruiht Friend | Lila Maloney '48 | Dennis Yaeger '61 |

LIFETIME MEMBERS: We welcome into the Lifetime Membership Edna Waldo, Class of 1956, Janice March, Friend, Richard Coombs, Class of 1971.

If you have friends who are interested in joining the Foundation, encourage them to do so, by using the form available in this newsletter or by going on-line at www.srhsf.org to make their contributions and join. Any concerns or questions you have about your membership or contributions, should be directed to Nadine Wiggins Smedshammer, at 707 544-3158, or nsmeds@sbcglobal.net.

ed note: The Pulsera Project, a 501c 3 nonprofit organization, helps to create opportunities for young artisans and former street kids in Nicaragua to empower themselves by selling their handmade art in the United States. Since 2009 130 U.S. schools have partnered with the project and helped provide futures for the young Nicaraguans. SRHS Spanish Instructor Carla Forchini used the Pulsera Project in her classroom as a service-learning activity to engage her students in international service while they improved their Spanish skills. The first order of 450 bracelets, mostly orange and black, sold out immediately at \$5 each. Ms. Forchini has since reordered. She submitted the following:

My students have become empowered and inspired through their participation in the Pulsera Project. I read about the project in a language publication and was drawn to the program after visiting its website.

I hooked up my computer to my projector, and I showed the class the Pulsera Project website and the "Color the World" video. After 12 minutes they decided to participate in the project, and they immediately started planning. I barely had to do anything—they were willing to help with every aspect.

The handmade bracelets arrived with a tag with each artisan's picture on it. They are so unique, and they represent so much hope. They almost sell themselves.

The greatest impact occurred when I explained to my students that the money they raised from the sale of the bracelets could buy a four-year college education for one of the Nicaraguans in need. They just about fell out of their chairs.

When I had the students write testimonials, I learned how each of them was affected by their service-learning experience. This time, I was falling out of my chair.

I am just learning how my students have been touched and changed by this project. It was joyful for me, and I look forward to continuing participation in the future.

Memorial & Special Contributions

The Cliff Bath Memorial

Kenneth Niles '55

The Nydie Bogue Memorial

Mike and Kathy Grace '65

Barbara McDougall '60

The Barbara Button Memorial

Laurie Button-Cantu '66

The Louis DeMaria Memorial

Helen Bianchini '43

The Alberta Feist Memorial

Elaine Thompson '58

The Louise Fertitta Memorial

Don and Shirley Dimitratos Friends

The William Geary Memorial

Dave and Nancy Berto '49

Nate and Mimi Cacianti '46

Dusty and Jean Destruel '45

Bob and Joan Dickerson '45

Bill Grace '62

Tim and Kathy Hayes Friends

James and Margarette Murakami Friends

Maxine Noonan '45

Doug and Sally Pavese '58

John and Keri Ryan Friends

Dottie Shea Friend

Gloria Smith Friend

The Betty Gong Memorial

Rick and Paulette Gomes '68

Jim and Diane Keegan '66/'67

The Carl John Lawson Memorial

James Laier '58

The Don Maxwell Memorial

James Laier '58

The Irene Maxwell Memorial

Martha Maxwell '57

The Bart Morrison Memorial

Bill Morrison '53

The Joe Negri Memorial

Jack and Julia De Meo '51/'52

Linda Espinosa '55

The George Payne Memorial

Dotti Shea Friend

The Pat Pedersen Memorial

Corrine Kingsbury '48

William Pedersen '45

The A. J. Schmitt Memorial

Dave and Nancy Berto '49

The Lloyd Wasmuth Memorial

Patrick Gallagher Friend

Mary Testorelli '47

The Bob Testorelli Memorial

Dottie Shea Friend

The Pamela Griffin McMahon Memorial

Daniel McMahon Friend

The Emmett O'Neill Scholarship Fund

Jim Dunwoody Friend

The Berta Wiggins Scholarship Fund

Tom and Delores Schieberl '53/'53

If you wish to have your donation acknowledged to the family of the memorial honoree, please include an address for that purpose.

'56 and '57 report best reunion ever

by JoAnn Hembree MacDonald '56 and Jacky Cooper Schalich '57

The Classes of 1956 & 1957 report "they had their best reunion ever" on the weekend of September 23-25. The Flamingo Hotel was an excellent choice, providing wonderful food, service and great hospitality. Perfect setting, beautiful weather, great food and wine and many dear friends shared memories and laughs. Fifty-five years since graduation from SRHS gave us plenty of stories, some greatly exaggerated.

Friday night 125 grads gathered poolside for hors d'oeuvres and no-host cocktails. Casual dress made everyone feel, comfortable and relaxed. The lack of formality to this event was gratefully appreciated by all in attendance.

Saturday night the alums enjoyed a formal sit-down dinner with music and dancing provided by the Green Brothers. A drop-in visit by Patsy Cline (alias Carol Guanella) was a special feature. The highlight dance, honoring couples married fifty years or more, brought over sixty people to the dance floor. Some people called this a miracle!

Sunday's event included a tour of the SRHS campus led by Tony Negri. The museum was a favorite stop on the tour. SRHS Foundation members prepared a wonderful bar-b-que for all in attendance. Thanks to all of you who helped make it a fabulous weekend. See you for the 60th!

The reunion committee members: (Class of 1956) Carol Guanella, JoAnn Mac Donald, Mick Prickett, Edy Sorenson; (Class of 1957) Eddie Canevari, Dave Engman, Gary Martin, Jacky Schalich.



ONE THOUSAND PANTHERS

A Santa Rosa High School Foundation Campaign

937 Left to go!
Thank you to our first 67 members!

Our newest members

Anonymous
Lynda Trombetta Angell '59
Darlene McCullough Bath '56
Fred Biagi '68
Ron Bredehoff '60
Arnold and Dale Martin Bussard '61
Richard A. Coombs '71
Donald Christensen '44
in memory of Norma Christensen
Florine Trombetta Ellingson '56
Timothy Evans '63
Allen Garayaldi '55
William Gore '54
Gerald L. Grey '58
Paul Huntzinger '63
Alana Kelly '78
Janet Bennett Koby '62
James G. Laier Jr. '58
Dan '66 and Meta Lightfoot '66
Martha Maxwell '57
in memory of Irene Waters Maxwell '25
Margaret McMillan '65
Roberta Chin Mural '66
Stephanie Lowry Nacouzi '77

Bonnie Panizzera '63 (faculty '69-80)
Jerrold Peterson '60
Eric Pierce '65
Joe '45 and Jacky Cooper '57 Schlich
Ted Smith '55
Dortha Sonnikson '48
Testorelli Family in memory of
our friend Gerald Gleason '46
Testorelli Family in Memory of
Bob Testorelli '45
Ann Clegg Tuohy '66
Don '52 and Jane Bruggemann '54 Turner
Glen C. '56 and Paulette E. Vadon
Patricia Walker Yeckel '66
Dave '57 and Sherlyn Walker '56 Zumwalt

Did you know the SRHS Foundation has been an active partner of SRHS for nearly 25 years? It has been able to provide SRHS students, teachers and administrators with the tools necessary for effective learning. By fulfilling requests through a grant process, the Foundation has helped SRHS achieve excellence. Within the next five years, the Foundation hopes to fulfill a dream of achieving a \$1 million endowment fund and have the earnings go to fulfilling school needs by enlisting the help of 1,000 Panther supporters each giving \$1,000 or more. We are marching towards our first 100 OTP members. OTP members can give by check, credit card or securities. Matching funds through an employer can be accepted. members can be solo or group (teams, clubs, families, friends and/or classmates)



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Marketable Securities & Employer Matching – we will contact you & walk you through the process
Please acknowledge the donation as _____
For special requests, pooled donations, and other questions
Please call SRHS Pandy Line at 707.571-7747 (SRHS) or Email: Donations@SRHSF.org
Santa Rosa High School Foundation PO Box 11006 Santa Rosa CA 95406

1-1-12



by Pandy

The recent annual Friday-before-Christmas gathering of SRHS alums attracted over 60 guys to reminisce over lunch at The Villa in Santa Rosa. This year's event was especially notable as long-time Panther football coach and teacher **Jim Greenamyre** was surrounded by many of his former players . . . If you would like to know more about the **Author's Night** the Foundation hosted in the SRHS auditorium back in November, you can go to the SRHS website and read an interview with **David Vann '85** written by Santa Rosan staff member **Isabella Froman**. Go to www.santarosahighschool.net and click on "Santa Rosan" . . . **Jim Pearce '50** graduated from SRHS 25 years to the date his mother did. Jim worked in the early days

of computing systems and in sales before he returned to Santa Rosa and took over his dad's business. He remembers teachers Lloyd Gromer, Mitch Soso and Irene Scott but says,

tongue-in-cheek, the only staff member he knew well was Rhodes Trussel, the truant officer. Jim and his wife now divide their time between homes



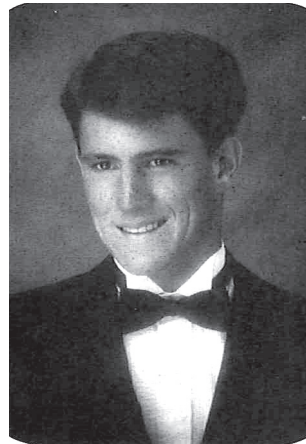
Jim Pearce
1950 *Echo*

in Santa Rosa and Indian Wells . . . **Gary Vice '58** was gifted with a pristine copy of the *Echo* for that year, and he dropped it by SRHS for inclusion in the museum archives, where the stock of older issues continues to increase. If your *Echo* disappeared somehow over the years, telephone the Pandy Line. A replacement just might be waiting for you . . . one of the eight alums who got the Foundation up and running back in 1988, **Rick Call '67** donated memorabilia that belonged to sister **Candy**



Dianna "Candy" Call
1963 *Echo*

Call **63**, who recently passed away. A song leader, FFA Sweetheart, member of the governing board, Candy's list of involvement and contribution to SRHS is very heady. One of the most telling items in the collection is a letter of encouragement from Girls' Dean Edna Parker, written just after Candy graduated. The letter reflects Mrs. Parker's desire to help SRHS students even after they left the campus . . . **Jim Gash '85**, now associate dean in the Pepperdine University School of Law, his wife and three kids, will spend six months in Uganda where Jim will work on juvenile justice projects . . . **Will Whiteside '89** set an air speed record for propeller-driven aircraft weighing 5,000 pounds at the Bonneville Salt Flats last October. Will piloted a World War II-era Russian Yak fighter to 416 mph, shattering the old record of 302 mph . . . retired SRHS English chair **Jim Dunwoody** recently underwent a medical procedure at Santa Rosa's Kaiser Medical Center



Todd Weitzenberg
1987 *Echo*

that was performed by physician **Todd Weitzenberg '87**. As Jim tells it, "When we met, I told him that I had worked with his mother (Lynn Weitzenberg, a teacher at Monroe Elementary) on the negotiating committee, and he asked where I had taught. I told him and he proudly announced his SRHS roots. We 'bonded' of sorts and he afterward sent a note asking about my condition and that the faculty at SRHS were wonderful. How is that for a 'small world' sort of 'Once a Panther, Always a Panther' story?"

. . . More museum donations: **Dorothy Bishop Lucas '37** gave some mid-30s Echoes that once belonged to her brother . . . SRHS campus news: two Panther staff members, science teacher **Michelle Feleay** and counselor **Yvonne Maloney**, were honored with Sonoma County Educator of the Year awards, and special ed teacher **Willie Swindle** was named the California League of High Schools Teacher of the Year for 2011 . . . the **SRHS cheerleaders** raised over \$6,000 to benefit the Joplin High School cheerleaders in Joplin, MO after their campus was destroyed by a tornado last May . . . SRHS social science instructors **Art Horner**, **Terry Swelha**, **Dave Franzman** and their students donated spare change that totaled \$1,230 (no extra credit, no pizza party, just good will). The students got up early on the first day of winter vacation and used the loot

at G&G Market to buy 890 pounds of non-perishable food that they delivered to an understandably thrilled Redwood Empire Food Bank. . . SRHS agriculture faculty **Lisa Piehl**, **Alissa Sarvinski** and **Wesley Hunt** also got into the food drive act as their students throughout November collected 1,000 pounds of canned goods.



SRHS FOUNDATION

"Once a Panther, Always a Panther"

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