



# PANTHER POSTSCRIPTS



PUBLISHED BY THE BURLINGAME HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL/WINTER 2006



## Principal's Letter Matt Biggar

We have had a very successful start at Burlingame High School. We have begun our 84<sup>th</sup> year at Burlingame High School in excellent shape with our renovated facilities. Staff and students have been inspired by the renovations in our Main Building.

Our renovated classrooms are 50% larger than they were prior to modernization. These large classrooms support effective classroom instruction by providing space for a variety of learning activities. Our renovated classrooms have a significant amount of natural light through multiple windows that reach towards the high classroom ceilings. They are also equipped with dual paned windows that improve noise insulation and classroom climate. All of these features help to keep our students focused on learning. Our classrooms are also each equipped with a pair of data connections and have an infrastructure for wireless technology. We have a brand new computer lab for classes to use that will soon be equipped with new computers, thanks to our Parents Group.

Our office space has also been greatly improved through redesign and modernization to better serve our students, parents and staff. Our Main Office now is located immediately to the right as you enter the building. Our Attendance Office is located immediately to the left as you enter the building. Down the hallway to the right, you will find our Student Services Office, Counseling Office, Career Center and Health Office all next to one another. This enables us to efficiently connect students to staff and services as needed. Through our Counseling Office, you will find our Alumni Room which is our main meeting room on campus. It can hold 150-200 people for both daytime and evening school functions. It has a large screen that retracts from the ceiling for use during presentations. Alumni and historic school items will also be featured in this room.

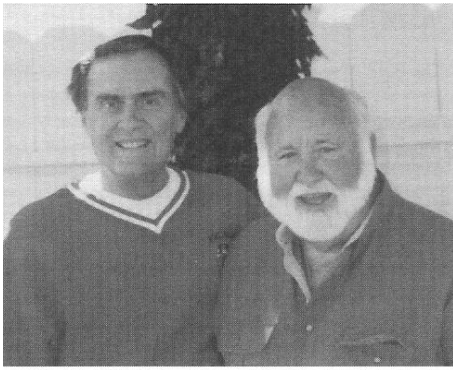
We are pleased with not only the modern features in our Main Building but also with how well it reconnects us to our school history. The beautiful exterior of our school along with a number of features inside retain their historic feel. Most noteworthy and apparent as you enter the building is the placement of historic murals back into the main hallway. These murals were painted by Frederick Alexander Pawla as a WPA project during the New Deal. They were donated to our school in 1930. Our district carpenter did a wonderful job framing them to the hallway walls.

With our school history, renovated facilities, outstanding faculty and staff, and a focus on continuous school improvement, we expect great things from all of our students at Burlingame High School. Thanks to the hard work of our faculty and expanded options under the 7 Period Day, we are

offering a number of new courses to students this year including Integrated Science, Advanced Placement, Environmental Science, Beginning Choir, Advanced Placement Music Theory, Multimedia, Engineering Technology, Facing History and Ourselves, and Spanish for Native Speakers. Our teachers also regularly work in teams to monitor and adjust our curriculum in all of our courses to best meet student needs.

While we will continue to benefit from an overall high level of funding per pupil and strong community support, we will be facing short-term budget challenges. The San Mateo High School District is also facing a significant budget shortfall this year. As I write, more details will be forthcoming and may already be publicized by the time you read this. We are bracing for the impact of reductions district wide that are needed to restore the district's reserve. While these reductions will challenge us, they are short-term and we will work through it. As a Basic Aid District, we continue to maintain per pupil funding well above the state average. Parent Group support will be more important than ever, as we work through this financially challenging time. I thank you, our BHS alumni and Alumni Association, for your continued support.





**BHS Alumni Association  
Co-President Carl Kuhe (l)  
Co-President Mike McQueen(r)**

Some days we just cannot forget: Dec 7<sup>th</sup>; the day JFK was shot, landing on the moon and 9/11. Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> was such a day. It was bright and sunny when the phone rang at 8am and I (Carl) was told that there had been a house fire during the night and Angie Dunbar had been identified as being in the home and they weren't sure about Dick. After I hung up, not believing what I had just heard, I thought to myself "Oh no, not Dick". Dick Dunbar was one of the cornerstones of the Alumni Association. When the Association was re-vitalized in 1998 he became treasurer of the new organization. At any time you could ask him where something was or how monies were allocated and he knew the answer. When we needed a new editor for the Panther Postscripts, Angie, his wife, volunteered her services.



Angie and Dick Dunbar

Dick Dunbar was a 1949 graduate of Burlingame High School. He enlisted in the Air Force and was stationed in Ohio. There he met and fell in love with Angela. They were married before returning to Burlingame. He started as a U. S. postal mail carrier and she as a legal

secretary. Like most families of that era, they bought a home and started a family. Dick soon became involved in the American Legion and Angie joined the Auxiliary. At the Post Office, his star kept raising until he became Postmaster of Burlingame, the city of his youth. After their children were grown, the American Legion became a major part of their lives. The two held every leadership post in the local Veteran's group and several positions at state and national levels. Dick was slated to serve his fourth term as head of Post #409. Angie was preparing to leave for a national convention. Because of Dick's interest in the Boys and Girls State program, the Alumni Association has sponsored students for several years. In his honor, the grant will be named The Dick Dunbar Award. In the last edition of this newsletter we wished Angie "Happy Trails". Now in sadness, from the BHS Alumni Association, we say "Happy Golden Trails" to Dick and Angie.

### Alumna of the Year



In 1960, she was known as **Maxine Kurtz**, an outstanding graduate of BHS. Today...she is known as the **Honorable Maxine M. Chesney**, an outstanding member of the Federal Judiciary.

While at Burlingame, she was a page editor and author of a regular gossip column for the "B" and a member of the French Club. She was voted "Best Dancer" in the Senior Poll and was a Life member of the California Scholarship Federation.

After leaving the halls of BHS she turned her talents loose at UC Berkeley where she graduated with honors in 1964. She continued her education at the UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law and graduated in 1967. Her legal career started in 1968 when she joined the San Francisco District Attorney's Office where she served for eleven years. During this time, she created the first special District Attorney's unit in the nation devoted to the prosecution of crimes involving sexual assaults.

In 1979 Governor Jerry Brown appointed her to the San Francisco Municipal Court. Four years later he elevated her to the Superior Court where she served until 1995. In that year, President Bill Clinton appointed her to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, a position she holds to this day.

For more than 30 years our recipient has been a lecturer and speaker at legal and judicial programs throughout California. She has been a mentor to a whole generation of young lawyers.

### Mark Your Calendar

In order to be considered for the Spring/Summer 2007 Newsletter, letters and announcements must be received before March 15, 2007



The Burlingame High School Athletic Boosters Club will hold their Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, Oct 9, 2006 at Green Hills County Club in Millbrae. Proceeds will benefit all athletic programs. For additional information contact: Carl Serrato 1633 McDonald Way Burlingame, CA 94010 (650) 697-1996 or [Serrato@yahoo.com](mailto:Serrato@yahoo.com)





The 2006 BHS Annual Alumni/Faculty Luncheon will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at the San Mateo Elks Club on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for no host cocktails at 11:30am followed by lunch at 12:15pm. We always have a great time socializing with our BHS friends. Please submit the form on page 9 of this newsletter.



On **Saturday, November 11**, prior to the Little/Big Game with San Mateo, the Burlingame Alumni Assoc. will install ten nominees into the Athletic Hall of Fame. They include **Roberta Alpers**, Teacher and Tennis Coach; **Charles Edmund "Bud" Finger '37**, **Dan Hale '43**, **Robert Kane '43**, **John Treu '52**, **Ted Treu '55**, **Jesse Undlin '55**, **Gary Goodrich '71**, **Peter Diepenbrock '82**, and **Steven Bortolin '84**. Admission to the Ceremony and Brunch in the BHS cafeteria and your ticket to the Game is only \$15. . Registration starts at 8:30am. Brunch and presentations follow at 9am. Game time 11am. Parking is available in the main parking lot. For reservations, please submit the form on page 9 of this newsletter to BHS Alumni Association at One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010 or call (650) 591-3194.

## Life Memberships

This is a list of those who have joined since the last issue of Panther Postscripts.

1931 - Irene Christensen Harmon  
1936 - Dorothy Eder Carpenter  
1940 - June Miller Lighty  
1941 - Robert G. Armstrong  
1943 - Maralyn Mess Clark  
1943 - Marilyn Donaldson Winkler  
1945 - Ralph A. Champlin  
1948 - Henry "William" General  
1948 - Robert E. Ryan  
1949 - Nancy Montoya Boling  
1949 - Barbara Rosberg Smith  
1950 - Robert J "Bob" Hamilton  
1950 - Gus Suhr  
1953 - Rowland R. "Reese" Foster  
1953 - Donald W "Don" Kestler  
1954 - Catherine Westermann Earle  
1956 - Christa Koeber Govan

1956 -- Barbara Thompson Chilla  
1957 - Mary Lou Valinga Cawfield  
1957 - Ann Stearns Finucane  
1957 - Margaret Reynolds Van Cleve  
1957 - Judith Warner O'Shea  
1958 - E. John Flink  
1958 - Sharon Burns Martin  
1959 - Joan Glennie Capurro  
1959 - Marilyn Ellis Clark  
1959 - Jonine Gotelli Slutz  
1960 - Ann King Baxter  
1960 - Diana Winters Witzel  
1965 - Linda Welz Masen  
1966 - Dennis A. Gamlen  
1966 - Laura Nicolaidis Johnson  
1966 - Sandra Leigh Koernig  
1966 - Donald Robert Lindstrom  
1969 - Laurie S. Hedden  
1969 - Michael J. Maschmeier  
1974 - John Tulich  
1975 - Nancy Huff Garrett  
1981 - Mary Ann Piana Chapman  
1994 - David Boyadjian

## In Memoriam

When submitting the name of someone who has recently passed away, please give the date if possible. Thank you.

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 1940's - William "Bill" Haselden  | Teacher |
| 1927 - Ora Smith Matzinger        | ***     |
| 1930 - Margaret Grundy Ginner     | 11/05   |
| 1931 - Anna Cooke Alexander       | 7/06    |
| 1932 - Leta Price Ford            | 6/06    |
| 1933 - Frances Handford Hansen    | 3/05    |
| 1933 - Mary Irene Simpson Neasham | 4/06    |
| 1934 - Theresa Ahern Oppezzo      | 1/05    |
| 1934 - Eleanor Fleishman Cooper   | 8/05    |
| 1935 - Edith Shockey McClurg      | ***     |
| 1936 - George Drach               | 8/06    |
| 1936 - Larry Marks                | 1/06    |
| 1938 - Donald Hutching            | 2/02    |
| 1938 - E. Thor Johnson            | 8/05    |
| 1939 - Doris Koll Tiffany         | 9/06    |
| 1941 - Samuel M. Bloomer Jr.      | 3/06    |
| 1941 - Andrew Burnett             | 5/98    |
| 1941 - Pete Fena                  | 08/06   |
| 1941 - Harold Lucas               | ***     |
| 1942 - Edwin B. Blake             | 12/05   |
| 1942 - Donald R. "Don" Schmidt    | 7/06    |
| 1943 - Thelma Johnson Stoddard    | 7/06    |
| 1945 - Gladis Boussum Hutching    | 1/04    |
| 1946 - William W. Kleinsmith      | 2/06    |
| 1946 - Francis Scott Smyth        | 12/05   |
| 1949 - Paul James Carroll         | 5/06    |
| 1949 - Richard "Dick" Dunbar      | 7/06    |
| Angela "Angie" Dunbar             | 7/06    |
| 1949 - James "Jim" Feeney         | 1990    |
| 1949 - Beverly "BJ" Snider Ratto  | 3/06    |
| 1949 - Eleanor Simpson Tschirgi   | 7/06    |
| 1950 - Harrison "Harry" Coles     | 7/98    |
| 1950 - Maryann Talbot Hearn       | 5/06    |
| 1951 - George H. Kell             | 5/06    |
| 1952 - Robert Burley              | 6/05    |
| 1952 - Barry G. Olson             | 3/06    |
| 1956 - Marion Wehking Halsebo     | 8/05    |
| 1957 - Elizabeth Moore Palmrose   | 3/06    |

|                                       |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| 1959 - Hally Baer Kowalka             | 6/06 |
| 1962 - Elizabeth "Betty" Acosta Moore | ***  |
| 1965 - Carolyn Hull Richardson        | 5/06 |
| 1973 - Ken Bertsch                    | 6/77 |
| 1973 - Lydia Walter Hutchins          | 6/05 |
| 1974 - Janice Wentworth MacPherson    | 6/97 |
| 1985 - Jeffree Brown                  | 8/06 |

\*\*\* No date given

## Donations

James Athey - In memory of Richard C. Athey, 1967

Asta Beckstrom Johnson '39 - In memory of Edwin A. Johnson 1938

Shirley Schmidt -- In memory of Don Schmidt 1942

Fred & Tim Oppezzo - In memory of Theresa Ahern Oppezzo, 1934

1935 - Barbara Goodrich Boege  
1944 - Sherman Shiels Hoelscher  
1950 - Joan Leighton Crall  
1953 - Mike McQueen  
1955 - Dixie Eason McCarthy  
1957 - Joyce Crichton Preston  
1960 - Maxine Kurtz Chesney

## Senior Prank?



*The Tale of the Pink Submarine* summarized by Peter Cleaveland '58.

At the end of this past school year, when most folk's minds were filled with finals, graduation and summer plans, there was a small group with other things on their mind.

Late one night they snuck onto campus armed with cans of spray paint and foul intent.

They made their way to the faithful golf cart given to the school as a gift by the Alumni Association a few years ago and then, perhaps charmed by the old Gary Grant movie, Operation Petticoat, they spray painted the cart pink from stem to stern.

Not happy to stop with that indignity the still unknown group of malefactors managed to make their way into the pristine surroundings of the school's pool and you can guess the rest.

Carrying the submarine theme to its logical conclusion they pushed the well used and appreciated golf cart into and beneath the waters.

Needless to say the school employees who'd come to rely on the cart in the performance of their duties were sorely taken aback.

The pink golf cart was lifted from its watery grave but the damage had been

done. Water and electric motors make a bad combination.

Here's where may you come in and provide a happy ending to this saga.

Perhaps you know how to repair electric motors, or know someone who'd be willing to donate their time to do so. Or, maybe you've retired from golf and have a golf cart hanging around gathering dust that you wouldn't mind donating to the school.

If you can help, please call Principal Matt Biggar at (650) 558-2899. I'm sure he'd be happy to put a new plaque on it to memorialize your gift.

### Alumni Scholarship

Cassandra Janakos

The recipient of the Alumni Scholarship, Cassandra Janakos, wrote a letter to the Alumni Association expressing her thanks and appreciation. She will be attending UC Santa Cruz where she is enrolled in a dual program with UC Berkeley. She will major in Biomedical Engineering. Her goal is to research prosthetics to help those with handicaps.

### Newsweek Ranks BHS 279 in The Nation

Burlingame High School has been ranked 279 in the United States as one of the Best High Schools in America by Newsweek magazine's annual rating. The Opportunity Index ranking utilized by Newsweek was created by Washington Post Education Columnist Jay Mathews. Mathews' book, "Class Struggle: What's Wrong (and Right) with America's Best Public High Schools", started a nationwide focus on Advanced Placement Education a few years ago. The Opportunity Index measures the number of advanced Placement exams taken at a school divided by the number of students in the senior class and measures the opportunities offered at the school site.

### Yearbooks Wanted

The Alumni Association is looking for yearbooks from every graduation year. Now that construction is completed at BHS, the Alumni Association has a special room at the school and we would like to establish a library of old yearbooks.

If you no longer want your yearbooks and would like to donate them to the BHS Alumni Association, please write to Jo-Ellen Ellis at Burlingame High School or at [BHSAlumAssoc@aol.com](mailto:BHSAlumAssoc@aol.com).

Thank you.

### Matt Vaughn Needs Your Help

Matt Vaughn, Head Track & Field Coach at Burlingame High School, is trying to compile a list of track and field records and needs your help. He wrote: "Over the last couple of years, I've had alums approach me and ask if anyone had broken this or that track record. I've been unable to respond because we don't have a list of any of the track and field records. I'd like to compile one to rectify the situation." He requests that alums send in any records they know about. Documentation would be helpful (copies of newspaper clippings, etc.) if available.

The information needed is:

- 1) Name of athlete (properly spelled)
- 2) Their year of graduation
- 3) Event
- 4) Time or Mark
- 5) Date and meet when record was set (if known)
- 6) Documentation (if available)

Information can be mailed to: Matt Vaughn or Head Track Coach, Burlingame High School, One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010. Emails can be directed to: [docvaughn@aol.com](mailto:docvaughn@aol.com).

### Class Reunions

Gloria Muncey Fourie '46 wishes the share the following invitation.

Attention all members of the class of 1946 **Saturday, October 21, 2006** we will celebrate a once in a lifetime experience you can't miss - our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion.

At noon on Saturday we will have a guided tour of the newly remodeled BHS. That evening dinner will be held at Dominic's at Poplar Creek Golf Course, 1700 Coyote Point Dr., San Mateo, CA.

The cost (\$80.00 per person) includes hors d'oeuvres, a three-course dinner, wine, music and a commemorative wine glass with the BHS panther logo in a gift box.

The committee of eight has been busy all year planning the event for you.

For information call:

Dave Korn (650) 343-4166

Betsy Ripley Bogel (650) 345-4243

Marjie James Molakides (650) 344-8718

The **class of 1961** will celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion, "Surfin' USA", on Saturday, October 28, 2006 at the Double Tree Hotel in Burlingame - 6:30 PM, no host bar - 8:00 PM, dinner. For more

information you can contact Katie Walker Stevens at (650) 342-1606 or email her at: [ktwstevens@bcglobal.net](mailto:ktwstevens@bcglobal.net).

The **Class of 1966** is planning a memorable 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion on the weekend of October 20th - 21st. Friday's kickoff will include golf opportunities and a wine reception with hors d'oeuvres in the evening. Touring Burlingame High School's updated campus is scheduled for Saturday morning. On Saturday evening, everyone will gather for dinner and dancing at Coyote Point Yacht Club. This main event includes a wonderful setting on the Bay, no host bar, good wines, culinary experience catered by Anita Young, and wonderful music emphasizing 1966. For further information on the 40 year reunion, please call (415) 609-6758 or go to: [www.burlingame66.myevent.com](http://www.burlingame66.myevent.com).

Esther "Apua" Paulson Garbutt '67 tells us that the Reunion Committee - **Class of 1967** - is planning a reunion in August 2007. They plan to send postcards with more information. You can also contact Apua at: [Apua@san.rr.com](mailto:Apua@san.rr.com).

Ester Emergui Gillette '86 reports that the **class of 1986** is planning their 20<sup>th</sup> reunion. The celebration begins on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 PM with a "Meet and Greet" at California Bar and Grill. They will attend the Little Big Game on Saturday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM and will continue the reunion at Trapeze at 7 PM that evening. On Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM there will be a Family Picnic at Washington Park. For more information, please contact either Ester at [BHS-Classof1986@hotmail.com](mailto:BHS-Classof1986@hotmail.com) or Chris at [chris.springer@hotmail.com](mailto:chris.springer@hotmail.com)

We have heard rumors that the **Class of 1997** may be holding a reunion next year.

How about having an **All-Class Cruise Reunion** in 2007? Perhaps a round trip cruise from San Francisco to Mexico. No date has been set, but if you would like to join other BHS grads on a cruise, e-mail **Jo-Ellen Ellis '58** at: [BHSAlumAssoc@aol.com](mailto:BHSAlumAssoc@aol.com) or send a note to her c/o BHS Alum Association at One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010. If enough people are interested, we'll organize a Cruise Reunion.

## Baseball Reunion

On May 19, 2006, the San Mateo Elks hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Peninsula Baseball Old Timers Reunion. Here is a partial list of BHS Alumni attending: **Harvey Koepf '51, Al Facchini '49, Don Lembi '64, Ted Farley '57, Bernie Heckenkemper '57, Hal Panattoni '39, Frank Bettencourt '38, Dan Newell '52, Don Bourbin '50, Bill Stremme '48, Mike McQueen '53, and Dan Scannell '52** plus Teachers/Coaches **Dick Howard** and **Terry Christman**. Due to illness, guest speaker and BHS grad, **Ed Arnold '29**, was unable to attend.

## BHS History on Tape



The BHS Alumni Association was presented with a treasure trove of film clips from the 30s, 40s and 50s. These unedited film clips have been

converted into VHS and DVD format by the decade. Football and baseball dominate all decades. To order yours, please submit the form on page 9 of this newsletter

In the 30s Burlingame offered classes in Floriculture complete with cold frames, greenhouses, and compost piles. Also included were classes on building radios and airplane models. Football was played in an open field with the "freeway" in the background. The men wore three-piece suits and the women wore hats and gloves to school and students were quite serious. All students in the cooking classes wore aprons and toques. The guys seemed to do a lot of looking around while checking out each other's food.

The 40s brought glamour girls with high fashion hairstyles and jewelry to complete every outfit. The girls seemed to dominate these film clips in fashion shows, swimming, hockey, art classes and cooking classes. One day they were caught sidestepping from lockers to showers covered in only large white towels. The guys on the tennis courts were all "decked" out in long white pants and sweaters. At the prom, couples dance cheek-to-cheek.

The highlights of the Nov 22, 1945 Little/Big Game aren't to be missed. Maybe you remember a Senior Dress-up Day and Mummy Case, or the strongman or the headless woman or the China Relief Rickshaw.

The 50s brought cars, cars and more cars. While the guys showed us their muscles, the girls were taking aim in their archery and hockey classes. Was it your Senior Dress -up day that entertained us with mermaids, dancing beer cans, Indian maidens, and harem dancers?

Blanche's Corner  
Alumni Update



Blanche Dibelka Duffey

## 30s Irene Christensen Harmon '31

recently became a life member of the BHS Alumni Association. She wrote from Sacramento, "better late than never, even at nearly 93 years of age!!"

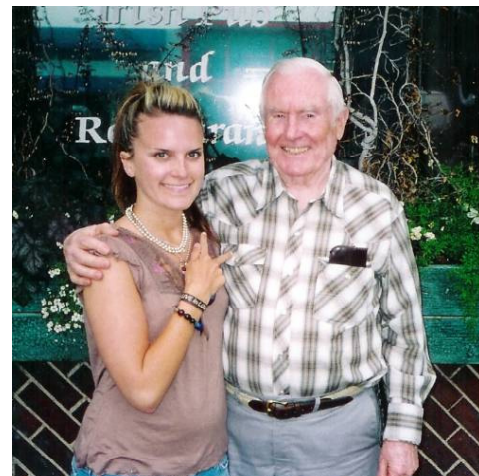
**Irene Simpson Neasham '33** passed away in April 2006. After graduation from BHS, she attended San Mateo Junior College and finished her education at Stanford in 1937, the same year her brother, **Robert Simpson**, graduated from BHS. She was a 36-year veteran of Wells Fargo Bank and the creator of the renowned Wells Fargo History Room. During her working career she developed a remarkable collection of exhibits showcasing the history of Wells Fargo and California. In 1942, Irene joined the Navy and completed officer training in Northampton, MA before her assignment to Treasure Island. In 1946, she resumed her career with the bank. Over the years, she served as president of the Conference of California Historical Societies and the California Historical Society. She served on the Board for the American Association of State and Local History and was appointed chairwoman of the California Heritage Preservation Commission.

Fred and Tim Oppezzo wrote that their mother, **Theresa Ahern Oppezzo '34** attended Burlingame High School from 1930 to 1934. While at BHS, she lettered in sports - basketball, field hockey & softball and was the MVP in all three at the varsity level. Theresa was a Burlingame resident all her life. She passed away on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2005.

**Charles H. Cook '34** tells us he always enjoys reading the Panther Postscripts and was sorry to learn of the passing of his school friend **Ed Denny**. He has many fond memories of him. Charles is retired and living in Aptos, CA having lived in Honolulu, HI where he was one of the founders of Honolulu Graphic Arts, a lithographic service company. He is currently "active, healthy and interested in Thunderbird Classic Cars".

**Barbara Goodrich Boege '35** writes: I love getting "Postscripts" - proud of BHS and all the outstanding students and accomplishments. Wish there were more from class of '35!

**John Bauer '36**, devoted alum, keeper of our memorabilia, and framer of our photos has recently celebrated his granddaughter's graduation from BHS. **Hailey Jean Nowlin** graduated exactly 70 years after her grandfather. John is very proud of the 70-year family tradition.



Hailey and John. Notice Hailey's "V" for victory.

**Ethelyne "Mickey" Clark Pitti '37** writes: "keeping you posted. Graduated from Cal Berkeley '41 - Lost my husband, Carl, 3 years ago - Bowl in two leagues - Compete in Senior Olympics - volleyball - play twice weekly - keep ahead of the arthritis - Hope to attend Faculty lunch in November."



**Dorothy Eder Carpenter '36** tells us that she married Robert Carpenter a Stanford graduate in 1941 a year after her graduation from San Jose State. They made their first home in Princeton, N.J. but soon moved to Butte, Montana where Bob worked for Anaconda Mining Co. In 1944, Bob received his PhD from Stanford and became an Assistant Professor of Geology at the Colorado School of Mines in 1947. His work took the couple around the world. They had two daughters; one is living in Illinois and the other in New Hampshire. After his retirement she and Bob settled in Lakewood, CO. After Bob's death in 1994, she traveled with her sister, **Paula Mae Eder Jones '40** to Jordan, Israel and Egypt.

**Betty Kane Moran '39** was honored as Redwood City's Citizen of the Year at the annual Fourth of July Parade. Congratulations, Betty.

**40s** **John "Jack" Drach '40** wrote to say: "That as of this date (July 2006) all three of the Drach brothers, **George '36, Dick '38** and **Jack '40**, are alive (though not exactly "kicking") along with their wonderful wives, respectively: Alice (Mechem), Barbara (Hanchett) and Jane (Ellison). Each couple recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. George and Alice are long-time residents of Athens, Ohio. Dick and Barbara lived in Menlo Park and are now retired in Fairfield, CA. Jack and Jane still live in San Carlos. The three couples are responsible for 10 children, 15 grandchildren and one great-grandson. Oh yes, all three brothers and Alice served the U. S. Navy in WWII. Is there a record here somewhere?" Note: George Drach died peacefully of natural causes in early August. He is succeeded by Alice, his wife for 61 years, and by their two children (Bob & Suzanne), four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**Robert G. Armstrong '41** tells us that he spent the years of '43-'46 flying B-4s in the 6<sup>th</sup> AF - no combat, '46-'48 at San Mateo Junior College, and '48-'51 at Hastings College of Law - no interest in practicing. He took the Bar Exam in '55 after being persuaded by the lovely lady he married in 1955. He

worked in Title Insurance/Escrow from '55-'70. He sold a company he had formed and from '70-'95 +/- worked in land development. His wife died in 2001. He joined other RVers in building here and there for Habitat for Humanity - coupled that exercise with Hospice Volunteering when home. He gardens lots and plays some golf. Every year he travels at least a month in a foreign port - this year to Africa in September - next year to Turkey, etc. Robert sent a photo (see page 10) of the basketball team taken around 1940.

**Pete Fena '41** passed away in August of 2006. After graduating from BHS, he joined the Marine Corps and saw extensive action in the Pacific during WWII. In 1948, he joined the Hillsborough Police Department where he worked until retiring in 1978. He was also a former president of the Burlingame Historical Society. He is survived by his son, **Peter Fena '74** and his daughter Elaine. While at BHS, he excelled in football and baseball and in 2004 he was inducted into the BHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

On June 4 of this year, **Don Schmidt '42** wrote to share memories of his career in the Navy and his friends in the Poppy Drive Yacht Club. All the guys were raised on Poppy Drive.



Pictured from left to right: **Hans Larsen '42, Walt Muller '43, Harold Davenport** (Hoover School principal, age 101), **Bob Hays '42, Lenny Hays and Don Schmidt '42**

Don flew in the Navel Reserve from 1946 until 1967 when he retired as a Captain. He accumulated about 3000 hours of flight time in fighters and anti-submarine B-52F airplanes. It is sad to say but Don died July 28 at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. The U. S. Navy conducted a burial at sea off the San Diego coast.



Don Schmidt and Bob Wasink, Gunner

**Peggy Vasquez Renton '44** writes: Recently **Bob Forrest '44** did a bang-up job of organizing another get-together for us. In August our class and the class of '45 met at the Hyatt in Burlingame thanks to the many hours Bob devoted to organizing it. Then this last June he planned a brunch get-together at Mallards in Stockton for anyone close enough to make it. Thank goodness there are still a few of us who can get around. I came down from Reno and stayed overnight with **Audrey Rose Laskin '44**. The next day **Betty Woodruff Swithenbank '44** joined us and Audrey's husband, Jack, in the ride down to Stockton. It was great seeing old friends again. Thanks, Bob. I do enjoy receiving the Panther Postscripts. You do a great job.

In March of this year, a group of Burlingame Alums from '44 and '45 met at the home of **Bob Kane '44** in Clovis. (Bob is a former Judge and Ambassador to Ireland.)



Pictured from left to right: **Bruce Van Alstyne '45, Bob Kane '44, Bruce Wagner (Drews '45), Byron Van Alstyne '44, and John Conway '45**

**Marcia Inglis Sayer '45** tells us: I'm still enjoying Cypress Court, the retirement community in Escondido. I keep very busy - bridge, knitting and I'm learning the computer!!!

Marilyn Kleinsmith writes that her husband **William Ward Kleinsmith '46** passed away on February 6, 2006. He enlisted in the Army Air Force at the age of 17 starting his 6+ years of service in the Weather Service and served on the island of Iwo Jima during the Korean War. After he completed his tour of duty, he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley where he studied Electrical Engineering with an emphasis on Instrumentation. His first job was with B.F. Goodrich Chemical where he designed the first computer controlled continuous process in the United States. That computer is now in the Smithsonian Institution. After retiring, he volunteered at John Muir Medical Center. For several years he helped the Galleria Gift Shop with their bookkeeping, and then volunteered at 4 West, the orthopedic wing. Bill and Marilyn married in 1950 and had 55 fun years together.

**Eugene Harrison '49** says of the 1946 Track Team picture in the last BHS newsletter "that blonde headed kid next to Fran Pecera is none other than myself". He included an update on himself and some of his buddies. He attended San Francisco College of Mortuary Science and earned his Bachelor of Mortuary Science Degree. **Fran Pecera** started out in commercial art and later became a carpenter; **Pete Gosch '49** was in the Venetian blind business; **James Feeney '49** was in a bad accident and suffered some permanent injuries; **Carl Flach '50** became a Master Electrician; **George Lieb '50** joined the U.S. Army Artillery Corp and was killed after he left Korea. Gene joined up too and became a surgical nurse in an Evac Hospital in Japan. Eventually the Army sent him to school and he became an L.V.N. He was later stationed at the military prison in Lompoc, CA where he met his wife of 26 years. They have twins, Jasin and Jackie and four grandchildren. Gene recalls with fondness the Senior Dress-up Day. In his Mom's wash room a group of guys painted themselves blue, put on grass skirts, built a four man "carry-all" with a

cage on it. "Fran was dressed up as King Mula Mula of the Blue Maganbo Tribe. Prizes were awarded in those days. On presentation coming down the main building steps we tripped and spilled Fran out on the steps. We got lots of laughs but no prize." And he hasn't forgotten the beer beach parties at Shipwreck Beach in Half Moon Bay or the girls, **Jean Buckley Cross '49**, **Bev Priola Tibbles '49**, **Marilyn Sodie**, and **Joan McClair**. Of the girls he said "great gals and lots of fun". He is currently living in McKinleyville, CA with his dog Rebel. "75 years have gone by - no complaints".

**Nancy Arnold Jokela '49** writes "When I looked at the BHS blanket, memories came back... I didn't mind waiting for it. It was worth it. It is on my couch." She is the younger sister of **Barbara Arnold Tallmadge '45**. Unfortunately, Barbara died of cancer in March 1948. Nancy remembers the good old times when her class sang *The 7 Last Words* by Handel and Mr. Young was the teacher. The performance was broadcast over the local radio station. Like many of us, she remembers the Maple sisters, one taught sewing and the other taught history. She remembers the time when Pat Monroe was driving the Safety Ed car, a Woodie. They were coming around the corner on the south side of the building when Pat got too close to the curb and slammed on the brakes. Nancy was sitting on the backseat, but when Pat applied the brakes she slid up against the front seat. She said "Hi Pat". Pat's reply was, "I thought that you were in the back seat." "Yes, but when you applied the brakes, I slid off and this is where I ended up." **Pat Monroe '49** is the owner of the Bonanza Motel in Reno, NV. Nancy wrote: "Please accept my sympathy in regards to the loss of **Dick Dunbar '49**."

**Bill Beeman '49** says it's always a special treat to get caught up with all of the "doings" with our fellow classmates and current school activities. I especially enjoyed the article about **Howard Stern, '32**, whom I consider a real hero! Also, the article about **Bryan "RJ" Roberts, '91**, was inspiring. My good friend, **John Blesch, '50**, also flew Navy planes onto and off of the postage stamp size decks of aircraft carriers

during the Cold War. All is well with me and my wife, Betty. We moved in to Eskaton Village in Carmichael just 10 miles east of Sacramento. It's a great place for enjoying retired life to the maximum. There is never a dull moment and the folks living here are wonderful. I haven't met any BHS Alums yet, but there are many Cal Alums! We have a three room cottage on one floor and "they" take care of the yards, etc., etc. If any of the BHS Class of '49 comes through the area, please look us up; we would be glad to extend our invitation. I hear occasionally from **Darrell La Montagne '49** who sends me some good stuff now and then. I recently saw a wonderful article in the Chronicle about the USF Don's 1952 champion football team, of which our own superstar, **Jim Whitney '49**, was a member. I hope a lot of our Alums were able to see the article---it told a great story and Jim was quoted throughout.

**Al Facchini '49** writes from Napa that he and his wife, Joanne Hamilton Facchini (San Mateo class of '50), have been married for 52 years and have four grandkids.

**50s** **Janice "Jan" Cain Denison '51** tells us: We live in Sun City Palm Desert now, having moved from Morgan Hill a few years ago. I am still working as a real estate broker - almost 30 years now - and don't know how to retire. We love the desert and only go north to visit my kids in the Bay Area and Dwight's in Tracy, CA. As you may know, all five of us Cain girls (**Janice Cain Dennison '51**, **Joyce Cain Nuss '53**, **Judie Cain Papais '57**, **Janette "Jan" Cain Creager '61**, and **Joanne Cain Andrews '64**) graduated from BHS. I'm the eldest, but unfortunately two sisters (Joyce & Joanne) died some years back. I treasure the great education I received at BHS. Congratulations to **Ted Glasgow '53** who just completed his second year on the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury. This year he was the foreman of the jury. Ted is also a member of the Executive Board of the Burlingame High School Alumni Association.

**Catherine Westermann Earle '54** sent us the following update. "I have

been living in Fayetteville, North Carolina, off and on since 1963 and settled here when my husband retired from the Army in 1988. We have two daughters in California and one in North Carolina. I retired from elementary education in 2001 and enjoy many volunteer activities, reading as well as working out at our local gym." My sister, **Bonnie Westermann Prystas '50**, lives in Sunnyvale, CA.

**Margaret "Margie" Reynolds Van Cleve '57** became a Life Member of the BHS Alumni Association. She said: "I am joining in celebration of my up coming 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion."

**Beth Gillespie Wachenheim '58** tells us she married shortly after BHS and was pregnant halfway thru her freshman year at Davis. This inspired her to complete her Child Development major and Elementary Credential. Divorce followed. Enter Scott who agreed to care for pet rats that had proved to be a thorn in the UC housing contract. Rats led to marriage. She now has three daughters and one grandchild. In the 70s they raised Arabian horses and competed as a husband-wife team in endurance riding (50-100 miles within a specified number of hours with a few breaks). For 6 years they ranked in the top ten. After 35 years they have returned to Berkeley to explore their growing interest in spirituality and politics. Her message ended with a blessing for the class of '58. "We are the lucky ones. May all sentient beings be so blessed. Let us dive into the future despite its uncertainties."

**60s** **Richard Paulsen '60** writes of his recent travels with his wife, Kathy. "We spent a month in Italy in 2004, Thailand - Cambodia in 2005 and Israel - Egypt in 2006. Now if all the pictures were organized...priceless. In August 2006 we'll be in Washington, D.C. for my Army reunion with the 504<sup>th</sup> MP BN. Between visiting with old friends at the reunion, we'll visit new friends in the Maryland, Virginia area."

**Katie Walker Stevens '61** sent a picture of fellow '61 classmates who gathered at **Lee Haff Sutter's '61** home in Brentwood, CA for a slumber

party on May 27, 2006. The two-day party was spent in the pool, on the tennis/bocce ball courts, at the pool and poker tables, at the slot machine and enjoying Lee's fabulous cuisine. The Class of '61 still has much spirit as you can see in the photo on page 10.

**Lorraine Nelsen Carrieri** writes: I should have been BHS class of 1967, but my Mom and I moved to San Jose after 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I went to McKinley School K-6 and to Burlingame Intermediate School in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I grew up in Burlingame - where my heart still is. My mom was **Cecile Eddy Taylor** - class of 1929.

**70s** **Heather Finch Gray '73** writes: "Greetings to all '73 graduates! I have spent the last 19 years in the Optical Industry and still love what I do. I have lived for the past 7 years in Chico, CA with my husband, John, children Erika (19) and Neil (14). I met up with **Lauren Damato Gertz '73**, **Nancy Strathearn Davis '73** and **Jan Lesser Web '73** in Sausalito during March '05 and truly enjoyed our reunion. On a sadder note **Lydia Walter Hutchins '73** passed in June '05. She and her husband, **Robert "Bob" Hutchins '71** and daughter, Andrea (19) lived in Sandy, Utah for the past 6 years. While Bob loved to conquer the mountains skiing, Lydia took tremendous joy in looking at the mountains from her front porch. Even in her sickest condition, she worried about her family and friends and wanted to make sure 'you take good care of yourselves'. We will miss her."

**Marybeth Viglione '73** writes: First of all, I want to thank **Jo-Ellen Arnaudo Ellis '58** for finding me. Apparently, for years, the BHS Alumni Newsletter has been erroneously sent to me in Lahina, HI! While I once thought about applying to the University of Hawaii, I actually attended UC Berkeley after high school where I earned my BA in psychology. I enjoyed living in Berkeley and was fascinated by psychology (I bet there is a correlation there) and thus, decided to go to graduate school to become a clinical psychologist. In 1982, I earned my PhD from the California School of

Professional Psychology - Berkeley. I then married. My husband and I moved to Sacramento for work and internship. After several years, I returned to Berkeley, now divorced, but also licensed to practice psychology. In the early 1990's, I met my current husband who happened to live in San Mateo of all places. (I remember at 18, moving to Berkeley and thinking I would never again live on the Peninsula!) However, I moved back to San Mateo and we bought a home not very far from where I lived when I was a senior at Burlingame High School. I also opened my private practice on No. San Mateo Dr., where I work with older adolescents and adults in individual and couple therapy. Although I could not imagine saying this back when I was in high school, I truly enjoy living in San Mateo and being a part of the local community.

**90s** **Renee E. Dixon Dobrowski '93** daughter of **Richard Lee Dixon '60** wrote to tell us that she celebrated her first wedding anniversary on June 18<sup>th</sup>. She and her husband, Marcus, live and work in San Francisco. She is a Stylist and Educator at the Depetro Todd Salon and her husband is a Lifeguard for the National Park Service and County of San Francisco.







**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Burlingame High School Alumni/Faculty Luncheon** will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at the San Mateo Elks Lodge on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Former students, faculty members, and spouses are invited to attend. The cost is \$20 per person. Contact Naomi Ziff Cissna at (650) 593-5272 or complete this form and send it along with your check to BHS Alumni Association, Attn: Naomi, One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010. The deadline for reservations is October 31, 2006

Yes, I will attend. My check for \$20 per person is enclosed. # of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Years at BHS \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



**Athletic Hall of Fame Saturday, November 11, 2006.** Admission to the Ceremony, Brunch and one ticket to the Game is \$15. For reservations please complete this form and send it with your check made payable to BHS Alumni Association to One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010 or call (650) 591-3194.

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Years at BHS \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



VHS tapes and DVDs showing activities of the 30s, 40s, and 50s are available. Please complete this form and send it with your check made payable to BHS Alumni Association to One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010 or call (650) 591-3194.

VHS: \$15 each

DVD: \$25 each

\$10 each - life members

\$20 each - life members

30s \_\_\_\_\_

30s \_\_\_\_\_

40s \_\_\_\_\_

40s \_\_\_\_\_

50s \_\_\_\_\_

50s \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Years at BHS \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Robert Armstrong '41 is #40, Bill Crump '42 is #32, Ross Smith '41 is #34, and Heine Stalder '41 is #38. Can you name any of the others in the photo?

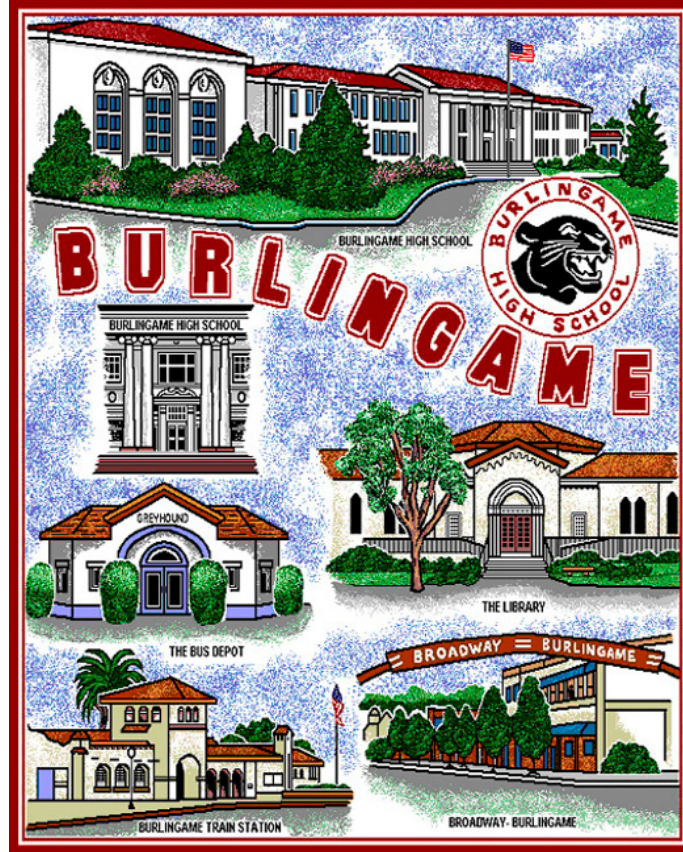


L to R: Lee Haff Sutter, Judy Gritsch Wigell, Katie Walker Stevens, Bea Gracey McKinney, Mary Sturgeon Sdamarzes, Edith Gurl Brown, Penny Tompkins Williams, Jan Cain Creager, and Arlene Paulic Scallon. (All from the class of 1961)



# Burlingame High School Blankets

The BHS Blanket that was shown in the last issue of Panther Postscripts was an overwhelming success with the graduates. We were deluged by your response and shortly thereafter were sold out. Several alums had to wait 2-3 weeks before our new shipment arrived. We are now caught up and hope you would like to purchase this beautiful blanket for yourself or others. The price is \$40.00 for Life Members and \$45.00 for regular members of the Alumni Association. A \$5.00 postage and handling fee will be added for shipping each blanket.



## BURLINGAME BLANKET

Make checks payable to BHS Alumni Assoc.  
Mail to One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ blanket(s) @ \$45 + \$5.00 postage.

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ blanket(s) @ \$40 + \$5.00 postage (Life Member Price)

\_\_\_ I prefer to pick-up the blanket(s). For pick-up information, call Mike McQueen at (650)591-3194 or email [BHSAlumAssoc@aol.com](mailto:BHSAlumAssoc@aol.com).

### *Panther Postscripts*

EDITOR: Judy Falk Chiasson

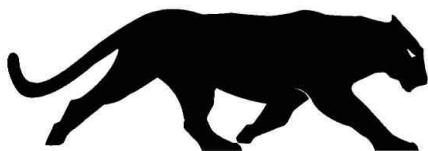
BHS Alumni Historian; Blanche Dibelka Duffey

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The BHS Newsletter *Panther Postscripts* is published semi-annually in the spring/summer and fall/winter by the non-profit BHS Alumni Association. Yearly dues are \$15 payable in January or \$100 for Life Membership. Payment and editorial correspondences should be mailed to BHS Alumni Association, One Mangini Way, Burlingame, CA 94010. Or call (650) 593-3710 with questions or comments.



BHS Alumni Association  
One Mangini Way  
Burlingame, CA 94010



**Fall/Winter 2006  
Alumni Newsletter**

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**BHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

- ☐ PLEASE UPDATE MY MAILING ADDRESS
- ☐ Enclosed is my/our check for membership dues, \$15 per alum per year.
- ☐ Enclosed is my/our check for Life Membership, \$100 per alum.
- ☐ Enclosed is my/our check for the Burlingame High School Endowment Fund (tax deductible).
- ☐ Enclosed is my/our check for the Burlingame High School Athletic Hall of Fame Memorabilia Room (tax deductible).
- ☐ I DO NOT wish to receive *Panther Postscripts* or to be a member of the Alumni Association.
- ☐ I have included the name and address of a BHS alum who would like to receive *Panther Postscripts*

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (middle) (last)

Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Your BHS Class Year: Jan \_\_\_\_ Jun \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_