

# THE KNOCKOUT II

The Pacific Grove High School Alumni Association Newsletter  
"It's the ☆ glue ☆ that keeps us together"

December, 2017 ● Page One

## President's Message

Our 2017 reunion was well attended, and the numbers were bumped up a little by the presence of the Grillo family, who turned out en masse to see their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Mitzie Grillo honored by the PGHSAA for her work as one of our "Cafeteria Ladies" in the '70s and '80s (see p. 13). Mitzie had some wonderful stories to tell about her time in the PGHS cafeteria, and she is also an artist who kept a scrapbook of drawings of her time there; she has shared some of them with us, and they appear, along with her memories, on p. 15. Many thanks to our event chairs Bebo Parker Logan '63 and Michele Sherwin Thomas '63, who put together another lovely event with great food and entertainment provided by Monterey DJ. Thanks also to Sherry Welsh Gruwell '56, who again lent her artistic hand to the event, and to Trader Joe's in Pacific Grove, which donated the flowers. Patisserie Bechler, also in Pacific Grove, provided the delicious desserts at a discount.

The oldest/eldest attendee at the Oct. 7 event was Jack Reynolds, Class of '43. However, there were also two octogenarians in attendance: Ernest Flores, '47, who can still cut quite a rug, and Janie Burton Woodruff '48. The youngest attendee (by almost a decade) was Scott Morris, Class of '86.

As for those who traveled the farthest—David (and Dana) Nightingale '59 came from Charlotte, North Carolina; and David May '62 from Bel Air, Maryland. However, the winner in this department (by much more than a mile) was Mike Davis, Class of '63, who came all the way from New South Wales, Australia.

As expected, the Class of 1960 was the largest class in attendance, with 16 members. However, the Class of 1963 came in second this year with 10.

The new Butterfly Days in Pacific Grove, created by Dixie Layne '66 to center around the Butterfly Parade, was also a success, and one of the



Carol Bradley Lauderdale '66 and Beth Penney '73 at the 2017 PGHSAA reunion dinner. Lighting at the Elks Club make photo-taking difficult, which is why we have few photos to share.

events that weekend was the book-signing for the new book *Life in Pacific Grove*, which contains reminiscences by many of our members. It is available for purchase at the P.G. Library, from our local "Bookworks" store at Park and Lighthouse. and from Amazon.com, \$30 for paperback; \$55 for hardback. Proceeds benefit the Library. A second edition is already in the works, and a team spearheaded by William Neish '83 is collecting stories. William says he is particularly interested in Pacific Grove mysteries; if you have any, you can submit them at [lifeinpacificgrove.com](http://lifeinpacificgrove.com).

We have already reserved the Elks Club for the 2018 event, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, so mark your calendars. Meanwhile, continue to submit your stories and photos to *The Knockout II*—it's "the glue" that keeps us together. We hope you enjoy the memories, news, and pictures in this issue!

*Beth Penney '73*



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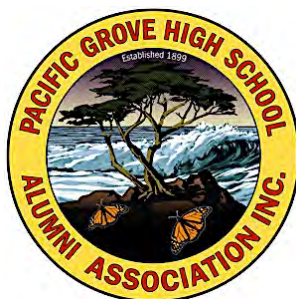
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**Volume 31, Winter Issue**

### The Pacific Grove High School Alumni Association, Inc.

A Not-for-Profit Public Benefit Corporation  
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**Mail:** P.O. Box 51396, Pacific Grove, CA 93950-6936

**E-mail:** info@pghsaa.org

**Web site:** pgae.pgusd.org/alumni

**Membership dues** (January 1-December 31):

\$20 per year, single or couple

**For digital delivery (.PDF file via e-mail),  
 e-mail joanie@pghsaa.org**

### PGHSAA Officers

Beth Penney '73, President  
 Edie Adams McDonald '56, Vice-President  
 Patty Fifer Kieffer '60, Recording Secretary  
 Donna Murphy '79, Corresponding Secretary  
 Erin Langton Field '71, Treasurer

### PGHSAA Board of Directors

#### *Serving through December 2017*

Sherry Welsh Gruwell '56  
 Lillian Griffiths '70  
 Sheri Stillwell Hauswirth '71  
 Cate Goblirsch Lee '94  
 Phil Nash '88  
 Ike Smith '61

#### *Serving through December 2018*

Les Field '72  
 Dolores Soares Silveira '59  
 Lupe Villalpando Dosda '68  
 Mike Tryon '72

#### *Serving through December 2019*

Faith Van Woerkom Beety '73  
 Marabee Rush Boone '60  
 Joanie Hylar '68  
 Bebo Parker Logan '63  
 Michele Sherwin Thomas '63

### PGHSAA Committee Chairs

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**Bylaws:** Dolores Soares Silveira '59  
**Disbursements:** Donna Murphy '79  
**Events:** Bebo Logan Parker '63 and Michele Sherwin Thomas '63  
**Historian:** Sydney Berg Tabler '64  
**Knockout II Editor:** Beth Penney '73  
**Mail:** Erin Langton Field '71 and Joanie Hylar '68  
**Membership:** Joanie Hylar '68  
**Nominations:** Cate Goblirsch Lee '94  
**Parliamentarian:** Faith Van Woerkom Beety '73  
**Publicity:** Beth Penney '73  
**Reservations:** Bebo Parker Logan '63 & Michele Sherwin Thomas '63  
**Scholarships:** Lillian Griffiths '70  
**Senior Class Liaison:** Lillian Griffiths '70  
**Sunshine:** Sherry Welsh Gruwell '56  
**Website:** Joanie Hylar '68

### Important 2018 Dates

The PGHSAA Board of Directors meets on the following dates in 2018: January 11, March 8, April 12, May 10, July 12, September 8, and October 11. The September meeting is the General Membership Meeting and is at noon. All other meetings are at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are at the Pacific Grove Community Center unless announced otherwise. Our annual reunion is Saturday, October 6.

## A Friendly Welcome to Our New Member

1963 Jan *Jarman* Rocklin

### Returning Members

1971 Craig Moyers Scotts Valley  
1973 Shannon *Johnson* Gullion Scotts Valley  
1979 Phyllis *Grillo* Weinbrenner Monterey

### "In Memory Of" Contributions

Jeffrey & Janet Cohen Pacific Grove  
IMO: Morris Grant Fisher '56  
David Payton Coarsegold  
IMO: Janice *Shirreff* Payton '68  
1949 Yvonne *Puget* Merrigan Alameda  
IMO: Betty Jean *Harrington* Downing '49  
1954 Jodeen *Fisher* Colletto Hillsborough  
IMO: Morris Grant Fisher '56  
1958 Colleen *Farrell* Johnson Seaside  
IMO: Gary Elbert Cowen '69

### Thanks To Our Recent Contributors

1964 Dale Lipp Ventura

### Class of '52 Remembers Scholarship Fund

1952 John Perkins Reedley  
IMO: Lawrence "Larry" Charles Bruscas '52  
IMO: Robert "Bob" Edwin Lopez '54

## Letters

Dear Alumni Members  
and Friends of Morris G. Fisher:

I want to thank each and every one of you who attended my brother's services and reception on March 17, 2017. My brother Morrie, former mayor of Pacific Grove, would have been so appreciative of the remembrance of him and the huge turnout. He loved his hometown and all the people who lived there. He knew so many people by their first and last names and never forgot to introduce them to us when we were out together. He was one of the fortunate ones who were able to stay and work in Pacific Grove, and he always kept us informed of what was going on. 3

I'm glad so many of you were there on the 7th but sad I did not get to see each of you, because I know you all have so many stories you could have shared. Morrie was a character and everyone knew it, and there will never be another one like him. I am so grateful he was my little brother, and we shared 79 years together. Thank you all for being his extended family, as you took the place of us who could not be with him on a day-to-day basis. He worked hard for Pacific Grove and thought only to improve it. Our younger brother Ralph Fisher '63 was the one who was there and worked with Morrie's two daughters in organizing and preparing the beautiful church service and the perfect military honor guard burial. It's so wonderful to have a brother like Ralph who can handle such serious details in times like this. There are never enough words or thank-yous to cover everyone, but there is a God who knows each of you, and He will directly thank you with His blessings.

*Sincerely,*  
Jodeen Fisher Colletto '54  
Hillsborough, CA

Hi Joanie,

This is an odd request for a very odd situation. I went out for a short trip today. On my way home, an SUV pulled in front of me. At the light, I noticed a CA license and around the license was a surrounding that said California on the top and Pacific Grove on the bottom. I was hoping that I could follow them but needed to make a left turn into my development and the SUV made a turn into the right lane, and I lost sight of them. By chance, could you find a PGHS alumnus who now has a Virginia address for Glen Allen, Henrico, Ashland or Richmond? I've lived here now for 32 years and have never run into anyone who ever heard of P.G. No problem if you can't. Otherwise we are also experiencing some hot weather but doing well otherwise.

*Keith Lowrey '49*  
Glen Allen, VA

P.S. I couldn't get close enough, BUT on a window was a red and gold ribbon with some lettering. I couldn't get close enough to read it.

## Letters (cont.)

Hi Keith,

Sorry I took so long to get back to you. I had company from Australia and wasn't on my computer much. Here are the Virginia towns we have current alumni in: Woodbridge, Oakton, Virginia Beach, Hampton, Warrenton and Chester. Let me know if any are close. Thanks for your continued support.

*Joanie Hyler*

Joanie ,

It was a surprise to see a P.G. tag, but it's also tourist season and we are on the trail. I do have a son living in Oakton and he used to work for the *Farquier Times* in Warrenton but the other towns are just too remote. I'll try and go back and see what prompted my original query. As I recall, it was such a surprise, and a joy, to see a car with a P.G. tag. It's a small world after all. And, the son who lives in Oakton, VA was married in Cairns, Australia!!

*Many thanks,  
Keith*

Dear Joanie,

Thank you for sending the hard copy of the *Knockout II* via the postal service as well as the .PDF. Wanted to let you know, and not certain if others received it this way, but my hard copy had blank pages 10 and 11 in it. No worry, though, as I was able to print a copy of pages 10 and 11 from the e-mail one. Thanks for all you do in proofreading and for keeping us abreast of Pacific Grove happenings, as well as Beth Penney. It's always a joy to keep up with fellow classmates' lives and *Knockout II* news of P.G. High (past, present, and future events!). Have a blessed year and holidays ahead,

*Mary Ellen Styhl Mathias '56  
Hot Springs Village, AR*

*Editor's note: Mary Ellen sent a family photo with her note; it appears at right. Her caption: "Love our family being together."*

Dear Joanie,

Here's the story I prepared for the *Knockout II* about the Class of '64 mini-reunion (see P. 18). It really was a very special time for us and we all had such a good time together. Thanks for your work on the *Knockout II*. I look forward to reading it when it comes, and you all do such a fine job. My sister, Katie, and Elena are planning to attend the big Alumni Reunion. I'm scheduled to be in San Francisco that weekend for a West Coast Swing Convention. I haven't been able to attend for the past two years because of my husband's health. The only way I can attend both is if I drive four hours to attend PGHS's reunion and that seems like a lot of driving for one night of pleasure. I'm still making my decision. Take care and have fun if I don't make it to the reunion.

*Victoria Samora Phillips '64  
Monterey*

To the PGHSAA:

Thank you for the scholarship award! I have really enjoyed my four years at PGHS, and I was very grateful to be recognized for my achievements throughout high school. Having just joined the ranks of Pacific Grove alumni, I know the lessons learned as a member of the Pacific Grove community will truly help and influence me for the rest of my life. I am truly thankful.

*Sincerely,  
Zach Goodwin '17*



*Mary Ellen Styhl Mathias '56, center, surrounded by family.*



## Letters (cont.)

Dear Ms. Erin Field and the PGHSAA:

I wanted to say thank you for awarding me the Maude Marian Smith scholarship! Thank you for helping me be able to go to college. I am so grateful from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for this amazing scholarship and I can't wait to use it so I can achieve my dream of becoming a history teacher. I can't wait to see what I become at Humboldt State University! Thank you so much for your help achieving this goal.

*Sincerely,  
Arabella Sterwef '17*

Dear Ms. Field,

I humbly want to thank the PGHSAA for the generous gift toward my continuing education. The support, growth, and encouragement I have received from attending PGHS has enriched my life in ways that continue to unfold and has been truly inspiring. I am filled with gratitude beyond words to the Alumni Association for providing me not only with this generous gift but the opportunity to know and associate with people of such good faith and good will. These are the Breakers values that I will take with me throughout my continuing education and community service work. Ultimately, I will be able to pass these values on as a teacher myself. I deeply appreciate the Association's thoughtfulness and understanding when it comes to the struggles of not only me, but also the many other students you have helped with their educational goals over the years. I feel honored that you would have so much faith in me and in my endeavors to choose me this year to graciously donate to. I plan to use your gift to fund my first two years of college and MPC, where I will work to obtain two associates degrees, one in history and the other in communications. Following my completion of these degrees, I plan to transfer to Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, to complete my major in history, and upon receiving my undergraduate degree I plan to obtain a master's degree and in due course a doctoral degree. Once again, I thank you and all of the members of the PGHSAA for your generous gift of

the Beverly Wilson Stillwell Class of '49 Scholarship and the blessing of your support and good wishes.

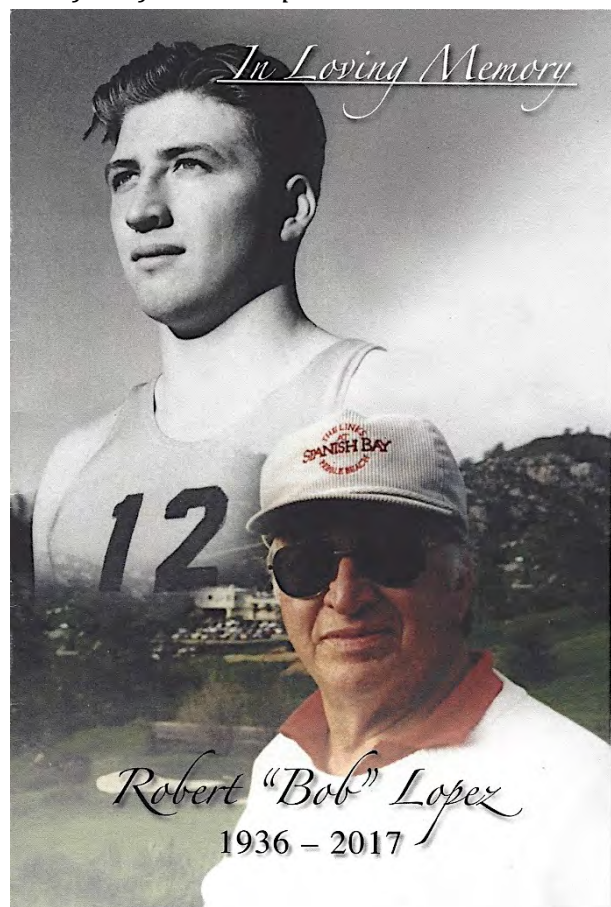
*Sincerely,  
Wyatt King '17*

Dear *Knockout II* Staff:

Enclosed please find the brochure from the memorial service held August 19 in Fresno for Bob Lopez '54. You may have gotten this news from someone else, but Bob was a big part of Pacific Grove schools and especially PGHS. His wife Jeanette was very involved also. His brother, Harold '55 and sister Arlene also attended P.G. schools. Please put his name in your obituary page. Many will want to remember him.

*Sincerely,  
Nancy Williams Burton Hay '55  
(I am now the wife of Hugh Thomas Hay '55)*

*Editor's note: Bob's obituary appeared in our September, 2017 issue. Thanks to Nancy for sending the lovely program from the service. The front of the folder is reproduced below.*



**Obituaries**

**JUNE**

Ron Bain '56 Amarillo, TX

**AUGUST**

Charles French '61 Greenville, PA  
 Karl Rubrecht '74 Ruston, LA  
 Gary Singleton '69 Seaside

**SEPTEMBER**

Lester Ysazaga '56 Salinas  
 Sharon *Johansen* '75 Pacific Grove  
 Wallace Lowry '51 Santa Rosa  
 Marion *Butera* Mattison '45 Sacramento  
 Gary Cowen '69 Castroville  
 Judith *Downs* Gilbert '69 Monterey  
 Robert Rosa '53 Del Rey Oaks  
 John Paterton '69 Ottawa, KS

**OCTOBER**

Frank Klahn '77 Monterey  
 Wilfred Scholefield Faculty Pebble Beach  
 Donald Howard '55 Alameda County  
 Rafael Gutierrez '78 Gonzales  
 Leslie Costanza '75 Monterey  
 Brad Tomasini '56 Fresno  
 Debbie *Newell* '74 Pacific Grove

**NOVEMBER**

Janice *Shirreff* Payton '68 Coarsegold

**JUNE**



**Ronald Kenneth Bain Sr.** died in Amarillo, TX, in June of 2017. A native of Monterey County, he was born Nov. 2, 1938, and graduated from PGHS in 1956. He was a 24-year member of PGHSAA. He is survived by his sister, Merry

Lynn *Bain* Watson '63 of Amarillo, TX.

**AUGUST**

**Charles Edward French, Jr.**, 74, formerly of Walnut Creek, passed away August 14, 2017, at the home of his daughter, Susan, in Greenville, PA. He was born in Carmel on June 26, 1943, to Charles Edward '32 and Lois Eleanor *Reed* '33 French. A



1961 graduate of PGHS, he attended Occidental College from 1961-1965. Charles began his 35-year banking career as a teller at Bank of America and later served as an anti-money laundering specialist. He retired and continued as a bank consultant for several years. He

was an avid bowler and golfer, with a loving, selfless, and humble nature. He was a 27-year member of PGHSAA. Survivors include three children, Susan Elizabeth French, Christopher Edward French and Robert Andrew French; two sisters, Deborah *French* Brown '57 of Eagan, MN, and Katheryn *French* Lenhart '64 of Moraga; and his former wife, Nidia Annette French. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his uncle, John H. French '29.



**Dr. Karl Rubrecht**, 61, of Ruston, LA, his home of many years, died Aug. 24, 2017. Karl was born Feb. 3, 1956, in Los Angeles and graduated from PGHS in 1974. At PGHS, he was active in arts and theater productions. He graduated from MPC in 1977 and earned a

bachelor's and masters from Fresno State. After a second master's in piano performance at Northeast Louisiana University, he earned a PhD from Texas Tech University in 2003. He taught various music and performance classes in community colleges beginning in 1980, and became an assistant professor of music at Grambling State University, LA, in 1992, a job he held until his death. He assisted in the formation of Phi Mu Alpha (a professional music fraternity) at Grambling State in 1995 and served as its faculty advisor. Karl attended his first PGHS reunion in 2009, where he performed on the piano (on stage at the Monterey Elks Club) and distributed CDs of his performances and original compositions. Karl spent his lifetime dedicated to teaching, performing and composing music. He is survived by his brother, Christopher Rubrecht of Salinas.



## Obituaries (continued)



**Gary Allen Singleton**, 65, died in Seaside on Aug. 17, 2017. A native of Saratoga, Gary was born Sept. 1, 1951, and graduated from PGHS in 1969. He attended San Jose State and Stanislaus State universities. After working for his father at Singleton Chevrolet, Gary opened several restaurants on the Peninsula, but later returned to the car business, working at Val Strough Honda for the last 17 years. He coached Seaside Little League Baseball and was a fan of the San Francisco 49ers and Giants. He loved gardening, sailing, sunshine, motor sports racing, and golf. Gary was a fun, positive, caring, generous, loyal, hardworking, passionate human being. Survivors include his mother, Dorothy; children, Lesley Rose, Lindsey Elizabeth, and Robert Ernest; one granddaughter; and two sisters, Elizabeth and Lori. He was preceded in death by his father, Ernie Singleton.

### SEPTEMBER



**Lester Manuel Ysazaga** died at the age of 79 in Salinas on Sept. 6, 2017. Born in Hollister on Dec. 21, 1937, Les attended PGHS only one year, graduating with the class of 1956. He was a department manager for Lucky Markets for many years. Known for his passion for hot rods, he showed his '56 Chevy at many car shows. He was a volunteer for the Salinas California Rodeo, Monster Trucks, and Relay for Life. He was an 18-year member of PGHSAA. Survivors include his wife Margo, children, Steven, Cheryl and Terry; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Jane *Ysazaga* Clark '58 of Lakeland, FL and Mary McKinney of Summerfield, FL.

**Sharon Elizabeth Johansen**, 60, died of a heart attack in Monterey on Sept. 7, 2017. A native of Pacific Grove, Sharon was born Aug. 4, 1957, to Don '42 and Ruby *Rogers* '43 Johansen. She was in the Class of 1975. Her father owned Johansen's Pacific Grove Garage. All three were active



members of the PGHSAA. Her grandparents, Johannes and Marie Johansen, owned the Centrella Hotel from the late 1930s into the early '50s. Sharon devoted many years of her life to caring for her parents, and was a caring friend to all who knew her.

She was a 16-year member of PGHSAA and served for several years on the PGHSAA board. She is survived by her brother, Craig Johansen '73, and numerous cousins, including Claudia *Hodgen* Bailey '53, David Johansen '71, Linda *Carrick* Huffman '58, Woody Carrick '59, Don Johansen '62, Christie *Johansen* Sheets '66, and Kenneth Johansen '69. Preceding her in death were her parents; two siblings, Linda *Johansen* Flores '67 and Duane Johansen '71; and cousins Cliff Johansen Jr. '60 and Dennis Johansen '69. Four of her 11 aunts and uncles attended PGHS: Olga '32, Clara '31, Clifford '38, and Kenny '43.



**Wallace Maynard Lowry** died at the age of 84 on Sept. 14, 2017, in Santa Rosa, his home of many years. A native of Chicago, IL, Wally was born in 1933, and moved with his naval family to P.G., where he graduated from PGHS in 1951. He earned a BA in economics from Stanford University and attended Golden Gate University before entering the U.S. Navy. In his 29-year career, he rose to the rank of Captain. In 1969, he earned an MBA from UCB and became a CPA. He also taught accounting at Sonoma State University for 32 years, retiring in 2001. Wally was involved with SSU Academic Foundation, Santa Rosa Rotary Club, Luther Burbank Center, Sonoma County Museum, Sonoma County Farmlands Group, Sonoma County Alliance, North Coast Hobos, and Empire Breakfast Club. He was a 41-year member of PGHSAA. Survivors include his wife Ellie, daughters Cynthia and Stephanie, 10 grandchildren, sister Elaine *Lowry* '50 Ross, stepbrother Ed Whitaker '55, and stepsisters Bonnie *Whitaker* Denney '64 and Kay *Whitaker* '66.

## Obituaries (continued)



A beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, **Marion Jessie Butera Mattison**, 90, died in Sacramento on Sept. 15, 2017. Born in San Jose on March 20, 1927, Marion was raised in Pacific Grove and graduated from PGHS in 1945. In her

youth, she worked in the fish canneries on vacation breaks. She had fond memories of the experience and wrote to the *KOII* in 2008: "It was a real experience, working cutting the heads and tails off those fish then going to lunch staying within the building. The lunch you brought to eat tasted like fish, your hair smelled of fish, as did your clothes. I would not trade any of that. Waking up when you heard the boats bringing in those fish, then walking down along the railroad tracks to get to those canneries was a real experience that cannot be replaced in today's world." Marion worked 22 years for the State of California in Sacramento. Marion lived in Roseville for many years, where she loved people, big band music, and an assortment of baked pastries. She was a 33-year member of PGHSAA. Survivors include her son Van Mattison and stepbrothers Erwin Dames '49 and Richard Dames '50. Her brother, Stanley Butera '43, died in 1985.



**Gary Elbert Cowen** passed away peacefully, at his home in Castroville, on Sept. 15, 2017, at the age of 66. Born in Monterey County on Jan. 30, 1951, to Howard '41 and Wynette *Walker* '41 Cowen, Gary graduated from PGHS in 1969. He worked as a captain at

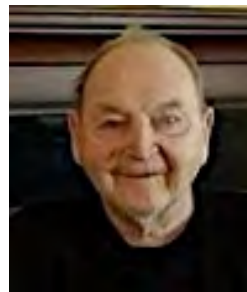
the California Department of Forestry and as a bulldozer operator for Granite Rock at Pico Blanco. He owned and operated Gary Gadgets, a construction company, and later built custom homes with his company Cowen Construction. He was known as the man who could build a gadget to fix any problem, and as a pillar of strength and support. Survivors include his wife, Patricia *Gillem* Cowen

'69 of Castroville; daughters, Sarah, Quincy, and Jennifer; two grandsons; his parents; and siblings Ron Cowen '65, Barbara *Cowen* Seubert '67, Ken Cowen '70, and Kathy *Cowen* Ireland '74. He was preceded in death by his brother Robert Cowen '63.



**Judith Carol Downs Gilbert** of Pebble Beach died Sept. 15, 2017, at CHOMP in Monterey. A Navy daughter, Judy was born in Norfolk, VA, on Sept. 21, 1946. Her family moved in 1959 to the Peninsula, where her father served his final two tours at

what was then the Language School. Judy graduated from PGHS in 1963 and attended the University of Nevada and San Jose State, where she studied languages and literature. She worked for the city of Monterey for 17 years, but family was always her first priority. Survivors include her mother, June Downs; son, Nathan Gilbert; and brother, Scott Downs '69. Her father, Arnold Downs, died in 2002.



**Robert Charles Rosa**, 84, died at the age of 84 in Del Rey Oaks on Sept. 17, 2017. Born Jan. 4, 1933 in Salinas, Robert was a classmate of PGHS 1953. Survivors include his children David Rosa, Daniel Rosa, Robert Cartner, and Patrick Cartner; his siblings, Jane *Rosa*

Flud '57, and John Rosa Jr. '62; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Evelyn, and his son Michael.



**John Francis Paterson**, 67, died in Ottawa, KS, on Sept. 19, 2017. Born Aug. 1, 1950, John grew up in Pacific Grove and graduated from PGHS in 1969. He was a resident of Leawood, KS, and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.





## Obituaries, cont.

### OCTOBER



**Frank Henry Klahn, 58**, died Oct. 5, 2017, at Community Hospital. Frank was born in the Panama Canal Zone, and lived in many places with his military family before settling in Pacific Grove, graduating from PGHS in 1977. In the Army he studied

Russian and was stationed in Germany as an intelligence analyst and Russian interpreter for three years, and later taught Russian at the DLI. After earning his MBA from Golden Gate University and his law degree from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, Frank practiced law for a decade in Washington, D.C. He returned to PG to open his own law office, and was active with the Toastmasters Club, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, tutoring high school students, and many community causes. Frank was kind, loyal, generous, and was happiest when he could enhance the happiness of others. Survivors include his wife, Maria Elena, and brothers, Xavier, Luis and Rene Candia.



**Wilfred Scholefield**, faculty and administrator at PGHS for 25 years, died Oct. 9, 2017, in Pebble Beach. Born Sept. 3, 1920 in Yorkshire, Sheffield, England, Mr. Scholefield was 97 years old. His family immigrated to New Jersey in 1928, and Wilfred joined the Army Air

Corps in 1941. After the war he received degrees at Sul Ross University in Alpine, TX, and Columbia University in NY. He began his career as a business and English teacher at PGHS in 1952, and retired as vice-principal in 1979. Wilfred was very active in the community and was a member of the PG Rotary Club (president 1968); the Monterey County Grand Jury (1984 – 1986); Episcopal Homes Foundation Board (1989 – 1994); Pacheco Club (president 1991); PG Masonic Order, Worshipful Master of PG Lodge 331 (2000); and Monterey Peninsula Shrine Club (president 2009). As an actor, he performed at the Golden Bough and Studio Dinner theaters. As an

artist, he enjoyed watercolor Plein Air painting. A lover of music, he supported the Bach Festival, The Monterey Symphony, Carmel Music Society and the San Francisco Opera. He loved travelling, and was a dedicated member of St. Mary's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church. Wilfred was a clever, articulate, kind gentleman who possessed a love of life and love of family and friends. He was honored by the PGHSAA at its annual dinner in 2015. Survivors include his wife Jean; son Ronald '66 of Maui, HI; and sister Glenise Tyndall.

**Donald Marion Howard**, well-known local archeologist, died Oct. 16, 2017. Born May 12, 1937 in Alameda County, Don graduated from PGHS in 1955. He went to Monterey Peninsula College and earned a degree in biological sciences from San Jose State. Even though he never pursued an advanced degree in archeology he spent his entire life studying and publishing on the history and archeology of the Monterey Peninsula. He co-founded the Monterey County Archaeological Society, taught at the Pacific Grove Community High School and at MPC, and worked diligently at many digs all over the county. The Don M. Howard Collection of about 2,000 items assembled from dozens of digs is owned by the Carmel Valley Historical Society. Over 40 years he wrote almost 40 books and numerous scholarly reports and articles, which are still cited in current studies. He was preceded in death by his parents, Francis and Fern Howard.

**Rafael Gutierrez, 58**, died Oct. 20, 2017 in



Gonzales. Rafa spent a lifetime of unforgettable treasured moments and laughter with his family. Born Dec. 7, 1959, in Mexicali, Mexico, Rafa spent most of his childhood in Pacific Grove, where he was raised by his aunt and uncle, Sebastian and Hermelinda Reynoso. An

optimistic person and life of the party, Rafa graduated from PGHS in 1978. His survivors, who will never forget his young and vibrant spirit, include his soulmate Catherine Gutierrez-Fuentes; children Jonathan Gutierrez and Jeanette Gutierrez-Eriksson; brothers Carlos, Martin, and Javier; and sister Victoria.

## Obituaries, cont.



**Leslie Costanza** died of cancer on Oct. 26, 2017 in Monterey. Born Horace Leslie Costanza on Nov. 8, 1956, he was known as “Les”. A native of Monterey, he spent his junior and senior years at PGHS and graduated in 1975. Les was a master

craftsman for over 25 years with the Monterey Bay Aquarium. He enjoyed boating, water skiing, fishing, and racing his radio controlled boats; riding motorcycles, wrenching on and shinning his cars, and was an active member of San Carlos Cathedral. Survivors include his daughter, Jade Monet Haider-Costanza; two sisters, Fran *Costanza* Flores '69 and Cheryl *Costanza* Glass '72; and ex-wife Debbie *Arman* Costanza Lent '75.



**Bradley Richard Tomasini Jr.**, 78, died of cancer in Fresno, on Oct. 27, 2017. A native of Monterey County, he was born Nov. 13, 1938, graduated from PGHS in 1956, and then went on to Hartnell College and

Fresno State College. Brad was a parks and recreation director of Wasco for over 30 years. He organized many regional track meets, trained a winning girl's track team, and was an official at many regional track meets held at Fresno State. He was active with the AAU Track & Field, and a member of the Southern CA Municipal Athletic Federation and the CA Interscholastic Federation. Brad loved backpacking and made many solo trips into the Sierras for weeks at a time. Survivors include his daughter, Jeanne Thompson; two grandchildren; one great-grandson; his brother Ronald Tomasini '58; and sister Rena Allison.

**Debra Christine Newell** died unexpectedly on Oct. 28, 2017, in Pacific Grove. A lifelong resident of Monterey County, Debbie was born Oct. 14, 1956, and graduated from PGHS in 1974. She worked for the *Herald*, and then became a medical transcriptionist. Debbie loved animals and cherished



her family and friends. Survivors include her daughter, Nicole *Foord* Bulich '00 and son-in-law Ryan Bulich '93; two grandchildren; and siblings Gloria Webster, Mike Newell, Juanita Russo, and Madeleine Head. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Carmela Newell; and son Christopher Foord.

## NOVEMBER



**Janice Marie Shirreff Payton**, 67, died of cancer at her home in Coarsegold on Nov. 4, 2017. Born in Bakersfield on Jan. 17, 1950, Janice came to the Monterey Peninsula as a three-day-old. Her family was Army, and she lived in Japan and Germany

but always returned to her home. She graduated from PGHS in 1968 and married soon after. Janice worked as a dog groomer, started her own answering service company, and then worked for the Social Security Administration for 20 years. She enjoyed cooking, hosting parties, interior decorating, and travelling. Janice was fluent in German, and her husband has established a scholarship with PGHSAA in her name for PGHS students who will further their education in languages. Survivors include her husband David Payton and her in-laws. A memorial page is at <https://www.lastingmemories.com/memorial/janice-marie-shirreff-payton>

## *“In Memory Of” Donations*

*are a wonderful way to commemorate the lives of friends, relatives, and faculty members, and to help us help PGHS students. Send your donation to the address on P. 2. Thanks to those who have made these donations over the years.*

## No Idle Hands in Pacific Grove

By Phil Bowhay '47

Strolling up and down Lighthouse, Alvarado, and Ocean avenues, we notice a lot of kids working, and a lot who are not. That's OK, of course, since those not obviously working are probably computer experts who do things online for fun and profit. Things best we not know about, nor even understand. Pushing a broom, clerking, and waiting tables, we understand. Heck, we've done it!

Back in the good old days, the '40s, with WWII before and after, there was plenty of work around for the local kids, and no child labor laws to get in the way. We started collecting pine cones, used for kindling, and I think we got paid a dime for a gunny sack full. Huckleberries were a little more seasonal and those got us a buck for a quart Mason jar. Believe me, that's a lot of huckleberries.

We moved up the labor ladder to lawns and yard work, and I can tell you that as far as I could discover, nobody in Pacific Grove had a decent, sharp lawn mower. (There's a war on, you know.) But we chewed up the grass, hit the edges with 1915 vintage clippers, and earned enough in an afternoon to buy a war stamp or two.

Sooner or later most of us boys got off to a good start in journalism, delivering *The Advertiser*, *Tide*, *The Herald* and the San Francisco papers from sea to shining sea. Only two reasons to get out of bed at 4:30 a.m., either paper routes or fishing.

The biggest and best employers were the Forest Hill Hotel and Holman's, and sooner or later most of us swept the walks, washed the windows, stocked the shelves, carried the suitcases, bussed the tables, washed the dishes, raked the yard, carried the trash, and learned the pleasure of good, honest work, as our parents reminded us.

If you were lucky, you could clean out boats for Sprague, or you could caddie at the finest nine-hole course in the state. If you couldn't caddie, you could look for golf balls, or you could even unload lumber for the yard by the depot. Good, honest work! And don't forget the soda fountains.

The grocery stores and drug stores on Lighthouse exposed us to either possible future local careers or an urge to continue our educations. I think Bill Hellam, Charlie Higuera, Ken Zug, Vince

Bruno, and Clyde Dyke hired and trained more kids than the Works Progress Administration. My golly, the secrets discovered in the back room of a drug store, the thrill of watching Bill Hellam carve up a side of beef, and learning how to snap a folded paper bag open! And with practice you could learn how to imitate a trombone, just like Bill!

One summer, the city of Pacific Grove hired me to fill in wherever needed ... sweeping streets, collecting trash, figuring costs of new curbs and gutters. One fine day, I filled the city dump truck with trash from cans all over town. Happily driving the truck back to the corporation yard, pulled into the yard and noticed the truck bed was up! No trash! I had pulled the wrong lever or pushed the wrong button and dumped the collected mess up and down the streets of America's Last Hometown! What to do? Well, it was quitting time. I decided then and there that I had better get serious about an education. Haven't been in a dump truck since!



*The windows have been completed in the Holman Building since our last issue! The architects have been successful in restoring the building to its 1940s appearance. Photo by Joanie Hylar '68. More at [www.theholman.com](http://www.theholman.com).*

**Help Wanted: Web Site**  
**The PGHSAA Board of Directors is in search of a volunteer who can move from a Facebook page to a permanent PGHSAA web site. This is a volunteer position. We would love to have a PGHS alumna, but if there is a spouse or relative who can help, that would work! E-mail [bpenney@sonic.net](mailto:bpenney@sonic.net) or [joanie@pghsaa.org](mailto:joanie@pghsaa.org) if you are interested.**



## News of Our Active Alumni

PGHS grad Casey Boyns '73 was inducted into the Northern California Golf Association Hall of Fame in September. Boyns, a California amateur standout, was honored at an induction ceremony, Thursday, Sept. 21, at Poppy Hills Golf Course in Pebble Beach. A longtime caddie at Pebble Beach Golf Links, Boyns is a two-time California Amateur champion and is the all-time leader in NCGA wins with 16. A member of the California Golf Hall of Fame, Boyns also has seven victories in NCGA Senior championships. The NCGA welcomed its first Hall of Fame class in 2011.

This story originally appeared in the Sept. 16, 2017, *Monterey Herald*. Reprinted with permission.



Casey Boyns '73 tees off at the California State Amateur Golf Championship at Monterey Peninsula Country Club in 2007. *Herald photo.*

## The Bridges of History

By Phil Bowhay '47

Among the many blessings in our Piney Paradise are the old people. Quick to add that some folks are old at 30 and some not so at 90. What I'm talking about here are those of us who are seriously mature, have lived a full life with miles to go before we sleep ... and are willing to talk about it.

My friend, John, sent me a story from *The Economist*, exploring what to call us. Easy to describe, but hard to get the perfect handle. There are Boomers and Millennials and I guess we are something out of the great Depression. No matter. Call us what you want.

In our age group, humor circles around the inevitable. Death, dying, dementia, physical

depletion and memories. Some too much and some not enough. Whistling in the graveyard. I'm not dead yet. Still on the right side of the grass ... Doctor said all my body parts are out of warranty. Bless the internet, offering cut-rate cremations.

Exploring with your friends, peer group, you may hear Geriactive, Sunsetter, OWL (Older, working less.) ... I think Senior does it for me.

My dad used to claim that Pacific Grove was "The Old Lady Capital of the World." Said they came here to die, but never did. Well, yes they did, Dad. Those golden generations are all gone now. I grew up with those lovely old ladies. Most of them came from New England, looking for better weather ... they loved the fog ... and friends with whom to worship Jesus.

And they could sure tell the stories. In one block you could get more than two years of *Readers Digest*. Miss Eglantine Preble, who also had the book and the doll, Hetty, told about her grandfather, Commodore Preble, who fought the Barbary Pirates. (Not one cent for tribute.) The Tuck sisters, who had special insights with a crystal ball... Doctor Jarvis Williams, oldest practicing dentist in California, and the fascinating residents of the Forest Hill Hotel ... more about them another time.

The point here is old people, especially in Pacific Grove, are bridges of history. We knew what World War II was like and why. We can tell you about Pearl Harbor, the Great Depression, war bonds, Kate Smith, and The Lone Ranger. Yep, and Cannery Row when it really was. Ask us about Betty Grable, Carole Lombard, and Errol Flynn. *Forever Amber*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, and *Life Magazine*.

Remember we once were young, endured experience, and smile now looking back on mistakes and indiscretions. But just now, for a moment, seniors, forget the smug satisfaction that comes with a life well lived, or maybe just lived.

Look at today's teenagers and young adults. They are smart, generally optimistic, and have a set of values that will see them through. They have new opportunities, new ideas and challenges. They will make the same mistakes that we did, and 50 years from now, will rewrite this column. Have faith in the future, friends. Our country will survive ... and that's another story.

This story originally appeared in the Sept. 16, 2017, *Monterey Herald*. Reprinted with permission.

## Mitzie Grillo

By *Patty Fifer Kieffer '60*



The following speech was given by PGHSAA Recording Secretary Patty Fifer Kieffer '60, pictured at left, at this year's annual reunion dinner at the Elks Lodge in Monterey. See Mitzie's speech on the next page!

This year, the alumni board is doing something a little out of the

ordinary. Normally, we honor a retired teacher at our dinner, but this year we are honoring a much-loved employee of the high school who did not teach. Our honoree is Mitzie Grillo, who is 84 years young and worked in the cafeteria at the school.

Mitzie worked at PGHS starting in 1971, and she retired from there in 1988. When she retired, the principal was Don Curley, and she was making \$2.77 per hour. I don't think it was the salary that attracted her to the job. She chose to work there because her hours allowed her to be there when her kids got home from school or when they were on school vacation.

I wanted to know what were the most-loved items for lunch during the years she worked at the school. They were the spaghetti and the chocolate cake. The lady that made those items was both the manager and the cook (her name was Katie), and she was a VERY GOOD cook.

Mitzie is Italian, and she says that she has never before or after had better spaghetti than the crew at the PGHS cafeteria made. But I am somewhat disappointed to tell you that Mitzie's favorite lunchtime item was...the salad.

She said that there was really nothing at the cafeteria that the kids OR the teachers didn't like. In fact the food at our cafeteria was SO GOOD that some of the teachers from Carmel High School came to OUR cafeteria for their lunches...the food must

have been pretty darned good.

Mitzie loved working at the cafeteria. She said that all of "the ladies" that she worked with always had a lot of fun. They would play little tricks on each other and were always joking and clowning around. In fact, when "the ladies" got a little too rambunctious, the cafeteria supervisor, Mr. Moffett, who was a violin player, would sometimes pick up his violin and start playing. He said it was his way to "soothe the wild beasts."

Mitzie did not go to PGHS. She went to and graduated from Monterey High School. But her husband, Domenico Grillo, went to and graduated from Pacific Grove. He had come from Italy and spoke very little English, and I am proud to report that Mitzie said the students from P.G. as well as the teachers all together worked very hard to teach him English. Dom was a fisherman by trade. My guess is that he would have had some pretty interesting tales that he could have told if he were here tonight.

Mitzie and Domenico were married 44 years and had three children—all of whom went to Pacific Grove High School. She has 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Sadly, she lost Dom to leukemia 20 years ago. Many members of her family are in town for a sort of memorial weekend, and tonight we have 20 members of her family who came to our dinner just to see her honored.

It is always interesting to ask someone what their "dream job" would have been. When I asked Mitzie, her answer was a little out of the ordinary. She would have liked to have been a dress designer.

This little lady manages to keep very busy. She is active in her church, attends monthly lunches with a group of girlfriends, walks every year in the Santa Rosalia parade, and does oil painting. The members of our alumni who remember her from their days at Pacific Grove High School tell sweet stories about her. A lot of them think of her as a kind of surrogate mom. And now that I have gotten to know her, I can certainly see why!



*One of Mitzie's drawings. The caption: To get to the high school, just follow the forks in the road!*

## Mitzie's Speech

*Given by Honoree Mitzie Grillo*

Good evening and thank you. Thank you so much to the Pacific Grove High School Alumni Association and the Pacific Grove Unified School District for honoring me tonight. It wasn't expected, but I am thrilled to be here.

Before I get started with a few stories from The Central Kitchen, I would like to recognize my family with me here tonight. They are my strength and give me so much joy. First, my son, Frank, PGHS Class of 1972, and his wife Vicki; their daughter Samantha and her husband, Aaron; their daughter Roxie; their daughter, Domenique and her boyfriend, Dylan; their son Frankie; and their son Michael.



*Patty Fifer Kieffer '60 looks on as Mitzie speaks at the 2017 PGHSAA dinner. Mitzie's daughter Phyllis Grillo Weinbrenner '79 is at center, and her son Frank '73 is at right.*

Next, my daughter Phyllis, PGHS Class of 1979, her husband, Joe; her son, Rainer and his girlfriend, Jeni; her son, Garrett and his fiancé, Brittney; her son, Domenick; her daughter, Laura and her boyfriend Omar. My God daughter, Julie Ann; and last but not least, my son, Jack Grillo, Class of 1976, who couldn't be with us tonight, but is with us in spirit. I love you all and thank you for being here tonight and supporting me.

The Central Kitchen of P.G. High was a warm and wonderful place to work. We were definitely a cast of characters, but we felt like one big loving family. And just like a family, we all had our own roles to play and we made a lot of great food together. I joined The Central Kitchen family in 1971, and back then all the food was cooked and baked from scratch in The Central Kitchen and then

distributed out to the individual school sites. I know it's not like that anymore. That it's a gone-by era, but let me tell you, that food was all delicious.

Over the years, a lot of people came in went during the 17 years I worked at the Central Kitchen. However, there are a few that stand out in my memory. Please let me introduce you to a few of my favorite characters from that time:

Mr. Moffett joined the PGUSD in 1967. He was the supervisor of The Central Kitchen when I arrived in 1971 and he was the head of this crazy family. He never cared if we talked or joked while we worked, but he always told us to make sure our hands were moving as fast as our mouths! I can honestly tell you that in all the years I worked there, I can't ever remember a single time that he lost his temper or raised his voice. But I do remember him playing the violin for us. Yes, that's right, he played the violin right in the middle of the kitchen for us. And he was a good player. He used to tell us that if music could calm the wild beast, it could calm the nerves of The Central Kitchen.

Then there was Katie Curreri, our Kitchen Manager. Katie was the power behind Mr. Moffett and it worked just like that scene in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*: Mr. Moffett might have been the head of the kitchen, but Katie was the neck and the neck could move that head any way it wanted! She also had a habit of finding a lot of gold in the kitchen. Well, okay it wasn't actually gold. It was Katie's way of venting her frustration. She was Italian and there is a not-so-nice cuss word in Italian that sounded a lot like "I found gold," and so Katie would be heard exclaiming "I found gold" a lot on some days. If you don't know what the real word is, just ask one of your Italian friends.

Next was Elsie Faulkie. Elsie was the Second Cook and a very creative one, too. Elsie was in charge of making sure she knew all the names of the subsidized lunch students and decided the best place to keep that list handy was written on her chest! Yes, written on her chest. So you can only imagine how entertaining it was when Katie asked Elsie if so-and-so was on the list and watch Elsie open her blouse and give her the answer. I did tell you we were a crazy bunch, right?

There were others: Marion Petersen and Elsie Handy, who ran the a la carte line; Mary Villalobos,



**Mitzie, cont.**

who was the Salad Lady; Alice Thompson, our baker, who baked the BEST chocolate cake ever! And Alice’s husband, Otto, who was the delivery driver and made sure all of our food arrived at the school sites hot and ready to serve.

And then there was Agnes Silva and me. We did a lot of odd jobs, including prep, clean-up, and helped wherever we were needed. One of our jobs was to work the lunch line selling food to all the students who showed up to eat every day. The lunch line was one of my favorite spots because I got to know so many of the kids and having so many kids call me Mom. “Hey, Mom,” they would call. “How you doing today? What’s for lunch? Can you feed me today if I pay you tomorrow?” I know a lot of people will tell you that high school is a challenging time for students, but those kids were great. Sometimes easier to deal with than the adults! And no one ever went hungry on The Central Kitchen’s watch. We knew our responsibility was to make sure those kids ate and so if we had to shell out a few bucks of our own money, it was worth it.

Overall, there was a certain joy and comfort to our daily work lives in The Central Kitchen. We worked hard and took our jobs seriously, but like any family, we celebrated together: birthdays, anniversaries, baby showers, holidays. We celebrated the good times and helped each other through the hard times.



Of course, time doesn’t stand still, and things changed over the years. New managers and workers came and went, but there was a core group of us who remained friends for a lifetime.

While it’s hard to keep track of all the jokes and

funny things that happened along the way, being an artist on the side, I created a few books to help me remember all those good times in cartoon form. I brought those books with me tonight and invite you to thumb through the pages to see what joy working hard with good people can bring.



OUR KITCHEN STAFF

When all is said and done, I wouldn’t have traded those years in The Central Kitchen for anything. When I look out tonight at each of you, I see faces I recognize and think how lovely it is that you are here tonight to celebrate those golden days with each other and with me. Although my part in your lives was just making sure you had a good meal to get you through the day, I can’t help but feel a lot of pride.

And just so you know how life is full of twist and turns, I’ll share one last story with you tonight. Back in 1946, my future husband, Domenico Grillo, arrived in California from Sicily, and joined the Pacific Grove Unified School District and Pacific Grove High School family as the first foreign student on campus. Although it would be until 1953 before we were married, built our home and raised our children in Pacific Grove, he made a lot of lifelong friends during his time at Pacific Grove High School. And even though he attended Pacific Grove High for a short time to study English before heading off to college, but he always considered PGHS to be his alma mater. And we attended class reunions regularly until his death in 1997. So, I guess the Grillo family and PGHS history are intertwined forever. Thank you, again, for honoring me tonight. I truly appreciate it and look forward to talking to as many of you as I can. But, please, remember I’m an old woman now (as my kids keep telling me), so make sure you speak loudly, slowly and tell me your name. Thank you!

## The High School Fire

By Virginia Fox Abplanalp '50

Freshman year, 1946-1947: We had finally arrived! No longer lowly “boarders” at PGHS, we belonged. It may have been the bottom rung, but at least we were on the ladder. After the initial jitters wore off, we plunged into the many academic and extracurricular activities offered by our tiny high school. There was something for everyone—art, music, science, sports, and drama, to name a few. For such a small school, there was a lot going on.

A.B. Ingham and school secretary Gertie *Ernst* '22 were institutions by the time we got there. Gertie knew us all and all about us and our families. We had few secrets from her.



Unfortunately, the excitement of becoming full-fledged high school students was soon dampened by a devastating event... a mysterious fire destroyed a major part of our school. This loss was felt by everyone connected with it. The blaze, which broke out on a Saturday night during Christmas vacation, demolished the administration building, library, and several classrooms. I'm sure that all of us who stood across the street, watching it burn, remember the helpless feelings we shared. We didn't know until then how much it meant to us.

Miraculously, classes resumed on January 6th, but the repercussions of this disaster were long-lasting. We returned to our lockers to discover that our books were soggy, charred masses, and unusable. The acrid smell of smoke was everywhere.



Classes were held in very strange places. The typing teacher held forth on the stage of the auditorium while history classes were going on in the balcony. Portables were erected on the tennis courts, so we were sent down to play on the city courts a few blocks away. “Teach” put us on the honor system. Some of us took sunbaths instead.

The inconveniences were countless. The glee club and chorus practices were held at 8:00 a.m. in the tower of City Hall. But as the saying goes, “School keeps,” and we did.

*Photos of the fire from various sources, including private photos, are from [pgmiddleschool.weebly.com](http://pgmiddleschool.weebly.com).*



Continued...

## The *P.G. Tribune's* Version

In spite of the disastrous fire of last Saturday night (December 28, 1946), that destroyed the main building of Pacific Grove High School, at an estimated loss of \$200,000, it will be "school as usual" for the 400 students, according to the decision of the school board at special meetings called to cope with the immediate situation and plan for rebuilding. A state of emergency in the Unified School District has been declared by the board, in order to secure immediate supplies and speed up construction of temporary quarters without the usual delay of calling for bids. In the meantime a schedule is being arranged to accommodate all classes in the 9 rooms useable, with some classes to meet in the auditorium.



Architect Robert Stanton has been authorized by the board to supervise rehabilitation of the nine water-damaged classrooms of one wing that will be put to use immediately, and to draw up plans for temporary structures (to be built on the tennis courts behind the elementary school), as well as for a new permanent building.

As the school building "went up in smoke," some 5,000 residents of Pacific Grove and neighboring towns watched the spectacular all-night conflagration, for the most part in silent disbelief, or with expressed amazement that this "brick building" was not fireproof, as the public for the most part had quite generally supposed. Hundreds of students

watched—many wept—as their library was destroyed, and the flames crept from classroom to classroom. Described as a total loss are 11 classrooms the library, stock room, furnace room, and all administrative offices. The auditorium, music room, shop and gymnasium, and one wing of nine rooms in the classroom building can be utilized. The auditorium was only slightly damaged by water and the gymnasium was undamaged.

One of the greatest losses was that of the library. Value was estimated by Librarian Miss Frances E. Whitehead, to be not less than \$20,000. Many of the books, as well as files of compilations and pamphlet collections are irreplaceable, Miss Whitehead stated. Encyclopaedia, history and art book collections worth large sums, and murals by Bruce Ariss and August Gay were included in the library loss. So intense was the fire in the library that the brick walls in the rear of the building collapsed.

Chief Todd reports the fire started in the basement furnace room, almost directly below the main entrance, but investigations have failed to determine the cause of the original blaze. Rapid spread of the fire was due to faulty construction of the building.

Story this page from the January 3, 1947, *Pacific Grove Tribune*. The *Monterey Peninsula Herald* also reported on the fire, running an entire page of photos.



*The high school building before the fire. The building was erected in 1911. Photos from [pgmiddleschool.weebly.com](http://pgmiddleschool.weebly.com)*



## Class of '64 Mini Reunion

By Victoria Samora Phillips

A little seed was planted by classmate John Chandler when he and wife Jill visited Den and Vicki Falke and a mini class reunion emerged to the delight of nearly 50 people who attended a two-day affair August 4-5 in Bandon, Oregon, set up by our lovely hosts, Den and Vicki Falke. Elena, my sister Katie *Samora* Henden '68, and I drove from the Monterey Peninsula and met Paula *Aytes* Sardina, Linda *Underwood*, and Loretta *Horne* at Grants Pass and caravanned together to Bandon. We arrived a day early so that Katie and I could visit childhood friends since kindergarten, Sheryl *Smith* Napier and Catherine *Smith* Kadlubowski, who live in Bandon and Langlois. We had time to visit Sheryl's daughter Tammy and her husband, and Sheryl's daughter Seena along with Catherine, which left Paula *Aytes* Sardina, Elena *Castro* Walker, Linda *Underwood*, and Loretta *Horne* free to eat a fabulous Mexican



1st row: Michele Barat, Victoria Samora Phillips, Paula Aytes Sardina, Dale Lipp. 2nd row: Claudia Ward, Vicki Osborne Falke, Linda Underwood, Theresa Lugo, Dave Lugo, Elena Castro Walker, Kathryn Ramer, Sheryl Smith Napier, Jennifer Kren Ross

dinner with Den and Vicki Falke. Classmates arrived from all over...the Monterey Peninsula and the Northwest.

Friday, Vicki and Den arranged a no-host cocktail and dinner at the Broken Anchor Bar and Grill, where we all gathered to catch up. Den gave a heartfelt and touching welcome and shared that he and Vicki had been looking forward to this reunion all summer, and Den reiterated the itinerary for the

next day. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to Vicki, and Den provided red and gold cupcakes in her honor for us to share. Lots of pictures were taken. Elena, as usual, was leading us with her picture taking. She always takes fun pictures, as she deletes the



Elena Castro Walker and Linda Underwood

pictures with our eyes closed or where our faces and bodies aren't in the most flattering poses. Thanks, Elena! Everyone chit-chatted, and it was a warm and fun evening with lots of smiles and giggles and great conversation. Some of us were staying at the luxurious and accommodating Bandon Inn and continued our funfest with drinks and frivolity in our rooms.

The next day we all did our own thing... shopping at the Farmer's Market, shopping in the beautiful and picturesque town of Bandon, visiting with friends—more memory-sharing, laughs, bringing people up to date, etc., until we gathered at Bullard Beach State Park, where we again were eating a delicious meal and partaking with a variety of wines and those delicious red and gold cupcakes that Wayne Ross had transported for everyone to enjoy. Wayne also served as our Uber driver from time to time, providing transportation to lots of us. What a nice guy...and yes, Jennifer knows it. They've been married for a hundred years! A little stretch, but you get my drift. A lovely couple! In fact, there were lots



Vicki Osborne Falke, Victoria Samora Phillips, and Dennis Falke



## Class of '64 Mini Reunion (cont.)



*Catherine Smith Kadlowski, Katie Samora Henden, Victoria Samora Phillips, Linda Underwood, Loretta Horne, Kathryn Ramer, & Buck Jones.*

of loving couples! Yippee! And, lots of singles there too, and lots of us without our dear husbands who couldn't make the trip for a variety of reasons. The point is...everyone was welcomed and included and it was all OK. At this point in our lives...Don't sweat the small stuff, right?! We are fortunate to be alive to enjoy each other's company, the sunshine and the rain, the clouds, nature, our kids, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and whatever else makes us happy. The simple pleasures in life are the best.



*Victoria Samora Phillips, Kent and Debbie White*

Before the picnic ended at Bullard Beach State Park, Den and Vicki invited all of us to their home after a little afternoon respite. They provided yummy food, beverages, and wonderful

conversation. During this time, the guys also talked about their time in Vietnam and their fathers' time in the Korean War. From what I understand, this was a very special time for them. The women always seem to find interesting things to chat about...DNA testing, Native American history, family stuff, old time memories, enjoying the here and now, as well as the future and new adventures. A few of us have plans to visit New Orleans to listen to blues and enjoy the culture and scenery the city has to offer.

When we thought about a group picture, some of our classmates had already exited. Darn! But the pictures we took came out pretty darn good, I think. There is talk about another gathering in Bandon next year. I hope we do it again and more people will join us! I'm still thinking about the good time we shared and the reconnecting we did. It brings a warm smile to my face.



*John Kern, Wayne and Jennifer Kren Ross*

Here's a list of attendees: Vicki and Dennis Falke (Hosts); Buck and Eugenia Jones; Wayne and Jennifer Ross; Pat and Becky Sullivan; Mike and Joanne Sullivan; Michele Barat; Dale Lipp; Sheryl Smith Napier; Catherine Smith Kadlubowski; Michael and Cindy Scardina; Paula Aytes Sardina; Linda Underwood; Loretta Horne; Elena Castro Walker; Katie Samora Henden; Victoria Samora Phillips; Dave and Theresa Lugo; Catherine Ramer; John and Jill Chandler; David and Kathy Burkleo; Elizabeth Harper and Family; John and Donna Kern; Marcia Kalina and Bruce McGloughlin; Claudia Ward; Michele Godfrey; and Kent and Debbie White. If I left anyone out or misspelled someone's name, please forgive me.

**PACIFIC GROVE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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*The Knockout II: The PGHSAA Newsletter*

**Who Is It?**

No one took a guess at our September photo—that was Leo Gota '52, in a photo sent by Inez Owens Kirkman. Here's another mystery photo—mostly boys, but three girls at the top! Do you recognize them? Send answers to *Knockout II* editor Beth Penney, [bpenney@sonic.net](mailto:bpenney@sonic.net). And, if you have a photo for "Who Is It?" send it to the same address.

