



Adolfo Camarillo High School
Thank you grads for sharing your wonderful stories and photos!
We are so very grateful to Alice Frost Sweetland
for your special help!

Research Team
Barbara Burrows, Karin Farrin, Beth Miller, Lynn Preiss, Sherry Reynolds

Adolfo Camarillo High School

by
Beth Miller

In his dedication to community service, education and land usage had played an important role in the many contributions of Adolfo Camarillo. He had served on the Pleasant Valley School District Board for over 50 years. In 1940 he donated a parcel of his land at the base of Conejo Grade for a community park. The 25 acres of land which the Ventura County Board of Supervisors called “Camarillo Grove” was popular countywide for picnics and parties and with teachers and students for field trips.

Just a few years earlier in 1937, “...the universally beloved pioneer of Ventura County, donated the right of way for the changed alignment on the Conejo Grade, in his capacity of President of the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce,” reported the California Highways and Public Works May 1937.

He “will always be remember by the State Division of Highways for his generous donations of land for the badly needed highway improvements and particularly for the time he played host to some 500 people attending the ribbon-cutting ceremonies on May 1, 1937 of the completed state highway construction on the Conejo Grade...” From California Highways and Public Works September-October 1953.

Ventura County was growing, especially its student population. But there was no high school in Camarillo. Students from Camarillo and beyond traveled daily to Oxnard High School. Some students came from as far as Hidden Valley riding down the Conejo Grade and passing the area that would one day be the high school campus in Camarillo. In the 1950s, things would start to change.

Mr. Camarillo had made a decision that combined both land usage and education. On May 9, 1950 it was announced that he had donated 50 acres of land for a new high school in Camarillo. The Oxnard Press-Courier coverage on May 10, 1950, reported “The unheralded act of the 85-year-old Ventura County pioneer came as a stunning surprise to the Oxnard High School trustees. Trustees ordered the proposed new school to be names Adolfo Camarillo High School.” (ACHS) The

students remained grateful and respectful throughout the many years. They referred to Adolfo Camarillo as “Mr. Camarillo,” and continue to do so today.



WITH ROY FULTON, then president of Oxnard High School District board, Mr. Camarillo looks at picture of land he gave May 9, 1950, for site of Adolfo Camarillo High School.

The school would be located atop a knoll in a triangular area made by Highway 101 and Camarillo Road. At the presentation to the board, Mr. Camarillo said, “I didn’t consult my family or anyone, I just took it upon myself to give the land. I wanted to do something for the community of Camarillo.” Mr. Camarillo had privately approached the District Superintendent, L.A. Wiemers, who told the press that “the idea originated entirely with Mr. Camarillo as his gift to the youth of the district.” It was estimated that Mr. Camarillo’s gift saved the Oxnard Union High School District from \$75,000 to \$125,000.

(In 2020, \$125,000.00 would be the equivalent of \$1,348,122.41)

By 1955, construction bids had been submitted and contracts awarded for the 57,441 square-ft job. Nine buildings would make up the campus.



Adolfo Camarillo with OUHS District Superintendent L.A. Wiemers 1955

After the years of applications and planning, the groundbreaking ceremony took place on April 12, 1955. The architect was Harold Burket who was Mr. Camarillo's son-in-law. The first registration for the students at the new high school was in March 1956.



James Ackerman
First principal of Adolfo Camarillo High School

In December 1955, James Ackerman, who was vice-principal of Oxnard Union High School, was selected as the first principal at Adolfo Camarillo High School. He had a variety of education experiences including teaching algebra, science, coaching basketball and baseball before becoming a counselor, principal and superintendent at Laton Joint Union High School then serving as vice-principal in Oxnard since 1953.

In 1956, the Oxnard Press Courier reported that the new high school would begin serving the first year classes in the ninth and tenth grades and adding to the school each year until a full four-year course was offered. Newspaper accounts reported 299 students were enrolled at the new high school for opening day in the \$1.3

million facility. The new staff for Principal James R. Ackerman included two members of the Camarillo family.

Geraldine FitzGerald,* Mr. Camarillo's granddaughter, was the girls' counselor. She also taught social studies. Before joining the Camarillo High School staff, she had taught at Oxnard High School for nine years. **George Longo,**** Mr. Camarillo's grandson-in-law, was the boys' counselor and also taught social studies. In his previous assignment at Oxnard High School, he was a math teacher.

**Geraldine FitzGerald's parents were George and Ave Camarillo FitzGerald*

***George Longo was married to Gloria Petit Longo, daughter of Alfred and Rosa Camarillo Petit*





MISS ANN HINKLE
Business Education



MR. KEN HUSTON
Science
Department Chairman



MR. WALTER JESSUP
Driver Education



MI



MR. GEORGE KAMP
Foreign Language and
Social Studies



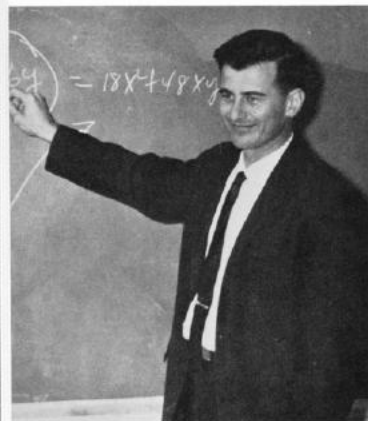
MR. ROBERT LAIDLAW
English and Social Studies



MR. JACK LERCARI
Physical Education



N



MR. GEORGE LONGO
Mathematics



MRS. LILLIAN MAJHANNU
Home Economics



MR. JIM McELMURRY
Agriculture



ME

Seven other teachers also transferred from Oxnard: **Frank J. Arnich**, librarian and English, **Gertrude B. de Silva**, Spanish and French, **Walter Jessup**, math and baseball coach, **Victor Bruce Kelly**, social studies, physical education, football coach, cadet corps, **James C. McElmurry** agriculture, everyday science, **James Moore**, special education, **Alex Tomlinsen** shop, woodworking, arts and crafts and basketball coach.

The staff included seven teachers who were new to the district: **Ronald Yung**,* English, Latin and Journalism, **Thais Leyden**, home economics, **Mary Lou McNeal**, girls' physical education, **Joan Peleske**, English and public speaking, **William T. Gannon**, mathematics, geometry, mechanical drawing and basketball coach, **Howard W. Plank**, instrumental and chorus, and **Esther Sizer**, nurse.

*(*Husband of Camarillo Ranch Docent, Carol Yung)*

The mascot of ACHS is the scorpion. In 1956, Mr. Camarillo had visited the Oxnard Air Force Base (Camarillo Airport) and learned about the Northrop F-89 Scorpion jet fighter-interceptor from commanding officer Col. Edwin F. Carey. The aggressive scorpion arachnid and the scorpion fighter jet may have perhaps offered a mascot with a fierce double meaning to their formidable opponent the Oxnard High School Yellow Jackets. However, though a model of the jet is displayed in the school entry, 1959 grad Charles Carr, Jr. explained that "many people simply did not want the mascot associated with the military." The mascot is an arachnid with a venomous sting.



THE BOWJACKETS OF THE BEEZ

Vol. 26 — No. 23

Oxnard Union High School, Oxnard, California

Wednesday, March 24, 1954

Senior Day At VC Tomorrow

Some 250 members of the Oxnard High School Senior class are expected to visit the campus of Ventura College tomorrow during one of the College's annual County Senior Days.

Twelve high schools are expected to tour the local institute during this week and Monday.

The purpose of the Senior Days, College Director Hugh G. Price points out, is to enable the visitors to learn about the educational opportunities at Ventura College.

"Graduating classes of the high schools are especially welcome," Price declared. "Ventura College is a two year institution committed to serve the needs of students throughout the county."

In a typical day's program, the seniors will assemble at 9:30 a.m. on the campus Little Theater for a welcome address from Student Body President Bob Case, and a presentation about college plans by Director Price. At 10:10 they will visit instructional departments of their choice. At 11:10, they will return to the theater for talks by Robert W. Pax, Dean of Guidance and Records; Mrs. Irene Knox, Dean of Women; Frank L. Page, Dean of Men; and Phil C. Power, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction. The events will conclude with lunch in the Pirates' Cove, from 11:15 to 12:30.

The seniors of the various high schools will visit, according to the following schedule:

Monday, March 23: William S. Hart, Fillmore, Moorpark, Simi Valley, St. Catherine's (Ventura), Villanova, and Santa Clara.—Expected total 175.

Wednesday, March 24: Santa Paula, Nordhoff, Carpinteria.—Expected total, 225.

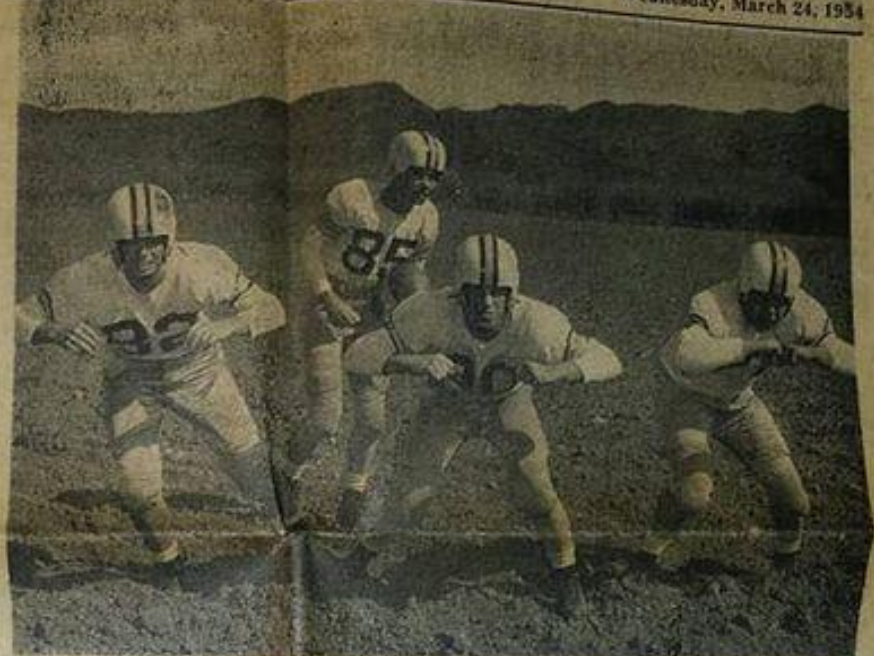
Thursday, March 25: Oxnard.—Expected total, 250.

Monday, March 29: Ventura Senior High — Expected total 275.

KEY CLUB ELECTS FUTURE OFFICERS

Bill Rodgers, a 16 year old junior, is now the president elect of the Key Club and will take office in May.

His cabinet will be made up of Jim Colquitt, vice-president; Dave Adams, secretary; Nick Radke, treasurer; and Kent Oakley, sergeant at arms. These boys all will be seniors next year.



Giving the 120 social studies students who visited the site of the proposed Adolfo Camarillo High School a preview of football scrimmage on the location of the future football field are: left to right, Bill Eaton, Thousand Oaks; Ernie Morgan, Somis; Salvador Mayorga, Santa Rosa Valley; and Jim Houck, Camarillo, who is packing the ball.

120 STUDENTS VISIT CAMARILLO HIGH SITE

First students to set foot on the site of the proposed Adolfo Camarillo High School were 120 delegates from the social studies classes at Oxnard Union High School.

Madrigals Invited To Convention

Oxnard Union High School's Madrigal Singers, who have won fame throughout Southern California, have again been invited to attend a large convention of music educators.

In an invitation from James Winter, Professor of Music at Fresno State College, the Madrigal Singers were invited to appear at the state convention of the California Music Educators Association, to be held April 12-14 in Bakersfield. Professor Winter is the chairman of the small ensemble section of the California Music Educators Association.

Last year the Madrigal Singers were invited to sing before the California-Western Music Educators convention at Tucson, Ariz. In their numerous appearances in Oxnard, the Madrigal Singers have met with acclaim, and this year inaugurated a new type of theater called the "Renaissance Theater," which had its opening on February 27 at the high school.

Senior Cafeteria Privileges Given

Senior cafeteria privileges start at the beginning of the second semester, according to a resolution passed at the recent student council meeting. Seniors must show some type of identification with as their senior ring or senior passkey. The privileges consist of entering at the head of the lunch line.

Music will be played during the lunch periods in the near future as a result of the efforts of Dick Robinson. Records are being purchased from Henry's Record Bar at a reduced rate, to provide this added attraction to the cafeteria.

Freshmen, sophomore, and junior class members may not sit on the senior bench at any time unless they are a member of student aids for the particular period. This includes before and after school as well as during the lunch periods.

Accompanied by social studies teachers Paul Radke and Arthur Johnson, the two bus loads of students heard Superintendent L. A. Wierners describe the proposed buildings and their locations on the knoll near the junction of Camarillo Road and U. S. Highway 101. The group also heard a brief history of the land itself from its donor, Adolfo Camarillo.

Four OUIS football players, who live in the area to be served by the new high school, tried out the location of the future football field. Tailback Jim Houck, tackle Salvador Mayorga, both of Camarillo, tackle Ernie Morgan of Somis, and tailback Bill Eaton of Thousand Oaks afforded the other students a preview of next year's football uniforms.

Impressed by the magnificent view of the mountains and valleys and the grand sweep across the fertile Oxnard plain to the sea, many of the students exclaimed, "What a perfect location for a school."

DEDICATION
OF
ADOLFO CAMARILLO HIGH SCHOOL
Camarillo, California

Mr. Adolfo Camarillo is one of the most public spirited citizens in the State of California. He has given generously and unstintingly of his time and money to many worthy causes and through service on innumerable public agencies. He served on the Pleasant Valley Elementary School Board of Trustees for fifty-seven consecutive years (1894-1951). In May 1950 he gave to the high school district this fifty-acre site. The Board of Trustees, in grateful acceptance of the deed, officially named the school "Adolfo Camarillo High School." This school will serve as a living memorial to his great interest in the educational welfare of the youth of this area.



FACULTY

James R. Ackerman, Principal
Tom Rosser, Soc. St., Attendance
Geraldine FitzGerald, Soc. St., Girls' Counselor
George B. Longo, Soc. St., Boys' Counselor
Frank J. Arnich, Librarian, English
Esther A. Sizer, School Nurse
Gerrude B. deSilva, English, For. Lang.
William T. Gannon, Math., Mech. Drawing
Ann I. Hinkle, Business Education
Walter Jessup, Mathematics

Victor B. Kelley, Soc. St., Boys' P.E., Cadets
Thais Leyden, Art, Homemaking
John G. Lowry, Sci., Boys' P.E., Coach
James C. McElmurry, Sci., Agric.
Mary Lou McNeal, Eng., Girls' P.E.
James B. Moore, Improvement Classes
Howard W. Plank, Inst. & Voc. Music
Joan D. Peleske, Eng., Pub. Speak.
Alex S. Tomlinson, Crafts, Wood Shop
Ronald Yung, Eng., Latin, Journalism

Sunday, September 9, 1956
2:30 p.m.

The students and staff at Camarillo High School expressed their gratitude to Mr. Camarillo for his generous gift at the dedication ceremony September 9, 1956 and

in many ways thereafter. The gift from 70 years ago continues to resonate throughout Camarillo and be an important part of our community today.



Adolfo raised the flag for the first time at the new campus. Sept. 9, 1956



Dedication

We, the student body, proudly dedicate this our first yearbook to one of the most distinguished and civic-minded citizens of Ventura County, Mr. Adolfo Camarillo. This tribute is modest in comparison to the high honors he has received throughout his eventful life. He has earned the respect and thanks of all the students for his interest in education as well as all those who have benefited from his service to this community and to the State of California.

Because of Mr. Camarillo's kindness and generosity our school, justly named Adolfo Camarillo High School in his honor, has become a reality. He graciously donated the beautiful site of our new campus in 1950, the initial step in the founding of our educational facilities.

And now, in this year of his 92nd birthday, we take this means of thanking him for our school and of wishing him many more years of life and of service to his community.

Yearbook Dedication June 1957



Students congratulated Mr. Camarillo on his 93rd and 94th birthdays.





HIGH SCHOOL AWARD — Don Adolfo is shown receiving just one of the many awards presented to him during his many years of humanitarian service. James Ackerman, principal of Adolfo Camarillo High School, is also shown (left).

High School Award - Don Adolfo is shown receiving just one of the many awards presented to him during his many years of humanitarian service. James Ackerman, principal of Adolfo Camarillo High School, is also shown (left).

[Award said to be PTA Life Membership.]



Adolfo and Napoleon

The painting, a gift from the Class of '64 was displayed in the school lobby. The students collected \$150. The portrait in oil was painted by Pierre Bacque of Camarillo and based on a photograph.

Class Assignment: History

Share Your Memories of Camarillo High School

Share a photo(s), write an essay, or make a few comments!



**Adolfo Camarillo High School under construction 1956.
ACHS is surrounded by Camarillo Ranch**



Rita and Bernie Moraga

“Do you have a pencil?”

Class of '61

Class of '60

Camarillo High School sweethearts at prom. They later married and started a popular hair styling business that is a mainstay of Ventura Boulevard today. They married in May 1964 and celebrated their 56th anniversary this year.

From the Ventura County Star
by Mark Storer
October 6, 2014

“Bernie used to always see me in the hall and ask me if I had a pencil,” said Rita, whose father was Mike Loza. The Loza family opened and owned El Tecolote restaurant on Lewis Road in Camarillo. “He was shy, and it was his way of getting my attention,” Rita said. “We both came from very strict Mexican families, and my father had very specific rules on dating.”

“Bernie proposed to Rita by asking his friend, a local priest, to ask Rita’s father for her hand in marriage. “He (the priest) came and asked my dad if he had a shot of tequila they could have, and that’s when dad knew this was more than just a social call.”

Alice Frost Sweetland

Class of 1961



Adolfo Camarillo High School opened in 1956 with only a freshman and sophomore class. The next two years a new freshman class started and finally we had four classes. Prior to Camarillo High School opening, students from Thousand Oaks, Hidden Valley/Lake Sherwood, Newbury Park Somis and Camarillo were all bussed to Oxnard High School. Once Camarillo High opened those students could then be bussed to the new school. Dr. Joseph Crosby was the Superintendent of Oxnard High School District and oversaw the huge expansion in the high school district in 10 years adding six new high schools, forming the Oxnard High School District.

Camarillo High School was followed by Hueneme High School (1959), then Thousand Oaks High School (1962), Rio Mesa High School (1965) Channel Island High School (1966) and finally Newbury Park High School (1967). Dr. Crosby was fiscally astute. He had an architect draw plans for the new Adolfo Camarillo High School, then used the same plan for the other five high schools saving a bundle of money on architecture fees. When you walk onto any one of the six campuses you see the same layout, although each school added their own amenities over the years.

Many of the teachers at the new high school in Camarillo came from Oxnard High School, like Mr. James Ackerman who was our principal. Mr. Rosser was Vice Principal and went on to become principal of Thousand Oaks High School in 1962.

I fondly remember Miss Geraldine FitzGerald who was the girl's counselor. She was always kind and very sweet, with rosy cheeks and a beautiful smile. Mr. George Longo was the boy's counselor. He was so nice, great personality, very upbeat and energetic. Those of us who attended Pleasant Valley School knew his wife, Gloria Longo, who taught there. She also was very cheerful, big smile, they were a great couple.

Ken Huston, a Biology teacher, seems to be one of the most popular teachers. He really liked the students and the students could feel it. When we planned reunions and talked about inviting teachers, Ken Huston's name was always mentioned, and he came to several reunions, reconnecting with former students, finding out what they were doing with their lives. He really was the perfect teacher, and a good instructor even though we had to dissect frogs!



Ken Huston, biology teacher

We were required to take two years of a foreign language. Mrs. deSilva taught Spanish and I found her rather intimidating, so I took Latin. Our teacher was Mr. Ron Yung. He was young, fun, very bright and enthusiastic. We had toga parties every year, he had an amazing musical voice and we sang Christmas carols in Latin. In my 3rd year of Latin we really got into philosophy, translating text. It was a very cerebral class, but he made it interesting and we began to converse in Latin, but not very well.

Classes were offered in Home Economics and California Cadet Corp, a paramilitary club. There were the usual sports programs like basketball, baseball, football and track - all for boys. There were no competitive sports for girls, although we had the Girls Athletic Association. We could earn a letter for our sweater, I think we had to qualify in archery, golf and volleyball, but I really don't remember. I remember the Cadet Corp leader was Mr. Kelley, can't remember his first name but he was a former Army soldier.

He also taught Social Studies. He appeared stern but was very good with the students. I babysat his children several times and he was very nice to me.

There was a tragedy our freshman year. Over the weekend one of the Cadets, Terry Sinon, shot himself while practicing a drill at his home on the Oxnard Air Force Base. Terry's father was in the Air Force. The following Monday in Social Studies Mr. Kelley was handing back tests from the previous Friday. I saw him look at one test, jerk his head back, his face very pained, he wadded up the test and threw it in the trash. I assumed it was Terry's test. At the end of the semester he resigned from teaching and went back into the Army. A few years later I read that he was killed in Viet Nam. Mr. Patrick Forrest took over our social studies class when Mr. Kelley left.

Mr. Forrest was fresh out of college, young, kind of funny and very enthusiastic about teaching. He became very politically active and was very liberal in his leaning with frequent letters to the editor in The Star Free Press. I had a visit with him about 6 or 7 years ago, shortly before he passed away. He remembered me well. He was still fun, lathered when he talked as he talked so fast. He had a very happy marriage and two wonderful daughters.

Many of the boy graduates were drafted and went into the military. My classmate Mike Moritz was killed in Viet Nam a couple of years after we graduated. I'm sure there were other casualties among these graduates, but I only remember Mike, who was a really good guy.

I vividly remember the student body walking from the high school over to Mr. Camarillo's house to sing Happy Birthday to him. That must have been 1957. He walked out on his veranda, very formal in his dress and manner, but had a huge grin on his face. He had the biggest ears for such a little man.

Most of us went to school riding a bus. Few students had cars or driver's licenses in the early years of school. Little by little that changed. I remember riding the bus through Camarillo Heights, the route started on East Loop, through to Mission Drive, then over to Las Posas Estates. We knew where most of the kids lived simply from the bus routes. I often thought about the kids that had to ride the bus from Hidden Valley to Oxnard High School, that must have been the longest ride ever.

I participated in many clubs at school, student council, Pep squad, class offices, Girl's League, and the Future Business Leaders of America. I was quite active in FBLA, the teacher leading the club was Mrs. Ella Von Allmen. She was a great initiator and kept us busy going to Southern Sections competitions like speech and debates and yearly state conventions. We learned proper dress and grooming, how to conduct ourselves in a business setting, all valuable life skills.

Mrs. Von Allmen was always beautifully dressed with the snazziest shoes. We rode the train to Sacramento one year, so much fun. Then we flew to a national convention in

Chicago. I served as president of the California State FBLA for one year. I didn't do much, just went to several meetings statewide. We were constantly holding fund raisers to help pay for our travel, but it was all fun. Miss Ann Hinkle taught business classes like typing, shorthand and bookkeeping she was always very nice.

All in all high school was a good experience. There was the usual drama that goes along with being a teenager, but most of the students were good people, and I am still in touch with many for over 60 years.



David, Bob and Danny Stroh



Doug Duncan, Florence Miller Schembs, Chuck Brundage, Gretchen Siles, Jill Cooley

Tom Nuckols

Class of 1961

I attended Camarillo High School from 1956-1961.

By the time I got to HS, 1956, Mr. Camarillo was in the last year(s) of his life. We lived on a lemon & avocado ranch in the Santa Rosa Valley at the corner of SRR and Upland Rd. I remember seeing him driving very slowly on Santa Rosa Rd in his black Cadillac in the 50's. He would have been about 90 at the time. My grandparents had a small lemon & avocado ranch on Las Posas Rd. between Arneill Rd. and the LPR bend. I am sure they knew each other. Our ranch was purchased from Juan Camarillo at the end of WWII. Dad was acquainted with Adolfo by being on the Pleasant Valley School Board for one cycle about 1950 and during Dad's early years with Calleguas Municipal Water District formation. I remember as a young lad, 5 or 6, being in Mr. Camarillo's living room with Dad. I remember him as being quite old and small. Of course at that age, I was unaware of his significance other than he had the same name as the town. I believe he passed in the late 60's in his mid-90's.

I never did the measurements, but I should think I was one of the closest students to the campus. Wally Villa lived about a quarter mile closer on SRR. There were other early ACHS students on Upland Rd., the Ivoras, Peters and Leppers. During our ten-year at ACHS there was nothing around the campus, I mean nothing. Walking to school was out of the question. It was definitely a non-pedestrian campus, as a result an open campus was also out of the question. I took the bus home on occasions, but never to school. As I remember the bus route was up SRR over Norwegian Grade into Thousand Oaks. Taking the bus home I was the first one off the bus, but if I wanted to take the bus to school I would be the first one on the bus and 1 1/2 hours later the bus would arrive at school. I don't remember ever doing that. My Mother worked on campus in the library, so I always had transportation to school. Once I was sixteen I drove back and forth to school. Horse riding to school? Never heard that one. Camarillo was not really horse

community during my time. There were some individuals that had recreational horses up in the estates and Hidden Valley, but one never saw them riding along the roads.

Mr. Tomlinson was probably my favorite teacher for the simple reason I had him for four years, eight semesters, for mechanical drawing. I never took any other shop courses. The school was young and a lot of the teachers were not much older than we were, so there was a good interaction between students and faculty, especially Ron Yung and Pat Forrest. I had a special connection with Jack Lercari because of my association with him for swimming lessons at 4H camps and Jocky Meads up in TO prior to starting high school. At ACHS that association continued with PE and football (I was too small to play, less than 100 lbs. so I volunteered as the team manager, AKA water boy).

Adolfo's granddaughter, Geraldine FitzGerald was a counselor. His grandson-in-law, George Longo, was a math teacher. Ms. FitzGerald lived up the road from us right near the Rancho boundary. I don't think I had any direct interaction with her at school. I remember once going to her house for some reason, probably with my Mother. I believe she dealt more with female counseling. Mr. Longo was very instrumental in my becoming a civil engineer. He recognized my abilities in math, sciences and mechanical drawing. I was kind of an oddball in our family of farmers, teachers and businessmen. I had no intentions of being a farmer and business was a non-starter. Between him & my Mother they pushed me in that direction and I have loved it ever since.

I guess I was fairly active in extracurricular activities. As I stated above I did the football water boy thing for three years and ran track for two years. I participated in student government and worked behind the scenes for the junior play. I was very involved in the organizing and decorating for the Junior Prom. I generally had a very good time doing the social and academic aspects of high school. During this time I was also very involved with the 4H Club participating on both local & county activities.

I went to dances with and without a date. HS dances were a very special extracurricular activity at ACHS. Camarillo being kind of isolated and insulated the

kids enjoyed playing and socializing amongst themselves. Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Newberry Park and Somis did not start to expand until I was out of HS. I had some great dates and met lifelong friends. I met my future wife as a freshman in college.

A lot of great memories, attending football and basketball games (home and away), developing great friendships. Our graduating class (1961) was the first class to spend Grad Night at Disneyland, and I think it was the first time one for Disney. It was a very memorable experience having full access to the park , no tickets, no waiting. I think we got there about 9 pm and left about sunup.



Tom Nuckols, Chuck Brundage, Alice Frost Sweetland, Ray Jensen

Florence Miller Schembs
Class of 1961



I attended Camarillo High School the following years:
1957/58; 1958/59; 1959/60; 1960/61

I lived on the C. J. Daily Victorian farmhouse which is now the Boy Scout Headquarters. My junior and senior years, I lived in Las Posas Estates.

I rode the bus to school about an hour each way. No one rode to school on a horse.

I was challenged and inspired especially by Mr. Ron Yung - Latin; Mr. Seymour Posner - baseball coach and taught French; Mrs. Tyner - English; Mr. Summers-math and Mr. Patrick Forrest.

School Activities: Cheerleader, Student Council

School dances: - "sock hops."

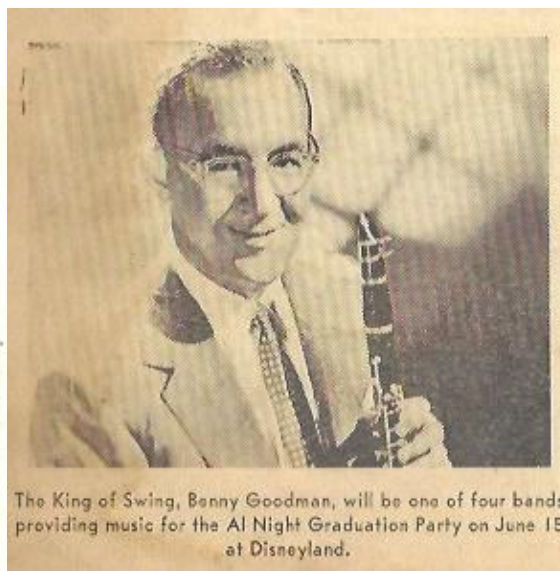
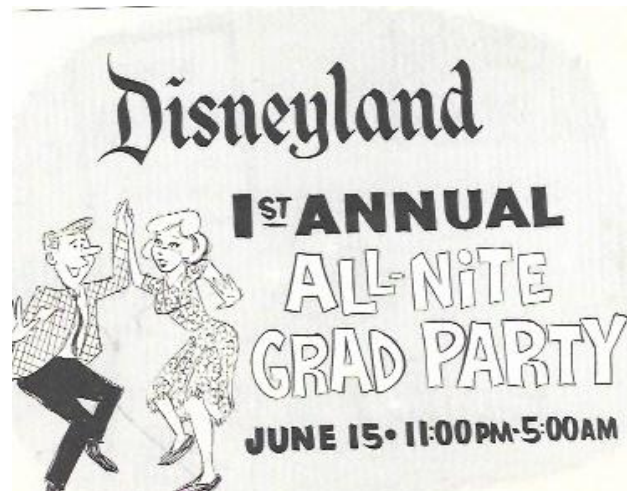
Favorite Memories: - Gathering with girlfriends at lunch break at El Tecolote for tacos that were \$.25 each. Special theme days when we dressed in costumes, talent assemblies, football games especially fun when we played for the championship, graduation party at Disneyland.

I'm not related to the Daily family. We moved to Camarillo in 1954 and found the best rental rate was that beautiful Victorian farm house. At the time, CJ's son, Milton Daily also lived on the property which encompassed all the land from Hwy. 101 along Valley Vista drive - it was all Black Walnut grove and of course includes a shopping center and seemingly hundreds of homes. There was a great red barn, a bunk house for farm hands and a farm manager house along with walnut processing and storage.

As an 11 year old girl who loved horses, it was a dream. There was a big Palomino which I was allowed to ride on occasion. My father's family had a long history with the Oxnard and Santa Paula area. Rice Road was named after my great aunt Virginia Rice's husband who owned several hundred acres of sugar beets and Lima beans. Limoneira (lemons and avocado farm) in Santa Paula was started by my father's great aunt as her husband. I never really paid attention to that information and it certainly did not result in any \$ for us. Just interesting to learn about years later.

So many of my classmates lived in Thousand Oaks which was too small to have its own high school. They had a very long bus ride indeed particularly during the widening of 101 over the Conejo Grade - sometimes they were delayed while road crews used explosives to blow out more of the hill. Interesting, innocent times. We were so very blessed to live in those times.

Thank you for your interest in CHS.
Florence



FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

The Advisory Committee for

Disneyland

1st ANNUAL ALL-NITE GRAD PARTY

Have Set-Up the Following Policies:

1. Dress: Coats & Ties, Date Dresses.
2. No one will be admitted to Disneyland after 1:00 A.M.
3. No one will be allowed to leave the Party early without first presenting identification and then signing-out. No one will be re-admitted to Disneyland.

NOTE: Individual High Schools, particularly those coming as a group, have set-up their own rules, different from those above, governing policies about leaving Disneyland. It is suggested you check with your Sponsor's Committee for details regarding policies affecting your school.

4. Consuming or carrying alcoholic beverages in Disneyland is *strictly prohibited* and any breach of this policy is cause to be turned over to the Sponsor's Committee from your school for whatever action they may determine. Anyone arriving under the influence of alcoholic beverages will not be admitted to Disneyland.

Disneyland's Grad Night Party is a Private Party—No Tickets will be on sale the night of the Event—No Tickets will be Sold to Anyone who is not a member of the Senior Class of one of the High Schools participating in the Party.

The Maximum Number of Tickets Any One Person May Purchase is 2.

Charles Carr, Jr.
Class of 1959



Charles was nine years old when the Carr family moved from Long Beach to Camarillo in 1950. Their home in the area that is known as Old Town “was there before the water tank.” He attended Pleasant Valley School and Adolfo Camarillo was still serving on the school board. Charles remembers seeing Carmen Camarillo in parades and “Mr. Camarillo driving his black and red Cadillac.” The future art teacher noted that “Mr. Camarillo’s historic costume was also black and red.”

Charles attended his first year of high school in Oxnard then transferred to Camarillo in 1956. The most memorable teachers were Mrs. Tyner, English and Mr. Frew, Art. Charles became an art teacher. His favorite activities in high school were “anything to do with art. I went to school to have a good time.” Charles explained that the first class “were seniors for three years. There was no class above us. No one to tell us what to do. We were top dogs for three years.”

Charles’ father was a surveyor and did the studies of the land for Camarillo High School. A nearby farm was planted in sugar beets and lima beans and serviced by crop dusters. One day Charles went along with his father, who was surveying the

school site area, when a crop duster flew so closely overhead causing the delicate equipment to fall. That was the first time he had seen his father very angry. Charles does not remember seeing crop dusters in the area after the school was built.

The long ago incident is useful in his volunteer activities at the Commemorative Air Force Southern California Wing Museum where he is a docent and education officer. He knows the types of planes that were reconditioned into crop dusters. He also explained the Camarillo High School mascot as an arachnid and not a fighter jet. Though there is a model of the scorpion jet in the entry, Charles felt that, at the time, many did not want the mascot to reflect the military. Many of the parents were in the Navy or Air Force. Others had served in World War II.

He and his classmates gather for reunions and Charles created the displays for each participating graduating class using a California license plate theme. Classmates also meet at El Tecolote Restaurant. "Growing up in Camarillo was neat. It was a small town," said Charles.



Charles Carr, Jr. and Ruth Taylor Kilday

Robert B. Frost
and
Margaret Wilcox Frost



Class of 1960



Class of 1959

The sweethearts married in 1964 and celebrated their 56th anniversary this year.

Margaret: Attended Camarillo High School from 1956-1959

I lived in the Strickland tract which was right at the dividing line for Camarillo and Oxnard High School. The bus ride took about 45 minutes each way.

In 1956 when the school opened there was a new jet at Oxnard Air Force Base (now Camarillo Airport). It was called a Scorpion. The boys on our committee thought that would be a cool name for our team.

I remember seeing Mr. Camarillo peering at us over his balcony when we went to sing happy birthday to him.

Mr. Huston was a great science teacher. Mrs. Wucherpfennig the school secretary was always kind and positive.

Our sophomore English teacher got married in the middle of the year, and I can't remember either of her names. But she gave me an appreciation for some of the classics that were required reading.

Dances were held in Elementary School auditoriums. Mostly I remember decorating for them, but I did meet Rob at one of the early ones :).



Rob: Attended Camarillo High School from 1956-1960

I lived in Camarillo Heights.
I remember seeing Adolfo Camarillo at school at a special event.

Jim McElmurray, ag teacher, helped many of us to get into Cal Poly. George Longo, taught history and was a counselor. He and Jim McElmurray guided many us into an ag college prep curriculum.

I participated in Future Farmers of America (FFA), basketball, student council. Bernie and I laugh about our basketball team. The only game we won because the other team did not show up.

I attended a FFA leadership conference in Washington, D.C. and met President Eisenhower.

I attended school dances and met my wife Margaret Wilcox , who was a friend of my girlfriend.

There was a good bunch of people at Camarillo High School. I still see many schoolmates. A few close friends have passed on.



CALIFORNIA

FFA ASSOCIATION



Richard Asmus
Class of 1961

I attended Camarillo High School from 1957-1961, graduated in 1961

My father, Herman Arthur Asmus, did carpentry work for Adolfo Camarillo at his ranch*

I was very involved in sports at Camarillo High School and remember:

Lou Cvijanovich-Freshman basketball coach
 Jack McEwen Sophomore basketball coach
 Alex Tomlinson Junior basketball coach
 Charles Dun Senior basketball coach

Jack Lecari-Varsity coach football coach and Red Cross swim instructor at Jockey Meads pool in Thousand Oaks.

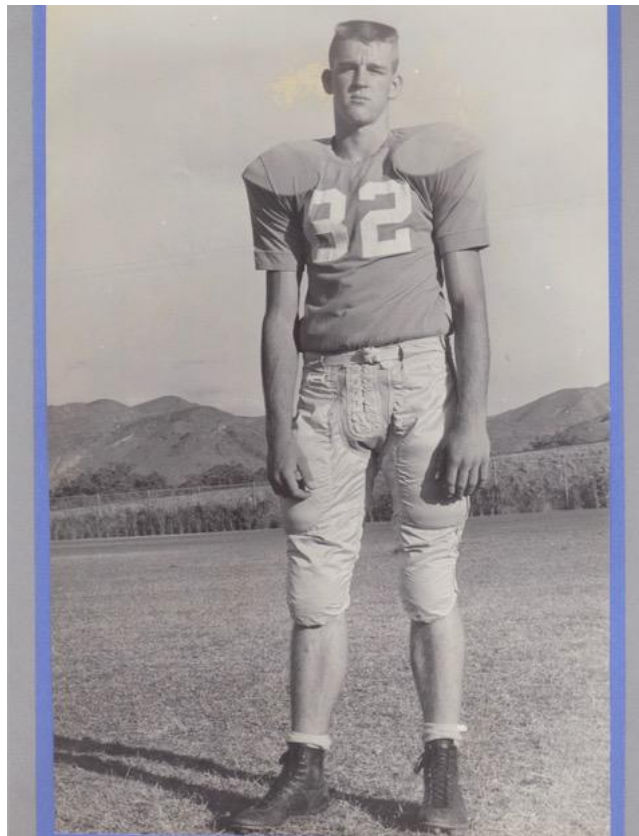
Paul Dunham- Assistant Varsity football coach

Walter Jessup- Freshman baseball coach

Sy Posner- Sophomore baseball coach

J.D. Merill Varsity baseball coach

*Herman Asmus, and his wife Elizabeth, were the parents of 10 children. They first lived in Oxnard, CA, where Richard was born, the third in birth order. After that they moved to Camarillo. Richard said his dad and Adolfo both attended St. Mary Magdalen Church in Camarillo, which is how Adolfo and Herman were acquainted. Herman initially worked in construction and, during that time, was always interested in side jobs to take care of his growing family. Richard didn't recall what specific work he did at the ranch.



Richard Asmus senior year football



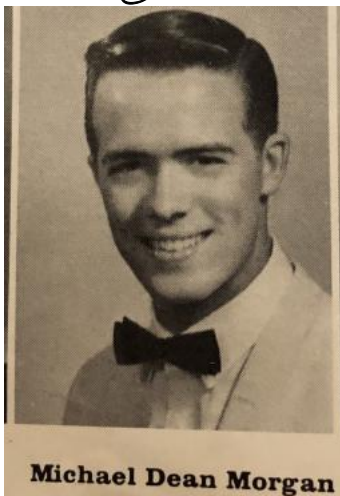
Tom Nukols, Alice Frost Sweetland and Richard Edward Asmus

Camarillo High School reunion August 2016

“These three were together in school from kindergarten through high school.”

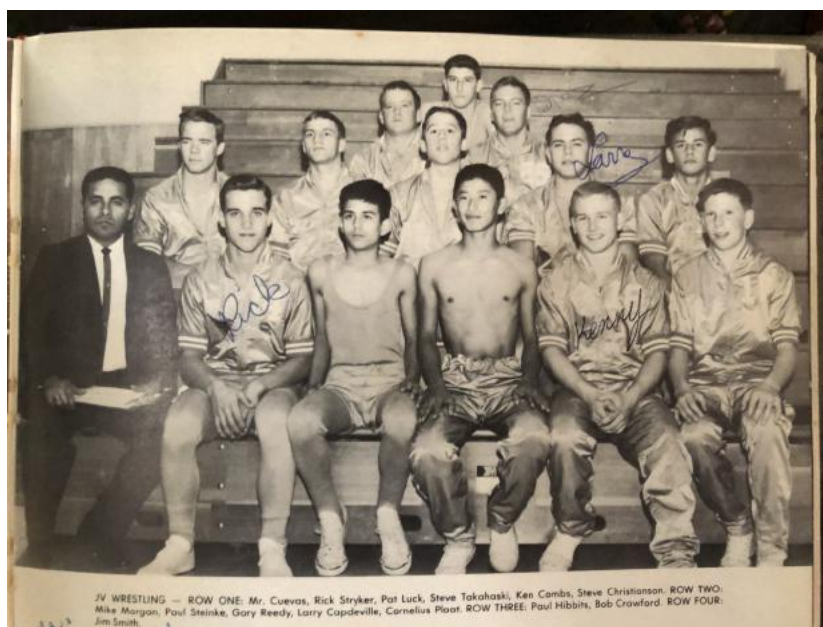
-Gerri Asmus

Mike Morgan
Class of 1965



I very much enjoyed my years at CHS and was totally involved in sports activities. I was selected as an all-league running back in Football and earned All Regional Champion in Wrestling.

I also enjoyed being involved in a couple of plays. Cam High was fun. I graduated from Cam High in 1965.

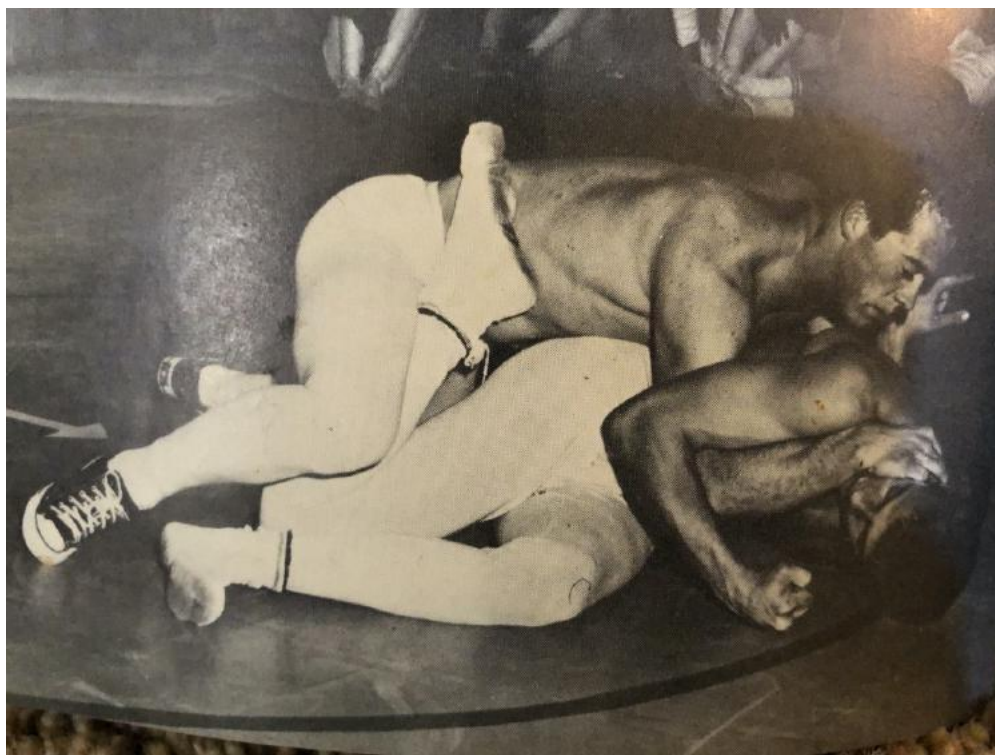


Wrestling Team: Mike Row 2 Left

And from Mike's wife, Donna...

Mike still participates in the class reunions and is in contact with many of his classmates.

I have a funny story about Mike's wrestling experience. At age 17, Mike had been diagnosed with cancer resulting in two thyroid operations which temporarily slowed him down. He recovered and continued with his sports. Over the many years of being married to Mike, I heard him say that he wrestled Gregory Peck's son in a competition. It wasn't until a few years ago that I overheard his sister, Diane, telling someone about the meet. Mike and Gregory Peck's son were ready to wrestle each other at the CIF simi finals. She said, "I was sitting next to Gregory Peck. He looked at me and said that's my son!" She proudly looked back at him responding, "Well, that's my brother!"



Mike's Wrestling Match Pin at ACHS

Mike was named ACHS Football's "Most Outstanding Player" in 1964 and his trophy is still displayed in our home office. When our daughter, Angela, graduated from ACHS in 1996, the yearbook included nostalgic photos from the past. While turning the pages, she was surprised to find a photo of her dad in her book. It was Mike playing football.



Mike Morgan in jersey #40

Alma Mater

In the heart of California's

Golden sun and dew

Proudly stands the school

We honor,

Glorious to view;

Even our thoughts she'll

Linger,

Memories never die,

Hail to thee, our school beloved

Camarillo High!

Lexie Hill

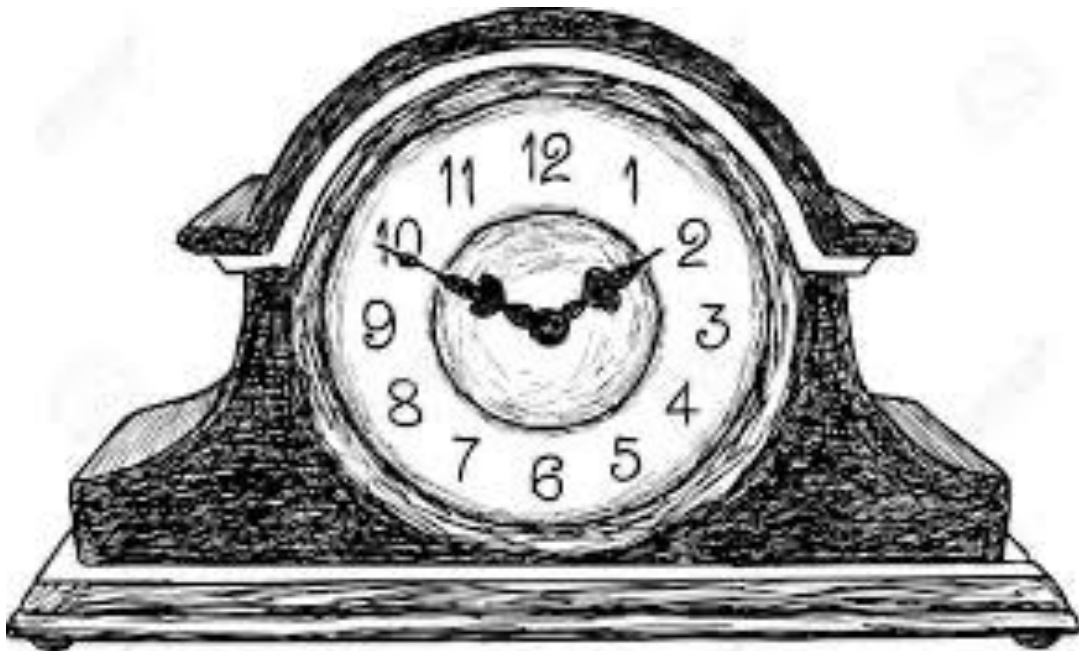
Do you have a Camarillo High School story you'd like to share?

Did you attend Pleasant Valley School? Or Camarillo Heights? Tell us about it!

**We're also looking for stories about your family's clocks!
Please submit the clock stories by Wednesday, October 14, 2020**

Please contact Karin!

kg.farrin@gte.net



Thank you!