



# THE WARRIOR ECHO

A Publication of The  
**FRESNO HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



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## ***A Message from Our New Principal***

*By Dr. Adrian Palazuelos*

In the fertile valley of our beautiful state there is only one Fresno High School. My name is Adrian Edward Palazuelos and I am honored to be the 26<sup>th</sup> principal of your beloved alma mater. I have spent most of my life in Oxnard, California and have made the successful journey to Fresno with my wife Julie and our three daughters Isabella, Olivia, and Nadia. Isabella and Olivia attend Dailey Elementary located a few minutes from Fresno High while clever Nadia (3 years old) states that she is going to "Daddy's school" (already a Warrior in training).

I received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Irvine and earned a teaching credential from California State University at Northridge. In addition, I received a Masters in Education from the University of California at Los Angeles and transitioned from classroom teacher to school administrator; a role that never ceases to challenge me and one which I have tremendous respect for. In 2007, I received a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Organizations from the University of California at Santa Barbara. I have served as a middle school assistant principal, elementary principal, middle school principal, and high school principal with each experience further preparing me to lead Fresno High School.

Education has played an integral part in my life beginning in high school where I unknowingly

received life lessons in leadership through involvement in student government; teamwork through participation in athletics and resiliency through getting back up no matter how hard we have fallen. I am committed to empowering our school community to challenge our students to seek success from the athletic fields and aquatics complexes to the classrooms. The Warrior family has been especially helpful in my family's transition and for that I am eternally grateful. Alumni are an asset to our campus community and each of you is an ambassador for "The Fresno High School". Your campus has benefited from your loyalty, commitment, and philanthropy. Go Warriors!

## ***Fresno High Graduates Giving Back***

After the class of '88 had its 20 year reunion, some precious thoughts were realized. We recognized in fact, we were aging. We recognized that many of us at the reunion had seen each other almost every day of our academic life, from elementary through high school. However, after graduation we had only seen each other a handful of times. So, a group of rediscovered friends from the classes of '87 and '88 formed in hopes of serving as an anchor and draw for the school's alumni of the past 30 years. Along with this move, we began to serve as a branch of the established and current Alumni Association of Fresno High School.

The Alumni Association has done a remarkable job of supporting Fresno High. This was done through a calling of the old guard to meet and socialize at Fresno High sanctioned events, which focused on the rich history of the school. Along with these efforts the Alumni Association has also brought in hundreds-of-thousands of dollars that go into Fresno High, which is, at times, in desperate need of the funds.

Graduates Giving Back (GGB) has also been instrumental over the past year in bringing back a younger alumni group through events such as a tail-gate party before last year's Pig Game, a football rivalry with Roosevelt High School. GGB also held mixers at restaurants in the Tower District, such as the Landmark and alumni owned Palaminos.

With monies earned, the group hopes to shed light on specific areas of school needs. One current plan under development is the tracking of student athletes' grades. Grades will be monitored regularly and reports will be provided to the coach, in hope of correcting academic downturns before they become destructive in the student-athletes' life. Another support activity by GGB was the securing of over 200 prom dresses this past school year, which were supplied to female students, who may not otherwise had an opportunity to attend the prom in a proper dress. Member Kacey Auston, continues to collect gowns for future dances. Graduates Giving Back also wishes to take an interest in the leadership of the school and hopes to establish connections with those at the helm. Part of

GGB's mission is to not only serve as a social network group for those who have already passed through the hallways of our grand school, but to serve those who currently study there too, to give back from our successes to those yet to realize theirs.

## **“Let’s Head to Santa Cruz”**

*By Catherine “Vernie” Morison Rehart*

One of the benefits of living in our great Central Valley is the close proximity of both the ocean and the mountains. When summer's heat gets unbearable, those who can take advantage of this geographical bonanza pack their bags and head for the hills or the seashore. In the later part of the nineteenth century, when ocean breezes beckoned, Fresnans journeyed either to Pacific Grove or to Santa Cruz.

In the 1950s, Fresnans continued to think of “going to the coast” as heading for Santa Cruz or Pacific Grove. It wouldn't be until later that Fresnans flocked in great numbers to Pismo, Cambria and Morro Bay.

I think most of us can remember how we waited with great anticipation for the last day of school so we could head for the coast. Fresno High School didn't have air conditioning during our tenure. In early June the classrooms could be very hot. When the 3:30 bell rang on those hot days, we would wearily get up from our seats and head to our lockers...no one could wear shorts in those days...the dress code was in place and enforced by Miss Hazel Tucker and Mr. Richard Neal who would send us home if we didn't comply. We would be so hot that just walking outside and finding a shady spot to stand in would feel cool. On that final day of school in June, we'd race home and hope that a trip to the coast would soon follow.

We all know about the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, but we may not know its history. Here goes...

Santa Cruz became a tourist attraction as early as 1865. In this year John Liebrandt and several others built public bathhouses near the mouth of the San Lorenzo River. They advertised the health benefits of bathing in the ocean's salt water to attract tourists. The bathhouses were used, for a fee of course, as places in which to change clothes. Soon concessions opened nearby.

Around the turn of the century, promoter Fred W. Swanton drafted a plan for a casino and boardwalk patterned after similar facilities at Coney Island in New York. The casino opened in 1904, only to burn down two years later. In 1907, it was rebuilt from plans drawn by William H. Weeks. The boardwalk opened at the same time.

To celebrate the opening, a grand ball was held. The Royal Hawaiian Orchestra and three brass bands played for the festivities. President Theodore Roosevelt sent his congratulations.

A year later the first ride, the L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway, opened. In 1911, a merry-go-round with seventy hand-carved horses made by well-known Danish woodcarver Charles I. D. Loeff made its debut. The carousel's original 342-pipe Ruth Band organ, which was built in 1894, still provides the music as the riders go round and round. For many, the music of the carousel drew them to the boardwalk, calling out in its singular way that fun was in store for all who came.

In 1924, the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster was added. It provided thrills for those hearty souls who loved a taste of excitement. Today, the dipper and the carousel have attained national landmark status and are the centerpieces of the boardwalk.

For those who grew up spending many summer days at the beach at Santa Cruz, the music of the carousel still rings in our ears--a sort of siren's call promising fun and thrills to all who venture to the boardwalk. Those days of fun and frolic have been enjoyed by generations of Fresnans for one hundred and thirty years.

©Catherine Morison Rehart  
*The Valley's Legends & Legacies*

## **Class of 1955**

*By Sharon Haverty*

Where has the time gone? Has it really been 55 years since we graduated? The reunion committee for the Class of 1955 has been working since 2006 discussing and discarding ideas for our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion on October 16, 2010 at Four Points by Sheraton. We decided in April of 2006 to start sending out newsletters twice a year. So far we have sent a total of 8 newsletters and it did the job of keeping us in close contact with our classmates and generating interest for the 55<sup>th</sup> reunion.

All the memorabilia that will surround the room is in place including many school pictures, the decorations are waiting to be put on the tables, the booklet is ready for print, and our program is in place.

As of this writing, it has been 3 1/2 weeks since we mailed out our reunion information and we have 50 reservations for dinner. The magic number is 150 which will keep me out of the poor house since I signed the contract. I am optimistic and counting on more. **Nancy Ferguson Ferda** is the treasurer and can be contacted at [nferda@hotmail.com](mailto:nferda@hotmail.com). We also have 36 room reservations at Four Points by Sheraton with about 70 people. The hotel said they have never seen a response like this before. Good job Warriors!

One of the special moments for me was when the hotel called to say a classmate from Denmark made a hotel reservation. Another classmate is traveling from Banos, Ecuador. Sooo all you Fresnoites who live 5-20 minutes away, don't let them show you up.

We look forward to seeing all of you October 16, 2010. Reunion information can be found on [www.fresnohighalumni.com](http://www.fresnohighalumni.com).

Sharon Henryson Haverty  
Reunion Coordinator

## Heaton Elementary

*By Rich Ballow*

"Heaton, Heaton always cheatin" was the first stanza of a quasi cheer, the rest of which I no longer remember. But I do remember two of my favorite weeks at Heaton. The first was 'Marble Playing Week' when the guys could bring their bag of prized, multi-colored marbles to school and play "for keeps." Imagine winning cat-eyes, steelies and boulders to add to the weight of your bag!" We would scrape a circle in the "dirt", anti-up a few marbles, then take turns with our special "shooter", often a bull's-eye agate. We would try to knock out all the encircled marbles that we could, bagging our winnings. Sadly to most of us, a few good players ended up with most of the marbles by the end of the week. (I'm sure that would not be tolerated in today's "redistribution of wealth" philosophy.) I still have a jar of those marbles, including a few "dough babies" of my dad's day that were made of clay and were not always perfectly round like the modern, glass ones.

Then there was 'Yoyo Week' when the Duncan yoyo representative would come to Heaton and demonstrate the newest tricks possible to accomplish by a yoyo master. "Around the World and "Rocking the Baby" were a couple of maneuvers everyone tried to

imitate. We carried our yoyos, fancy and plain, in our pockets, ready to demonstrate our newest achievement to any who would watch.

It seems to me that the girls played a lot of "jacks," sitting around in circles on the pavement. They also scratched out T-shaped, hopscotch grids and showed their prowess of one-legged balancing acts. Jump rope was popular as well.

I remember Mrs. Beasley, my fifth grade teacher, who impressed us with her younger brother's accomplishments as a kicker on the U of Cal football team; he could kick a fifty yard punt! I would listen to her teaching, just to get a sliver of such a fantasy world.

One February a young, beautiful Hawaiian dancer came to school to teach us how to hula dance. That was quite a sight! However I had such a crush on her that my mom drove me to the YWCA where she was staying to deliver a valentine card to her that year. Jody Willis, a single woman, was my kindergarten teacher and we got along so well that I kept up with her all the rest of her life. In fact she left me two, extraordinary, rare plates that she had brought back from Europe when she was a young lady. I never understood why she picked me out of so many students—was I that cute as a 5 year old?

The following paragraphs have been lifted out of a couple pieces I have already written:

In those days there was a dairy named Borden's and its products were represented by Elsie the Cow. As part of Borden's marketing effort, free lapel pins with the happy face of Elsie were available at our neighborhood market. I stocked up with a pocketful of them in anticipation of forming a gang. A couple of us were the ring leaders; now we had something to entice members into our new neighborhood gang, the Elsie Club. Of course our noble

cause was to challenge a ruffian bunch a few blocks away. However when the principal of Heaton, Hattie Mae Hammett, got wind of all this, she lined up about 15 of us Elsie Clubbers in the school hallway after recess. First we got a lecture reminding us third graders of our civic duties with its great responsibilities. Then came the same old long fingernails I had felt so many times before as she embedded them in my shoulders and nearly shook my head off. That was the sad and sudden end to the Elsie gang. Hattie Mae Hammett and I always had a good understanding between us!

I wrote a tribute to my mom for her 'assisted living' newsletter. "Mom, Ruth Ballow, has always been artistic and I remember how popular I was because of the talent she shared. In my first and second grade classrooms, Mom created the most impressive and beautiful valentine boxes. They were large enough to hold all our classes' valentine cards, those cards we had so carefully chosen before assigning to that special classmate, then being bold enough to sign our name! The boxes were colorfully wrapped with frilly, ruffled crepe paper, sporting a slit on top when our cards were dropped. Sturdily attached was always a very ornately decorated heart that stood high above the box and could be seen from the back of the classroom. I always received many lavish cards because of Mom's lovely boxes. Or was it because she always brought those chalky tasting, small, heart shaped candies with the printed messages, "Be Mine?"

## **May 8, 2010 All Alumni Dinner**

For the first time in a number of years, the weather cooperated with the Fresno High Alumni Association's committee members and brought cooler temperatures to the event. The cooler weather

allowed more of those attending to browse around and visit with other alumni. Last year, most everyone found any small bit of shade or a cooling mister and never moved until dinner was served. Entertainment before dinner this year was Dave Ruffner and the all-alumni jazz band, and the FHS choir under the direction of Jeff Sandersier.

A change to the program this year gave a quieter dinner as once introductions were made and a couple of short speeches were heard, there was no music or live auction as in years past. Jackie Garo Boyajian (1960) introduced the oldest known alumni, Roxy Maloyan Dorgan who is 102 and graduated in 1926. Her son, James Dorgan (1953) brought her to enjoy the evening. Roxy's mother was a graduate of 1904 and lived to be 111. Madeline Dorgan Greenwood graduated in 1954.

Jack Fowler, Association Chairman, introduced Bob Reyes, Principal. Reyes told those attending that he is retiring after 13 years at FHS and spoke of the changes he's seen during his tenure and also spoke of the changes since Fresno High was built on Echo in 1924. Reyes will not leave completely, but will be the editor of The Warrior Echo and also will be responsible for getting Dailey Elementary in line with an International Baccalaureate program at the grammar school level.

The fun event for the evening was a silent dessert auction. When the auction tables were closed, the winning bidder was able to take their dessert to the table and share with those at the table or other tables who were not so lucky. One lady was heard to say, "We have four desserts at our table and there are only six sitting there." She said she shared with the unlucky tables close by. What fun it was to share home made goodies.

## **Could This Have Been---The Beginning of the 1960's Social Revolution??**

*By Jackie Garo Boyajian  
Class of 1960*

On Tuesday, June 7, 1960, the Fresno High School graduating class of that year was well into the midst of their Senior Assembly. Graduation was only 2 days away when all hell broke loose in the Auditorium of Royce Hall.

Fifty years later, as we look back and reflect on our years at Fresno High that were often filled with typical teenage angst – more often with good, clean fun, you have to wonder if the events that day weren't somehow part of the beginning of the social revolution of the 1960's.

Here's a little accounting of what went on that day. To be honest, I can't say exactly what it was that actually sparked the fury. My memory just didn't hold that part of the story.

However, according to the Fresno Bee, it was stopped because students got rowdy, some were ejected from the assembly, and others began throwing popcorn kernels and beans up on the stage. Where the heck did they get popcorn kernels and beans? That wasn't something anyone I knew carried around.

So, Vice Principal Richard Neal and Sr. Advisor Charles Wright decided the show must NOT go on. When interviewed, Mr. Neal had a one word diagnosis for our activities – "Senioritis."

Well, now everyone left the auditorium and went to the front lawn. At that time in history, Fresno High had a large semi-circle driveway and a huge lawn area. Things got wild and crazy

out there and everyone decided to take off for where else? Ranch-o Drive-in.

From there, the decision to have a "jam session" at Roeding Park sounded like the best thing to do – so off the caravan of cars went. We started at the tennis courts, and believe it or not, the police came and asked everyone to move over to the concrete square dancing area, and told us all to go ahead and have fun. Does that tell you something about the times we grew up?

A "creative" dummy was fashioned from clothing from some of the kids, with a sign that read "FHS FACULTY", and was rung up the flag pole. The next morning, that same dummy was found hanging from the gate on the north side of the school.

John Stefanelli, Roger Krum, Rick Whitten played and Pam DeOrion sang. We all danced and had a great time. Pictures indicate that underclassmen joined us at the park. They didn't want to miss out on our fun. My accounting of size of the crowd is a least 200 plus. Thanks to Art Leavitt who had the wherewithal to hang on to the Fresno Bee article, that he actually submitted, along with several GREAT pictures. I have put one of those pictures up on [www.fresnohighalumni.com](http://www.fresnohighalumni.com) under upcoming reunions. We will post the rest at our upcoming 50-year reunion in October.

Were you there that day? How do you remember it? Let me know!

## **Holiday Home Tour**

Dear Fresno High Neighbor,

For the past 14 years, the Fresno High Historic Neighborhood Association has hosted the Holiday Heritage Home Tour on the first Monday in December. The proceeds have benefited Fresno High School through student scholarships, campus

improvements and student emergency funds. In addition to supporting our high school and its students, we have found this event to be a very positive and fun way to promote and preserve our historic Fresno High neighborhood.

Our selection committee is in the process of selecting the homes for this year's tour. We would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about the tour in hopes that you might consider being a part of this amazing event. You may view some of the homes that have been on the tour at our website:

[www.fresnohighhometour.com](http://www.fresnohighhometour.com)

The home tour celebrates the unique architecture styles and the diversity of the people in our great neighborhood. If you would like to join us in showcasing the best of the Fresno High neighborhood, please contact us at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Home Tour Committee Member

CONTINUING THIS NEWSLETTER: Membership is the primary support we get which allows us to give back to the students and teachers at Fresno High. There is a membership application included in this newsletter. If you are not interested in becoming a member, maybe a donation would be something

you would like to do. Your tax-deductible check made payable to Fresno High Alumni Association and mailed to P.O. Box 27516, Fresno, CA 93729 would be greatly appreciated.

\_\_\$5\_\_\$10\_\_\$25\_\_\$50\_\_Other



## Fresno High School Alumni Association Membership Application

Your Alumni Membership helps Fresno High with

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

N

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

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

Your FHS graduating class year \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name/Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

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