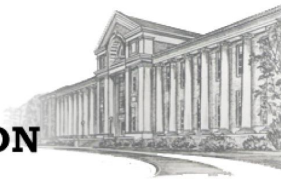




THE WARRIOR ECHO

A Publication of The
FRESNO HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Vol. 9

www.fresnohighalumni.com

April 2010

The Chairman's Corner

By Jack Fowler

We would like to thank all the Fresno High Alumni and friends of Fresno High for their continued support of the Fresno High Alumni Association since the beginning in 2000. It has been a great 10 years. The May dinners have brought many old friends together, and have made new friends while providing support for Fresno High School. We also have been able to honor the great Fresno High athletics from the past through the Wall of Champions. All this is wonderful but there have been some sad moments. We lost our very faithful Warrior Echo editor, Linda West, in 2008. But, as luck would have it, Principal Bob Reyes has decided to retire from teaching at the end of this school term. And, after a little arm twisting, he's agreed to edit our newsletter and see how it fits into his retirement.

We would like to see every class represented at our monthly meetings. But short of begging, that has not happened. The more representation at the meetings, the more we can meet the goals of the association to give back as much as possible to the students of our Alma Mater. Continuing support is greatly needed, especially during the change in principals happening next year.

In the last several years over \$17 billion was cut from schools and colleges. Entire art, music and PE programs have been eliminated. More than 10,000 educators were

laid off. This year, in the wake of all these cuts, our students and schools are being threatened by a proposed \$68 million cut in Fresno Unified School District. Fresno High will again be asking the Alumni Association for support. By supporting the FHS Alumni we can help with your tax free donations, while still bringing the Alumni together through our May dinners, Wall of Champions and memberships. So many of us would not be where we are today without the support of our former educations. So, please support the FHS Alumni Association, and if you can, attend our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the FHS library. Remember we need to keep the Warrior Nation alive and well.

Update from the Principal

By Bob Reyes

As of this writing, I will be finishing my 13th and last year as principal of Fresno High School. After 39 years in education and a total of 18 years as a high school principal, I felt that it was time to retire from full-time work and to devote more time to family and to special projects. I could think of no better way to end my career in education than to do so as principal of the "School of Champions."

Next year I will go into part-time work for the district in order to oversee the International Baccalaureate programs at Dailey Elementary, Wawona Middle School, and Fresno High School. The International Baccalaureate

program is the most rigorous academic program in the world. It had its beginnings in the 1960's when there was a need to establish a world-class curriculum for the sons and daughters of foreign diplomats who, when stationed in foreign countries, needed to ensure that the education that their children received overseas would still allow them to apply to the top universities in their home countries. Now the International Baccalaureate program is accepted all over the world and is considered the "gold standard" for educational programs.

I have been very fortunate to be able to bring the International Baccalaureate program to Fresno High School. We now have over 500 students involved in IB. About twenty percent of our students take at least one IB course. With Wawona Middle School offering the IB Middle Years Program, our enrollment in IB will only become larger each year. Next year alone the program is expected to grow to nearly 600 students.

During my 13 years at Fresno High, I have also been fortunate to have benefitted from a huge commitment of district funding to making our facilities one of the best in the district. Over \$30 million has been invested in modernizing the campus, landscape improvements, establishing our 9th Grade Warrior Academy, and new athletic facilities like the new baseball stadium, new softball stadium, new all-weather track, and our new swimming pool complex. These athletic facilities are considered the best in the district.

I would like to thank the Fresno High Alumni Association for all of their support over the last 11 years of my principalship. They have contributed financially to so many worthy groups on our campus. The staff and students alike have benefitted so much from this strong organization.

I plan to continue to work with the Alumni Association since last year they made me an Honorary Lifetime Member. I will also put together this newsletter for the Alumni. So if you have an idea for a story that you would like to see, please e-mail me at revireyes@comcast.net.

Thank you again for allowing me the privilege to serve as principal of the *School of Champions*. Proud to be a Warrior, and especially proud to have been your principal!

Roxie "Maloyan" Dorgan

Probably Fresno High School's oldest living graduate, Roxie "Maloyan" Dorgan, was born on July 1, 1907 and graduated from Fresno High in 1926.

The trek to FHS high each day meant she would walk from her home at 426 "M" Street, which is the current site of the Raddison Hotel, across the street from the Fresno Convention Center, to downtown Fresno. She would catch a trolley, transfer at least one time before reaching the school. At that time, the school was only 4 years old, which was located at its current site. Female students were only allowed to wear dresses and as times were lean, Roxie didn't have a coat to wear to school. She also never had the money to eat in the cafeteria. Even though – she still loved it and many wonderful memories to share. Some of her special friends were O.B. Doyle and the wife of Erwin Ginsburg – who was an excellent tennis player.

After high school, Roxie worked in a local packing house to save enough money to move to Oakland to attend nursing school at Fabiola Hospital. She graduated in 1929 from nursing school.

She married Virgil Dorgan on July 11, 1934, raised two children, James who graduated from FHS in 1953, and daughter Madeline Dorgan Greenwood who lives in Folsom, CA., graduated in 1954. Roxie's Mother, Mabel Maloyan also attended FHS – in 1904 and lived to be one month short of 111. Yes, you read that age correctly!!

Roxie still gets around with the help of a walker and a little guidance. She still loves to go to Sweet Tomatoes.

James' Jabber

By James Palmer

Being a small, isolated, agricultural town in between mega cites like Los Angeles and San Francisco hampered



Fresno's expansion of entertainment without doubt.

Although Fresno had its share of celebrities over the years, many went elsewhere to follow a career. I mention a number of activities happening during the forties and fifties. Movie theatres were: Warnors with the pipe organ set-up, White, Wilson, Hardys, Kinema, Sequoia, Crest, Tower, Motor-In and Sunset drive-ins.

Ryans Arena had been known to the "Boxing World" for decades. Many trained there and well-known matches were held there---even pro wrestling events happened there.

Barnum and Bailey Circus came in annually to perform at the

Memorial Auditorium on Fresno Street. I recall tumbling down the grass hill on its west side for hours of fun. "Mom, I fell off my bike and got dirty"... "Yeah, I know," she said. The Harlem Globe Trotters also played games there. Geece Ozby was one player on that team. I saw them play in Hawaii when Meadow Lark Lemon joined the team.

Local baseball had a well known team named the Fresno Cardinals who had a good record as a minor league farm team of the St. Louis Cardinals. A woman's softball team named the Fresno Rockets won a World's Title.

On Fresno and Olive Streets was a military-like Quonset hut building with an ice rink in it. People could skate there and see the Fresno Falcons play minor league hockey. I fell, got soaking wet, sprained my ankles and decided, "I will take four-wheel skates next time."

Fresno State College played their home football games at Ratcliffe Stadium on Blackstone, as well as our Alma Mater. It seemed crazy to see so many limp off the field.

The West Coast Relays was a May event held at Ratcliffe for track and field. Many athletes competed to place themselves on the Olympic Team statistics. Rafer Johnson and Bob Mathias were two of many who competed.

Two local parks were available then. Roeding was in the city and Kearney was in the county. The Fresno City Zoo was at Roeding, and I remember school children collected pennies to help bring Nosey, the elephant as an attraction. She passed away not long ago.

A racing stadium on Kearney Boulevard had been in use for sometime. If you attended a race there, you sat on wooden bleachers. Racing included



motorcycles, midgets, jalopies, hard tops, modified hardtops, stock cars and more. Do you remember these famous names who competed there - Vukovich, Pombo, Sargeant and some guy who went to FHS named Duane Woodward? I lost my class ring at that track and Marshall Sargeant ran over it.

After "dragging the main" (Fulton Street at the time) the evening would not be over without visiting a drive-in restaurant. Stan's on Broadway was number one it seemed, and the carhops rolled out on skates. Remember Stan's Private Line broadcast on Saturday nights? I think Sam Schwann was the DJ and you could call in requests for songs. The Imperial was on the SW corner of Belmont and Palm. Next to it was the Barrel which had very good root beer. Mars was on the NW corner of Belmont and Palm and Reed and Bell was on Belmont and Echo. Hey Dick, remember our lunches there in your '57 Chevrolet? The Alaska was on Belmont and San Pablo. So, how many places do you remember?

News From the Class Of 1960

We grew up in the 1950's – and what a great time it was to grow up then! Those years were just as every article or documentary has described. Times to treasure and great experiences to reflect back on. Well – one of the biggest treasures of all – our high school graduation is about to be celebrated – in a big way.

Please call all of your high school buddies and join us for our **50TH Reunion**. We will spend the weekend of October 22, 23, & 24, 2010, laughing, remembering and trying to figure out who is who. Our reunion committee is working hard to have some fun activities and also plenty of time just to catch up with each other. Our invitations will be out mid-July, but

in the meantime, you can always go to www.fresnohighalumni.com for updated information. Make your plans to join us in October. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Garo Boyajian at (559) 224-6643, or e-mail me at jfb15@live.com.

Staying In Touch In 2010

By Judie Lane, Class of 1962

Several 1962 classmates are having fun and staying in touch on Facebook.com. Some try to keep up with our multi-media, multi-tasking grandchildren, or other family members, fellow classmates and other friends across the nation and overseas.

We're sharing some ideas, thoughts, photos, games, and parts of our lives and interests on that website or on-line. Well, at least the parts you don't mind if *everyone* else sees them! You do have the option to "accept" or "reject" people.

Besides myself, some other 1962 classmates on Facebook include Charles Amirkanian, Joyce (Peel) Bogard, John Burton, John Carpenter (64), Carol (Cloves) Wynn, Charles and Virginia Diffey (64), Gail (Friesen) McTaggart, Pastor Tom Jacobsen, Judy (Cohen) Liu, Jan Pessano, Johnny Phillips, Ruth (McFarland) Sorenson, Steve Strickland, Mike Thompson and Louise (Ziegler) Leach.

All of us are keeping active with various activities including reading, walking, hiking, skiing, spending time with friends and family, cooking, networking, golf, politics, crafts, movies, boating, traveling and a few other ways.

It's great to stay in touch with my friend who moved from California to Florida 12 years ago, with nearly daily e-mails, sharing

our ups and downs, especially being in different time zones when you are up late at night or up too early in morning. Still, an occasional "visit in person" is even better.

Two other sites to keep updated and in touch with people are classmates.com (it has a free version) and www.fresnohighalumni.com which is always free.

Remember when folks actually hand-wrote letters to each other and sent them "snail mail"? And we only talked on phones from home or pay booths?

Yes, communication and many other forms of technology have changed tremendously during our lifetime, most for the better, I think. Some help us stay in touch easier!

Don't forget to send your class "contact" people your change of addresses and any other updating information. Stay in touch!

CONTINUING THIS NEWSLETTER: Membership is the primary support we get which allows us to give back to the students and teachers at Fresno High. There is a membership application included in this newsletter. If you are not interested in becoming a member, maybe a donation would be something you would like to do. Your tax-deductible check made payable to Fresno High Alumni Association and mailed to P.O. Box 27516, Fresno, CA 93729 would be greatly appreciated.

____\$5____\$10____\$15____other



Fresno High School Alumni Association Membership Application

Your Alumni
Membership helps
Fresno High with

- Scholarships to deserving students
- Much needed classroom supplies
- Supplemental facilities and grounds maintenance
- Special projects as needed in different departments

N

Please sign me up as a member of the Fresno High Alumni Association as a:

Chief \$100/yr Warrior \$50/yr Brave \$25/yr
(Includes Annual Alumni Dinner)

Your FHS graduating class year _____

Last Name/Maiden Name _____

First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Spouse's Full Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____ email _____

Please mail form and check to: FHS Alumni Association
PO Box 27516
Fresno, CA 93729