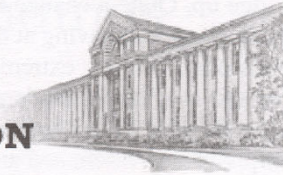




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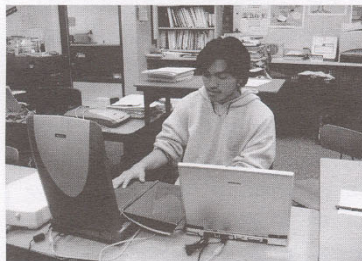
Bridging The Generations

By JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward

The Fresno High Alumni Association (FHAA) and Helen Herzog's Business and Computer Technology classes have been very busy getting the history of Fresno High electronically saved and protected for future and past generations. This joint Electronic Historical Archives Project (EHAP) will ultimately archive the history of Fresno High on the internet. This data will be available to the world 24 hours a day at www.fresnohighalumni.com.

The alumni association donated two scanners to Herzog's class with the specific requirement that her class would be instrumental in helping FHAA get the web site updated with as much of the history as possible. Two students, Xok Xay Vang and Danielle Valencia, both seniors, are accomplishing that. Members of FHAA select which items from each yearbook will be scanned and where it will reside on the web site.

Xok Xay came to America as a young child from



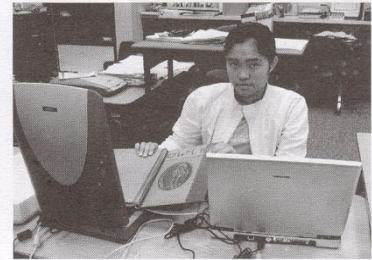
Thailand and has been educated in California schools. When Xok Xay was asked what was one of the biggest differences between the older yearbooks and current ones, he said it

was how differently students dressed between years ago and now. He is very excited about the work he is doing in Herzog's class.

During a recent visit to the classroom, Bernice Denman Dyck, class of '36, was on hand while Xok Xay was scanning photos from the 1936 yearbook. Bernice's cousin, Earl Farley, also class of '36, designed the cover of the yearbook and it was very exciting for her to be there to watch the process of scanning and uploading old photos and ads. She stated, "It's extremely fascinating and it boggles my mind what is

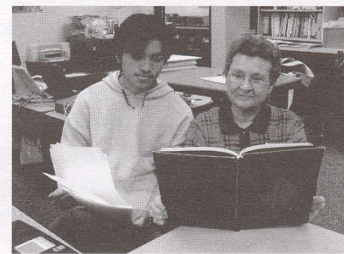
being done today and how much the students can accomplish."

Danielle, the other student on the project, is taking a Health Careers class at Duncan High as well as volunteering three days a week at the Veteran's Administration hospital.



She will be attending Fresno City College where she plans on a nursing career. Danielle stated, "Working on this project has given me an opportunity to take a look at how much change Fresno High has gone through. It was interesting to see the type of organizations the school had, the staff, students, the student's style, and academics they had 20-30 years ago. I'm so glad to have been part of a school with such rich history."

Herzog mentioned that even though she has just two students from different classes working on the project, other students have become very interested in what is being done. They often will drop by Xok Xay's desk to see what is being scanned and are captivated by the old school pictures in past yearbooks. Herzog revealed that most of the students were not aware of the heritage of the school and finding out that long-standing traditions are still going on has been important lessons for a lot of them.



Bernice was "shocked" upon entering the high school for the meeting. Fresno High is a closed campus and she had to go through the administration office, sign in and

badge up. Quite a change from 1936, but after arriving at the classroom, she was extremely impressed at what the students had to work with. In her words, "I was surprised and fascinated at the work that was going on. The electronic equipment being used and the set up was amazing. I realized how much they were connected to the electronic age and that it was our tax dollars that provided so much of what they were using."



In the photo above, Bernice and Anita Goeden McCready, also from the class of '36, are deciding which information is to be sent to the web from the 1934 year book. You can see the great work of the students in Herzog's class by visiting the FHS Alumni Association web site:

www.fresnohighalumni.com.

The two students have loaded most of the photos of classmates, athletics and advertisements to the web site. Send your comments and ideas by clicking on the "contact us" link and e-mailing anyone on the web site staff.

The FHS Alumni Association will put to good use any FHS yearbooks donated to them. Books initially will be used to complete the archival collection. It has been proposed that duplicate copies could be offered for sale, with proceeds to benefit the Association.

Holiday Heritage Home Tour

By JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward

For the past nine years, around Christmas time, the Fresno High Senate has played a role in the annual Holiday Heritage Home Tour sponsored by the Historic Fresno High Neighborhood Association.

Each year, some of the beautiful



The Carroll home (Gottschalk's) at 1465 N. Echo

homes that grace the area around Fresno High School are open to the public. These historic, elegant homes show pride of ownership. Perhaps you lived in one of these homes or you may remember the warm welcome of friends who lived in homes on Van Ness, Echo, Terrace, Wishon, Palm and other neighborhood streets.

Last year's tour included four homes plus Royce Hall. Many of you will remember the Gottschalk house on Echo, named because it was built for Emile Gottschalk's sister in 1930. You may also remember the Orozco family home on Terrace and Wilson built in 1935 and recently purchased by the McAlexander family. Most of the homes have original details and will bring back many memories were you to take the tour. There were original beveled glass doors and windows in a home on Van Ness; original cobblestone floor and dark, circular oak banisters in the foyer of the home on Echo; and original tiled arches over the bathtub and towel area in the home on Terrace.

Last year Senate members were docents in each of the homes on the tour and were well versed in family information and details about the history of the home. The Senate has been in existence since 1890, making it the oldest club on the Fresno High School campus and the oldest continually operating club on a high school campus in the United States. It is modeled after the United States Senate. The posts of President and the Vice President of the United States are held by teachers. Political party affiliations include the two major parties and also smaller parties such as the Green Party.

In order to be a Senator, students must be participants in at least two other sports/clubs on campus and must meet scholastic requirements of a 3.0 GPA or higher. Senate has been the only Fresno High club that has participated in this annual home tour tradition. Fifty percent of the profits from the tour go to help provide whatever is needed at Fresno High

Home Tour *cont.*

School. The other half of the profits go toward the Christmas decorations that adorn Van Ness Boulevard near the school and help to fund other neighborhood traditions.

This year, the Holiday Heritage Home tour will be held on Monday evening, December 5, 2005, between 6:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. Traditionally, there is a tree lighting ceremony in front of Fresno High School's Royce Hall the week prior to the tour. This year that date is set for Monday evening, November 28, 2005, at 5:00 P.M. This is a special gathering of neighborhood residents, Fresno High alumni, and students and their families, and includes cookies, punch and Christmas carols performed by the Fresno High choir and band.

Four homes will be open during the tour and Royce Hall will be included again so that everyone can see how it has been restored. This December marks the tour's tenth anniversary, and a special limited edition 18" x 24" color poster, by local artist Bebe Long, will be available at the tree lighting ceremony as well as along the route of the tour. Because the tour is limited and is a sellout each year, you must be on a mailing list in order to buy tickets. Please send your name and address to the Historic Fresno High Neighborhood Association, c/o Candice Hutcheson, 428 E. Harvard, Fresno, CA, 93704 or email Bebe Long at bebelongart@aol.com in order to be put on the mailing list for this extraordinary holiday tradition. Tickets will be available to purchase only through the flier that will be sent in October to everyone on the mailing list.

Beginnings and Endings

By Linda West

Stillman's Drugstore...

Melba Johnson, class of '38, fondly recalls when she was hired at the age of fifteen to work at Stillman's Drugs on the corner of Van Ness and Weldon Avenues. "They always got busy after school let out, so I would stop in and help my friend Menla Hicks who was working there. Stillman Johnston, the owner, was a fine man and after watching me work for free, offered me a job for an hour or two a day to help handle the overflow. Minimum wage at that time was \$.25. I got \$.35. Menla would always pull a few cokes just before school let out and put them in the freezer for those who looked forward to a 'frozen coke.' Frozen or regular, a coke cost just \$.05."

Johnston was the pharmacist, but it was the soda fountain that the kids came in for. At first the counter ran parallel to the wall. Later it was rebuilt into a curved shape to accommodate more customers. "Milkshakes were \$.10 each, and cheese sandwiches were \$.15," says Melba. "On the weekends, folks from the more affluent Fig Garden area would come to Stillman's for sodas and sundaes."

"There was a camera section also, and the man who sold cameras for Johnston lived in the back of the store in those days. As owner and pharmacist, Johnston was known for the fact that he would deliver anytime of the day or night to those in need. He was a wonderful man."

Melba continued to work part-time through the summer of 1940. And though Johnston eventually owned three stores in Fresno—all called Stillman's Drugs—it's the one on the corner across from Fresno High School that holds fond memories for many of the FHS alumni.

College Pharmacy...

College Pharmacy, a Tower District landmark, closed its doors in May of 2005.

Charles Alstrom and his wife Linda Shollenbarger Alstrom, both class of '57, ended a business that began in 1937. At that time, Charles' father, Ed Alstrom and his partner Ben Wiebe, opened a small drug store a few blocks from what was then Fresno State College (now the Fresno City College campus).

Alstrom, who is a 1962 graduate of the University of Pacific Pharmacy school, took over the store from his father in 1974. According to him, customer satisfaction was always the store's main goal. This philosophy was rewarded by the many loyal customers who shopped and had their prescriptions filled over the years. College Pharmacy also provided free delivery service, much appreciated by long-time customers.

Citing competition from the major discount drug stores, together with having reached retirement age, the Alstroms made the decision to close up shop—and reward themselves with a more relaxing lifestyle.



Linda Shollenbarger Alstrom
and Charles Alstrom

Pages From the Past

By Cathy "Vernie" Morison Rehart

In the early 1880's, students of high school age attended either the "Pink School" (named for its color) on Tulare near M, or the Central (or White) School, located on the north-west corner of Fresno and O streets. They studied basic subjects, but a separate curriculum had not been developed for them.

By 1885, the University of California was interested in increasing their enrollment and began to encourage communities to create high schools. The intent was to prepare students for the university.

In the same year, Professor William Carey Jones came to Fresno and organized the Fresno Normal Academy. It was a private school with a lofty purpose—to instill "scholarly taste and a literary instinct in its students. The school did not last, but its brief existence did help Jones' cause which was to urge the Fresno City Board of Education to establish a high school.

In 1889, Professor Thomas L. Heaton was hired as the superintendent of Fresno city schools. He had no sooner arrived in Fresno than he was asked to undertake the planning of a high school. Heaton was enthusiastic about the high school and the promise it held for the students of Fresno. He and Jones began to plan a curriculum that would prepare students for college or for whatever endeavor they wished to pursue. They decided to call the school "Fresno High School" because it would serve all the students of high school age in Fresno.

In September 1889, Fresno

High School opened on the upper floors of the Emerson School. There were fifty students and three teachers—Mrs. Curran, Miss Bartling, and Professor Heaton, who also served as principal. There were two courses of study—literary and scientific. The students were divided by age into a ninth grade class, a junior class, and a middle class.

The first day of school was marked by tragedy. While waiting for classes to begin, Henry Church, son of Judge George Church, decided to climb up into the belfry of the Emerson School and join some other boys who were playing there. He fell through the floor to his death three stories below. It was later discovered the contractor who built the school used small nails to anchor the thin boards that served as the belfry's floor. It was also determined that most of the building was unsafe. The Fresno High students were moved to the First Congregational Church for six weeks. Finally, a temporary structure was erected next to the White School. Classes met here until a permanent high school opened in the fall of 1896.

As stated above, the curriculum in these early years was divided into two courses of study. The Literary Course was considered the most difficult—it was the college



1889, Fresno High School - K Street

The Emerson (or K Street) School was one of two elementary schools in Fresno in the 1880's. The first Fresno High School classes were held on the third floor of this building.

preparatory course—and consisted of algebra, arithmetic, botany, chemistry, English, geometry, geology, Latin history, and political economy. The Scientific Course was, in reality, a business course and consisted of book-keeping, commercial arithmetic, commercial law, English, political economy, and shorthand. Occasionally, a student would complete both courses of study. Classes were taught in one large hall. After each class, students were given thirty minutes to prepare for the next class. School was a serious business.

During the first year or two, there were no social clubs or athletic programs. It would not be long before that situation would begin to change...

2005 All-Alumni Dinner

by JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward



Angelo Stalis and Kopi Sotiropulos

Fresno had one of the heaviest 24-hour rainfalls in history just two days before the 2005 All-Alumni's annual dinner. But two local weather forecasters, Angelo Stalis and Kopi Sotiropulos, predicted excellent weather for the dinner. Angelo and Kopi are FHS graduates so who could have a better connection at bringing a rainless day for what turned out to be a highly successful event.

The sixth annual Fresno High School All-Alumni Dinner, held on Echo Avenue in front of the school, honored former FHS principals with the current principal, Bob Reyes, and five past principals attending. Coming all the way from Oklahoma was Jack Mulkey, who served from 1955-1960. Also attending were Jeanne Contel, Art Miller, Ray Baker and John Marinovich, all of whom received plaques in appreciation of the time they spent guiding Fresno High School.

Joe Levy, a 1950 graduate of FHS, and the chairman of Gottschalks, a locally owned chain of 63 department stores, was also honored for his participation in the Marketing Academy program at the school. The program is one of only 300 funded by the State of Califor-

emphasis on academic achievement. Levy has been involved with the program since 1990 and has been instrumental in helping to set the curriculum and providing motivational activities. His money, time and energy have provided many students with career opportunities



nia. It is a three-year "school within a school" program that combines training in marketing along with an

they might not otherwise have had.

The Alumni Association presented two FHS teachers with \$525 mini-grants. A raffle was won by Claude Laval, class of '53; he, in turn, gave it back to the Association. The \$360 will be put to good use at the school. Fresno High Senate members helped serve a memorable dinner.

The class of '57, with the highest number of participants attending, included Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, Pete Mehas, who asked past Choralers to join him as he led the alumni in an inspired rendering of the FHS Alma Mater.

see: www.fresnohighalumni.com
for more....



Jumping for the Record

Submitted by Website Staff (class of '29), written by Dave Brase

The West Coast Relays in Fresno was known for decades as the track meet "Where World Records are Broken." In 1933, the relays were in their seventh year when a Fresno High graduate jumped higher than any other man in recorded history. On May 14th of that year, Walter Marty broke the world's record for the high jump with a leap of 6'8-5/8".

At the time of his world record-breaking performance, Marty was a 21-year-old junior at Fresno State College. Four years earlier in 1929 as a student at Fresno High, Marty broke the world's interscholastic record with a jump of 6'4-1/4".

Ed Orman of the Fresno Bee wrote of Marty's record-shattering jump, "Marty soared into the air to a height of 6 feet, 8-5/8 inches while nearly 8,000 fans looked on and cheered madly. Marty's sensational performance was easily the outstanding event of the thrilling program that was witnessed by perhaps the largest crowd that had ever attended the Relays."

Dean Cromwell's great USC Trojan track team dominated the university division by sweeping all of the relay events against their interstate rivals, Cal Berkeley, UCLA and Stanford, but it was Marty who electrified the hometown crowd like never before and by very few since.

By 1933 The West Coast Relays were beginning to appear on the international track and field map, and Walter Marty, with his record-breaking jump, helped create the reality that justified the phrase, "Where World Records are Broken."

Throughout its long history,

The West Coast Relays, now known as the Bob Mathias Relays, had its share of memorable record-breaking moments.

Except for the front page headline in The Fresno Bee and smaller headlines and stories on the sports pages of newspapers around the world on the day following his jump, Marty has been relegated to being just another name on the list of high jumpers who have held the high jump world record.

Names on that same list are known to track and field fans worldwide as a result of the much brighter TV and media spotlights of the late 20th century compared to Marty's era where print and radio were the dominant media, and TV sports-casts were still many years away.

Marty had a moment of fame, but missed out participating in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, and his career had passed its peak by

the time the 1936 Berlin games took place.

In fact, because of the manner in which Marty had failed to win a berth on the 1932 Olympic team, he personally made sure that the approaches to the bar on the night of his great performance were of solid footing, unlike the soft clay that had hindered his attempt a year earlier at the Olympic trials in Palo Alto.

For one brief moment in 1933 Walter Marty was the talk of the town, a town that was just beginning to appear on the international track and field map, made all the more significant because he was one of our own.

Walter Marty had jumped higher than any man in history. Definitely a Wow Warrior for the ages.

For additional information:
www.fresnohighalumni.com



In 1951, Walter Marty confers with Bernard Allard of FHS after Allard breaks Marty's 1929 West Coast Relays high jump record, high school division.

Photo by Herz from June 1, 1951 Owllet

FHS Football

by Gary Becker

Fresno High School football coach Hector Verduzco is pleased with the effort his team is putting forth as they prepare for the upcoming 2005 season.

Verduzco, with twelve years of high school coaching experience, has replaced Ray Reyes, who resigned for health reasons after leading his team to the school's first championship since 1971.

The thirty-one year old Verduzco has been working with his team all summer conducting workouts in the weight room, and on the field. In addition, three major events this summer consisted of the Clovis West Passing Tournament at Clovis West, a full contact camp for a week at Clovis East, and a 7 on 7 competition against Clovis West at Fresno High.

Prior to the regular season, the Warriors will scrimmage against Yosemite on Friday, September 2 at Yosemite.

The full schedule is as follows:

9-9	Kerman	in Kerman
9-15	Madera	in Madera
9-23	Central	at Ratcliffe
9-30	Hoover	at Sunnyside
10-7	Sanger	at Ratcliffe
10-14	San Joaquin	at SJM
10-21	McLane	at McLane
10-28	Sunnyside(HC)	at McLane
11-4	Bullard	at Ratcliffe
11-10	Roosevelt	at Ratcliffe

The FHS Alumni Association has donated \$800 this year to the FHS football department, with the class of '36 contributing an additional \$200.

For those of you not yet members of the FHS Alumni Association, we hope you enjoy this complimentary issue of the Alumni's newsletter. We invite you to join the association and help it continue its efforts on behalf of your alma mater. Your contribution, whether it be a membership donation, a submittal to the newsletter, or volunteer time, goes a long way toward accomplishing its goals. A membership application form is included on page 8, or can be downloaded from the Alumni's website.

Harvest Festival: A Fundraiser



Pete Mehas shows off his restored '57 T-Bird to fellow classmate Buss Helm. The Harvest Festival hopes to draw an array of spectacular entries.

will be catered and the music will be live. You'll enjoy a no-host bar and a silent auction for luscious desserts. High bidders will go home (or share at their table) a dessert and the plate it came on. Additional events to spark the evening are being designed.

The featured highlight of the event will be a car show that invites all comers, alumni members or not. There will be a registration fee for all participants, diners will be asked to vote, and trophies will be awarded in various categories.

If you have, or are aware of anyone with classic cars to show, let them know about this upcoming event. You do not have to be a member of the FHS Alumni Association to enter or attend.

For questions, contact any of the following:

JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward, [ja\(w\)woodward@hotmail.com](mailto:ja(w)woodward@hotmail.com), or 559-298-9296, Pat Feliz Bandoni, 559-255-2089, Dick Baskin at 559-431-8019.

A fun-filled Harvest Festival is in the planning stages as a new fundraiser for the FHS Alumni Association. Mark your calendars for **October 29, 2005** when a dinner and car show will highlight an autumn get-together for FHS alumni, family, fans and friends.

The dinner of pasta, BBQ'd chicken and more

Fresno High Alumni Association

Chairman:

Jack Fowler
559-291-3533

Newsletter Editor:

Linda West

Contributing Editors:

JoAnn Woodward
Catherine Rehart

Writer:

Gary Becker

Graphics:

Jon Adams

Website Editor:

Dave Brase

Check the FHS Alumni Association website for reunion dates and reunion chairpersons of all participating classes.
www.fresnohighalumni.com