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# BERKELEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY JOURNAL

CARRYING THE TORCH FOR BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SINCE 1980

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## Les Thomsen – Berkeley High School Alumnus, Class of 1931

On December 24, 2002, Les Thomsen will become a nonagenarian.

He is a cameraman whose career in the film industry spans more than 60 years. He is also a film historian and preservationist. His extensive collection of cameras and projectors, all of which are in working order, constitute a virtual museum visited by movie experts from LucasFilm in Marin and enthusiasts from all over the world. This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his movie theatre in his home where visitors sit in red plush loge seats and see movies that run the gamut from the silents to sound complete with newsreel, cartoons and features.

A Berkeley native, born in 1912, he attended Jefferson Elementary School

and Garfield Jr. High School where he assisted his teachers as projectionist when they presented films in the classroom. In 1923, he was one of the first Berkeley public schools Traffic Boys, a Berkeley innovation. He developed skills as a graphic designer. He made and showed films to his friends at his home with his first camera given to him by his father.

Les started his professional career as a graphic artist creating designs for film advertising, sometimes creating animated segments. He was a freelance cameraman and later started his own production company, Les Thomsen Films, making documentaries for industry and individuals, including Stanley Hiller who developed the helicopter and Jack La Lanne, swimmer, whose extraordinary physical feats and physical fitness programs on television made him a celebrity, recently honored in Hollywood.

In Hollywood, in the Seventies, Les worked for the Walt Disney Corporation. The made for television film, "A Storm Called Maria", was based on a book by

University of California English professor and noted author, George Stewart. It was shot in the Sierras at the height of devastating winter storms.

When he became a newsreel cameraman for Paramount News, Les traveled all over the world covering floods, fires and political events. He filmed Frank Sinatra, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Ronald Reagan. Locally he shot footage of the Cal football games covering the stadium in creative sweeps of the lens. He is a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Press Photographer's Association. In 1999 Les was awarded a plaque for Lifetime Achievement by the International Cameraman's Association.

As a corollary to his professional career Les Thomsen has contributed his knowledge, expertise and films to innumerable community programs and events. His 1939 footage of the World's Fair at Treasure Island is shown on TV news channels and other venues. He shows movies to school children, seniors and community groups. A television

*See Thomsen on page 4*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Memories of Berkeley Schools – Hillside, BHS Yearbooks at Berkeley Public Library
- 3 Whittier Elementary School Memories, Keeping in Touch
- 5 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion for Classes of '52 & '53, 2002 Mens' Reunion
- 6 BAA Benefits, In Memoriam
- 8 School Memories – Columbus 1970's

## Memories Of Band and Orchestra at BHS

I only attended BHS for a year and a half, my junior and ½ of my senior year. I was able to graduate early due to all my extra units for Band and Orchestra. Playing in the Band and Orchestra was the high point of my experience at BHS. Earl Morton, who directed the Band and Orchestra, was one of the finest teachers I ever knew.

Band rehearsal was held during my lunch period, so I had to gulp my sandwich and run to rehearsal. I played drums in the Orchestra but started out as last chair clarinet in the Band. I simply couldn't memorize music. All I knew was the introduction to THE THUNDERER

march. After that I had to fake it if we were marching without music in front of us. I really wanted to be in the percussion section of the band so one day I showed up with a drum instead of my clarinet. Mr. Morton raised an eyebrow but didn't say a word. (He probably knew how badly I played clarinet.) So for the rest of my time at Berkeley I played drums, cymbals and triangle.

One evening we were playing for a performance of H. M. S. Pinafore. I was looking at the audience instead of my music and missed my big moment-my drum solo! Again the raised eyebrow from Mr. Morton but not a word. The next evening, I did not miss my drum.

*See Band on page 2*

## Memories of Berkeley Schools - Hillside

My experience in the Berkeley schools began in the building where the BAA now makes its headquarters -- Hillside school. The building was brand new then, replacing an older building, which my mother had gone to school early in the 20th century. In fact, the building was not yet finished when school started and for a few weeks we had to use temporary buildings on the University School playground. Kindergarten was on the ground floor at the south end of the school, facing its own playground. First grade was adjacent, in a room with windows on the west. My first grade teacher was Miss Cottingham, a tiny woman. Second and third grades were on the second floor, second grade facing south and third grade facing west. There is a photo of a pageant from that time that I sent to the Journal and you published. I was a small page to the sixth grade king and queen in that picture, taken more than 75 years ago. Several classmates I had not heard from in years wrote me as a result of that picture.

After the third grade my family moved to the east coast and I was out of the Berkeley schools until the fall of 1932 when my mother and I came back to Berkeley for six months while my father was in Nicaragua. I then entered the low seventh at Garfield for just that one term. I recently had a visit here in Seattle from John Foster, BHS '38, who was a classmate at Garfield. Our homeroom teacher and also our math teacher was Miss Mossman, an excellent teacher. We also had an English teacher, Miss Grace, who had taught our mothers years before. At the end of the low seventh my family again moved back east and that was the end of my exposure to the Berkeley schools. It must have been pretty good teaching in those days as I was able to skip the eighth grade in Virginia and so wound up in the class of 1937 at Balboa High School in the Canal Zone.

I visit Berkeley still from time to time and have been back to visit Hillside and Garfield as well as the Berkeley High I never attended but which both my parents graduated from in 1913.

By the way, I have written a memoir of my parents and their years in Berkeley at both BHS and the University. The title is "Bayonets and Bougainvilles" ISBN 0 - 7596-5726-2, published by 1st Books Library.

*Robert Wallace Blake*

## Olla Podrida Collection at the Berkeley Public Library's Berkeley History Room

When the Berkeley Public Library reopened in its renovated main building at Shattuck and Kittredge in April 2002, thousands of people visited the Library's new Berkeley History Room. The Library has been collecting local materials for decades; finally, the Library's Berkeley history collection has a room of its own!

It's an outstanding collection. Of special interest to BAA members is the Library's set of Berkeley High's Olla Podrida, the school yearbook. The History Room is collecting duplicates in order to have copies on hand to meet future needs. Most yearbooks (not the fragile ones, though) can be duplicated on the Library's copying machines -- 10¢ a page.

The Berkeley Public Library is at 2090 Kittredge Street, just off Shattuck, a couple of blocks from the Downtown Berkeley BART station. The Berkeley History Room's hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The yearbooks are also available at the Library's Reference Desk when the History Room is not open. For details, call the Berkeley History Room, 510-981-6212 or Reference Desk 510-981-6148.

*Sayre Van Young, Librarian, Berkeley History Room, 510-981-6150*

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### **Band** from page 1

solo.

Whenever anyone arrived at rehearsal with a cold, Mr. Morton would say, "water, water, water; drink lots of water and you won't catch cold." After he retired, I went to visit him once. He was happy to see me but said he couldn't ask me in because his wife was ill--with a cold?? I wonder. So we visited outside.

I always received an "A" from him. It had to be for effort since I had no musical talent, just a love of music and a desire to play it. Or could it have been that Earl Morton, Ed Dunkum (another teacher at BHS) and my father always went deer hunting together?

*Phyllis Prindle Carvalho, '43*

## Whittier Elementary School: 1932 – 1938

From 1932 to 1938 I attended Whittier Elementary School located on the Northeast corner of Milvia and Virginia Sts. I had previously gone to kindergarten at Washington Elementary. In those days Whittier looks nothing like it does today!

It was a two story wooden building with redwood lap siding. Incidentally there was a big redwood tree, in front on the Milvia St. side. There was a six-foot, painted, unfinished basement, which posed a problem for our principal, Beecher Harris. He was well over six feet tall and when he entered the basement frequently he would bang his head on the joists.

I assume the old building was not framed in redwood since both termites and rot were attacking it. There was a central staircase on which teachers were posted when classes let out. The purpose of this was to slow down the kids because the staircase would shake rather violently and I guess somebody feared collapse. Whether this was true the whole time I went to Whittier, I don't think so. The need for a new building was being discussed. This discussion tended to delay spending money for some needed repairs. However, the

debate was still going on when I went on to Junior High.

Only about half of the playground was paved. Off the Northeast corner of the main building there was another smaller building, about 25 feet away. Its South wall in line with the bigger building's North wall and the 25-foot (more or less) between them was the entrance to the unpaved portion of the grounds. This area was known as The Girls Playground when I started at Whittier. I don't remember the timetable of the evolution, but this eventually became the kickball and softball diamond. I also recall playing some touch football on this ground. The traveling bars, rings and the bars on which girls loved to put one leg over and spin in the crook of their knee or hang by their knees were on the paved part. The basketball backboards were also here. Sometime during this involvement there was no longer a separate Girls' and Boys' Playground.

The very first day in Ms. Preston's first grade class she ask anyone who could write their name to go to the blackboard and write same. Proudly I went to the board and wrote "Bobby". To my embarrassment the other classmates had written both of their names. Several included their middle names.

Junior Traffic Police were a big deal at this time. Only boys were picked for

these jobs, usually beginning in the fourth grade. If one kept a clean record he could be made a sergeant in the sixth grade. There was some real responsibility in these jobs since two main arteries, Shattuck Ave. and Grove St. were involved plus the Virginia/Milvia intersection. I remember some motorists complaining about being held-up by the semaphore equipped junior police. To the Berkeley Police Department's credit they always backed the youngsters if rules were being obeyed. The rule, which annoyed these drivers, was that the sergeant could not whistle the semaphores back to the curb until all the children had reached the sidewalk. One of the perks for this duty was free admission to certain University of California football games.

As we reach the last couple of weeks of the sixth grade, suddenly we were exposed to "science" which amounted to simple experiments: the egg in the milk bottle, oxygen supporting combustion, etc. Another interesting aspect of grammar school at this time was the Standard Symphony Hour. We were required to listen every week. To some of us, it was a real bore at that time. All in all, however, I think we got more than an adequate grade school education.

*Bob "Nelly" Nelson ('44)*  
[bobken@jps.net](mailto:bobken@jps.net)

## Keeping in Touch

We've quite a backlog of items about our BHS classmates. We'll print them as space allows.

**Bernice Byland** (Gundlach) (BHS 1926) lives in Albany, CA, is a retired stenographer and legal secretary, and has been recuperating from a pedestrian auto accident. **Maurice Darrell** (BHS 1930) lives in Surrey, England, and is a retired engineer for the BBC. **Norma Hill** (Parker) (BHS 1930) lives in Hayward, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 ½ (by now 3) great-grandchildren. **Annette O'Connell** (Gallagher) (BHS 1931) lives in Redwood City and is a retired graphic artist. She is a member of the

Redwood City Archives Committee. **Elaine Dailey** (McNulty) lives in Sacramento and is a retired RN. **Elvie Laitinen** (Aalto) (BHS 1932) lives in Berkeley and wrote to say how much she enjoyed the recent QJ. **Eleanor Reis** (Oliver) (BHS 1932) is enjoying retirement in San Rafael. **Edwin Wares** (BHS 1933) joined as a new member from Bend, Oregon. **Julius Deubner** (BHS 1933) lives in Orinda and is a retired economist. **Ethel Kehlet** (Anderson) (BHS 1935) lives in Sacramento. She worked for H.J. Heinz Company and then for the United States Maritime Commission. She is the proud mother of nine children, and grandmother of sixteen grandchildren. **Barbara Rodrigues** (Schammel) (BHS 1935) also lives in

Sacramento. **Madeleine Patton** (Seelig) (BHS 1935) is a retired teacher living in Colusa. She is involved in literacy training and had a student who was nominated for the Laubach Literacy Action National Award for Excellence. **Mayfred Hink** (Stryker) (BHS 1935) is a retired homemaker living in Davis, CA. **Sidney Howard** (BHS 1936) renewed his membership and lives in La Habra, CA. **John Lewis** (BHS 1936) is retired from the retail industry and is "enjoying every minute of it" in Walnut Creek. **Thomas Hafey** (BHS 1936) retired from American Bakery and lives in Castro Valley, CA. **Sylvia Everett** (BHS 1936) renewed her

*See Keeping on page 4*

### **Thomsen** from page 1

segment has been made about him. In 1992 Les began his affiliation with the Berkeley Historical Society when he attended the UC Theatre's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary where Ellen Drori presented a program of historic films of early Berkeley. There he met Ken Pettitt, then archivist for the Society. Ken and Ellen visited and were introduced to Les Thomsen's astonishing world of movies. They discovered that Les had made the titles for the pioneer Berkeley filmmaker Frank Church's film on the Traffic Boys, shot at Cragmont School in 1946. It is in the Society's collection. Some time later Les showed it at a meeting of the Traffic Boys Association.

In 1995 Les Thomsen and Ellen Drori presented a program of films on the History of Bay Area Transportation, sponsored by the Berkeley Historical Society. In 1997, Les narrated a program of his own films in his own theatre as a benefit for the Society. The program included his footage of the 1939 World's Fair at Treasure Island. He continues to supply film footage for television and films for friends from his vast collection.

A current community involvement is with the Niles Billy Broncho Association, which is preserving the legacy of the Essanay Movie Company located in Niles from 1912 to 1916. (That is where Charlie Chaplin created his character, the Tramp. It is also where the movie westerns began.) Les has provided films and equipment for their annual events. In addition he has participated in their seminars where his deep well of knowledge, experiences and stories have been videotaped for their archives and museum.

Keith Arnold, manager of the innovative Fine Arts Theatre in Berkeley, is the most recent recipient of Mr. Thomsen's materials and vast knowledge of the movies.

The search and interests are endless. Les keeps up with the technology of change

while preserving what is valuable of the past. His warmth, generosity of spirit and beneficent actions are unlimited and influence all who know him. He is one of those gifted people who combine the love of work with the joy of living and transmit this to others.

There is much more that his colleagues, family and friends can cite.

As a young man, in the Thirties, Les worked as a window dresser in Breuner's in Oakland. There he met the love of his life, Eleanor. They are an attractive couple. Eleanor, petite and pretty, reminds him of Sonia Henie, the pert ice skater and movie star. While Les, 6 feet 2 inches, has the good looks and style of Gary Cooper. They married in 1941 and have produced four sons and a daughter. Accomplished, productive, they, in turn, have produced several grandchildren.

Theirs is a true partnership. Eleanor, an energetic woman has entered his collection of films into the computer. She participates fully in the movie programs at the house serving popcorn and drinks during the show, then hosting refreshments and conversation afterwards. She is also an organizer of functions of her church.

There are frequent family gatherings and celebrations. The grandchildren enjoy riding on a train on the grounds in back of the house built by Les and his sons. He is a railroad buff and members of several railroad and other societies.

Corinne Brennan of the Berkeley Alumni Association has attended his programs and noted his outstanding accomplishments worthy of honors and recognition from his beloved alma mater and admittance to the Berkeley High School Hall of Fame.

*Ellen Drori*  
510-663-8980

## **Class of 1968 Reunion**

Aug 22-24, 2003 –contact Twyla Parks,  
c/o BHS Class Reunion, P.O. Box  
6323, Oakland, CA 94603. Questions  
call: 510-553-9541, cell 510-867-1389.

### **Keeping** from page 3

membership and lives in Kensington. **Robert Wallace Blake** (Hillside, Garfield 1930's) is a retired engineering executive living in Seattle. He published Bayonets and Bougainvilleas in 2002 (1<sup>st</sup> Books, Bloomington, IN), a book about the Blake and Wallace families of Berkeley (1907-1983). **John Davis** (BHS 1937) sends greetings from Paris, France, and hoped to spend September 2002 in Berkeley. **Florence Jones** (Jennings) (BHS 1937) lives in Orinda and enjoys "being 84 and still happy". **Tetsuo Takayanagi** (BHS 1937) is a retired architect living in Auburndale, MA. **John (Jack) Price** (BHS 1938) was married to **Betty (Lynch)** (BHS 1939). Betty passed away in November 2000, and Jack is living near his son in Tucson. **Jean Anthony** (Callow) (BHS 1938) lives in San Carlos. **Warren Carleton** (BHS 1938) lives in Jackson, CA, and is a retired consulting forester. He has served on the Jackson City Council, including one year as mayor, and currently serves on the Jackson Planning Commission. **Catherine Jackson** (Hamilton) (BHS 1938) is retired and living in Tahoe City. **Roy K. Anderson** (BHS 1939) wrote to give thanks for the Spring-Summer 2002 QJ, and adds a fond note of his crush on Lois Heister in 5<sup>th</sup> grade (circa 1930). **Paul Duffy** (BHS 1939) is retired and living in Honolulu. **Charles Callow** (BHS 1939) worked for Southern California Edison, and is retired and "having fun" in Laguna Woods. **Marion Chadwick** (Kerr) (BHS 1939) is a Life Member of BAA, but recently sent in a gift from Mercer Island, WA. Marion was a WAVE in WWII, and became an elementary teacher later on. In retirement, she has competed in master's swimming, and is also an avid bird watcher. **Herbert Christensen** (BHS 1939) is a retired toxicologist living in Palm City, FL. He worked for the US Army, the UN International Registry of Potential

See **Keeping** on page 5

## 50th High School Reunion for the Classes of June 1952 and Fall 1952 (also known as the January 1953 class)

On Oct. 5, 2002, about 270 graduates and guests gathered at the Radisson in Berkeley for their 50th Berkeley High School Reunion. Initially, the class of June 1952 had 510 students; the fall class, 213 students. At the reunion a well-researched Reunion Booklet was given to each graduate. The work was done, primarily, by Wayne McMorrin in the fall class. It was a monumental task and the attendees were very impressed! (A copy of the booklet will be in the BAA library.) The booklet contains the individual class picture of all the students who had her/his picture taken for the Senior Yearbook. It also includes the names of the deceased students and students whose whereabouts are still unknown. If you are interested in seeing the booklet on-line check the BAA website under reunions.

An added attraction to the evening was a chorus of former BHS A CAPPELLA choir members who sang several selections directed by their former BHS teacher/director, Margaret Cartwright.

The classes also made a monetary donation to the BHS yearbook. The instructor, Lee Trampleasure, and a student, were present to accept our donation.

The evening was so successful that the Reunion Committee has been asked to plan a 55th reunion! The Reunion Committee, representing both classes: Lois Brelsford Breault, Jane Barrett, Doris Bridgewater, Jim Faulkner, Margaret Stone Grosse, Earline Hill, Sharon White Lyons, Elizabeth Tellefsen O'Donnell, Ron Woods, and Bill Yamamoto. (Please notify Jane Barrett at (510) 845-8055 if you'd like to help with future reunions.)

## The 2002 Men's Reunion

It's that time of year again for the mens' reunion where BHS males, who graduated from BHS after 1951, gather to relate past events with their fellow school chums, old and new. OK, so as we get older, it doesn't hurt to recharge the memory cells with some of the same information received in previous years!

Ed Nelson with some help, put on this annual event traditionally held at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville. There were about 260 attendees with 4 fellows from the '20s, 55 from the '30s and most from the late '30s and '40s. The "younger" attendees from the class of '52 were introduced.

The oldest member was Dr Jack Gompertz, '21. By the time you read this, he well may be inducted into the elite membership of the centenarian club. Egad, I'm no spring rooster, but he graduated in 1921, several years before I was born! Well, he paid his meal ticket, but was not well enough to attend lunch this year.

Departing from an earlier decision not to have a speaker at our luncheons, Bill

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### *Keeping from page 4*

Toxic Chemicals, and did contract work for the EPA. **Charles Kitto** (BHS 1939) retired as VP Director at Chevron in 1986 and is currently living in San Rafael. **C. Broughton Long** (BHS 1939) is a retired accountant living in Stockton. **Angela Morgan** (Civello) (BHS 1939) lives in Fremont. **Edmund White** (BHS 1939) is married to **Bernice (Anderson)** (BHS 1938), and lives in Lafayette. He retired from UC Berkeley in Civil Engineering, and now enjoys working on old cars. **Martha Frederick** (Stinson) (BHS 1940) lives in Vancouver, WA, near her children Marie Morgan (BHS 1960) and Dean Morgan (BHS 1960). Martha plays tennis with her daughter and another BHS alumnae, and does some photography. She remembers an explosion at Hillside School in the

Baily arranged to have the new superintendent of schools in Berkeley, Michele Lawrence address our BHS male grads. Bill's choice was a very good one and Ms Lawrence presented her views particularly on Berkeley High School.

She started off by stating that she liked talking to our mens' group because the line to the mens' room was longer than that to the womens' room.

MS Lawrence comes to Berkeley from the Los Angeles area and has similar experiences there as well as our district. The problems with which she has to deal are 5 different school unions, teacher turnover, and budget problems all in addition to academic problems that occur in a racially divided community. Her goal is to help narrow the achievement gap between the highest and lowest performers. She would also like to expand the vocational opportunities to interested students.

MS Lawrence's talk was very well received and we all wish her the best success in her position.

Our thanks go to Ed Nelson, Bill Bailey and others who put on this very well attended luncheon.

*Bud Barlow s'43.*

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1930's, and enjoys reading stories in the QJ about the "old days" in Berkeley schools. **Richard Monson** (BHS 1940) retired from IBM and then sold real estate in western Contra Costa County. He enjoys gardening at his home in Richmond. **Russ Agnew** (BHS 1940) renewed his membership from Tucson, AZ. **Charles Bates** (BHS 1941) worked in the petrochemical field until his retirement in 1986. He lives in Martinez, CA, and enjoys working out at the YMCA, golfing, and traveling. **William Fay** (BHS 1941) attended the BAA annual meeting in March 2002, and has moved back to Berkeley after retiring as an Episcopal Minister. He enjoys traveling and visiting his children and grandchildren.

Watch for more items next issue.

## BAA Member Benefits

We are in the process of collecting data to give back to you more for your buck! BAA members, who own businesses in the area, are current members in good standing, will be publicized in our newsletter with the condition that they offer any member in good standing some sort of discount, or special offer for their goods or services. Examples of this could be getting a “baker’s dozen” on cookies or pastries, five dollars off a dozen roses, complimentary desert with dinner, the list is endless.

This is a win-win combination for our members who own businesses in the area and our members who could patronize them.

If you own, or know of alumni who own a business, please contact us either by mail or email to our website and we will contact you for more information.

## HELP WANTED!

The BAA is looking for volunteers in a number of different capacities. You could help produce the Quarterly Journal (writing articles, gathering information about reunions, or producing camera ready copy). You could do data entry and help maintain the mailing list. You could join the BAA board and help with planning. You could help with the BAA web page ([www.berkeleyalum.org](http://www.berkeleyalum.org)) or any number of things.

If you’re interested, please contact the BAA via phone at 510-841-2770 or via email at [contact@berkeleyalum.org](mailto:contact@berkeleyalum.org).

## In Memoriam

**Paul D. Green** – born in Sacramento, Berkeley High class of June 1946, died on October 21, 2001 at age 72. Served in U.S. Army as part of Japanese occupation army. Graduated from Cal with bachelors and master’s degrees in Criminology. Spent 35 years in Alameda County Probation office before retiring in 1988 as Chief Probation Officer. He was active in Calvary Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. Enjoyed many outdoor recreational activities, including the annual LA to Mono Lake bike ride. Survived by wife Helen, sons Dennis of Los Angeles, Jerry of Dillon, CO, Jeff of Fremont and Mike of Portland, OR, daughters Debbie McMurray of Rohnert Park, Gail of Richmond, 9 grandchildren; a brother, Kenneth of Claremont, and a sister, Carol of Pomona.

**Donald Richard Griffith** – born in San Francisco and grew up in Berkeley. He attended Cragmont Grade School, Garfield Junior High, University High and Cal, where he was a member of the Cal Band and Cal sports. Besides his love of sports, he enjoyed travel and belonged to the Rossmoor Pilots Club and SIRS. He was an accountant by profession.

Dick’s wife of 31 years, Mildred, died in 1983. They had 2 daughters: Charlotte Helbig of Marina, and Susan Hosier of Shingle Springs. Dick is survived by his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Lynn McIntosh Auber Buffington. They attended Cragmont Grade School together and met again 60 years later at a class reunion. They married Oct 16, 1999. Dick leaves 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 1 great grandson and 4 stepdaughters: Carolyn Cartelli of Boston, MA, Christine D’Astous of Walnut Creek, Jeanette Thompson of Kauai, HI, and Jacqueline Belding of Charlevoix, NI.

**Carl Van Heuit**, a key member of Cal’s Rose Bowl football teams of 1949 and 1950, died Jan 6, 2002 at his home in Kensington at the age of 74. One of “Pappy’s Boys”, who played for coach Pappy Waldorf, he was an All-American defensive back and was inducted into the Cal Athletics Hall of Fame in 1992. He led the Bears in punt returns and interceptions in 1949 and 1950. Recipient of the Ken Cotton Award as the teams’ most courageous player in 1950, he was also a standout member of the Cal rugby team. After graduation, he served as an assistant football coach for 6 seasons and was volunteer freshman coach for 20 years. He was assistant coach for the rugby team, too. Even at that time, at 5-foot-6

and 165 pounds, he was considered a diminutive player with surprising strength. His wife, Eileen, says he rarely missed a Cal football game. “It was just such a big part of his life. He made a name for himself there, and he felt strongly about paying the university back for what it had done for him.” In that vein, the Van Heuit Family Scholarship was established. The Cal Alumni Association will accept donations in his memory. He also raised funds for the Cal baseball team. A native of Alameda and a member of the Berkeley High Hall of Fame, he lived in Kensington for 47 years. He had retired as an executive of the Travelers Insurance Company. Besides his wife, he is survived by 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

**Richard Yamashiro**: resident of Berkeley was born in Berkeley on Oct 25, 1927, died on Dec 21, 2001. He owned Richard’s Jewelers on Solano Avenue in Albany for 52 years before retiring in 2001. Served for U.S.A during World War II. Survived by wife Christine, daughters Julie Weitz (Mike), Amy (Jason [Lustig]) Yamashiro, and Jane (Mark Fujiwara); grandchildren Brian and Tracy Weitz and Kalen Yamashiro; brothers Hank and George (Jeanette); sisters Mary Otani (Bill) and Yoshiye; nieces and nephews.



# Berkeley Alumni Association

## Alumni / Member Personal Information

Name: Last	First	Middle Initial	Last Name Upon Graduation
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Address (Home):	Phone (Home):
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	Phone (Work):
--	---------------

Profession / Company / Title:	E-Mail:
-------------------------------	---------

Berkeley schools attended	EndYear:
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\_\_\_\_\_

If not a BHS graduate, when / where did you graduate from high school?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Life Information

College / University, Graduation Year

History - what did you do after leaving Berkeley schools?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you doing now?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Membership dues information

Membership	Regular / Affiliate	\$30	Senior Citizen (65+)	\$25
Categories and Dues	Regular / Affiliate Couple	\$50	Senior Citizen Couple	\$40

1581 Le Roy Ave  
Berkeley, California 94708-1941

telephone 510-841-2770  
[www.berkeleyalum.org](http://www.berkeleyalum.org)

fax 510-540-5278

## School Memories — Columbus 1970's

I lived through a bit of history in my time in the Berkeley schools that I appreciate much more as an adult. As a kindergartener at Oxford school in the fall of 1967, I remember being told that children who were "different" would be joining us at Oxford the following year. This was the adults' way of telling us that our all white school was soon to become integrated. New children would ride the bus to our school the following year, and when we reached 4th grade, we would in turn ride the bus to another school. As you can imagine, it didn't matter a bit to us children, but it sure was important to the adults!

When I reached 4th grade, I took a bus to Columbus school. At Columbus there was an experimental school-within-a-school called "Equal One", run by Mr. Anthony. I was one of only a hand full of white children who enrolled in Equal One. So for three years I

experienced what it was like to be in a very small minority. The curriculum wasn't markedly different, but we did learn different songs from the rest of the school and were offered the study of languages like Cantonese that other students didn't have access to. Looking back on it, it seems to me now that it was just a way of segregating the school even after the integration of Berkeley schools took place.

When I tell children today that my first year of school was before integration (not to mention that it was against the rules for girls to wear pants!), they are generally amazed. After they get over trying to figure out how old I am, they come around to the realization that their lives have been very different because of the changes that children like myself experienced in those years long ago. During my first couple of years of school, the adults around me were doing their best to cope with tumultuous times. We were even being told that in a few years everything would be metric!

Luckily, integrating the schools went better than the conversion to the metric system, and today children don't think twice about it.

*Julia Rogers (BHS January 1980)*

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