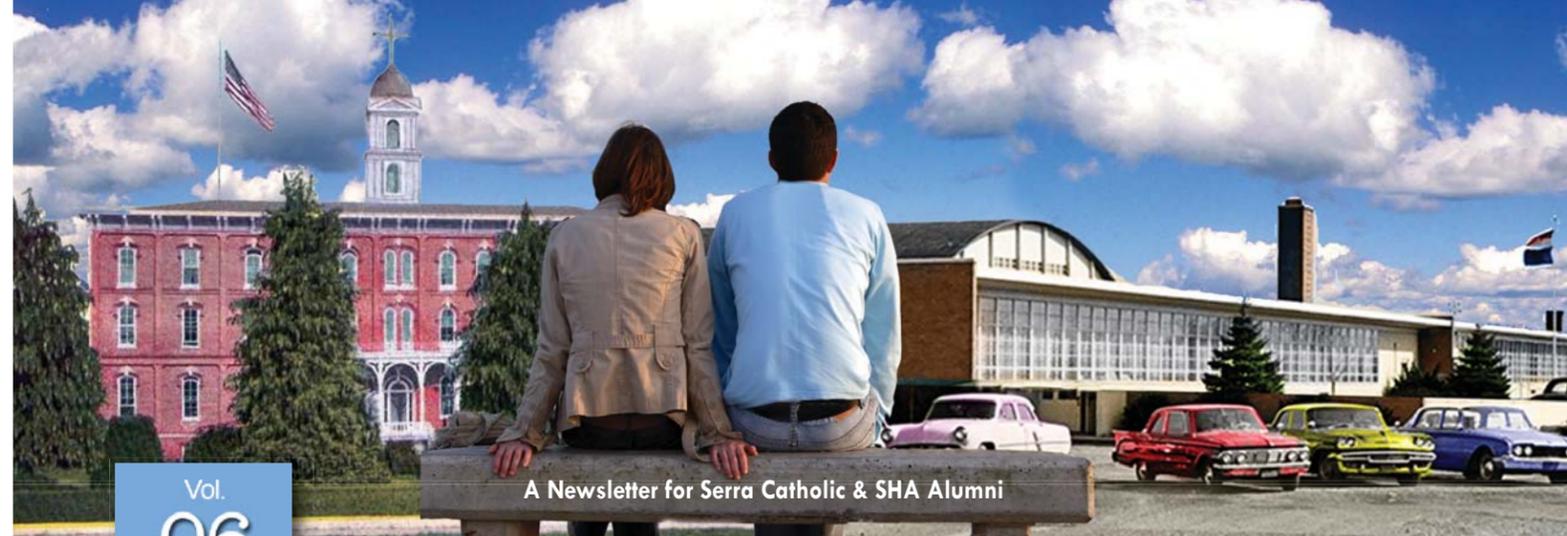


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Vol.
06
August
2010

A Newsletter for Serra Catholic & SHA Alumni

... a place to gather & a place to connect

September Social at Willamette University

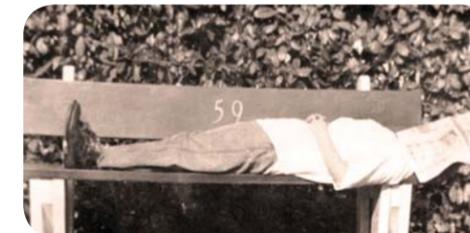
September 10th @ 6:00 PM
Followed by the Game



**Blanchet Cavaliers vs. Regis Rams, McCulloch Stadium
Willamette University - Game Begins at 7:30 PM**

All alumni who RSVP by September 3 to 503-391-2639 or lasc@blanchetcatholicschool.com **will receive complimentary admission to the game and food and beverages at no additional charge.** Join us before the game for our tailgate party. We will have a special room set up with BBQ and refreshments. It is rumored that several Serra championship football players plan on being in attendance! Whether you are a former football player or not, Blanchet will honor all SHA and Serra alumni in attendance during half-time.

Remember that missing Sacred Heart bench? (See our stories in the Aug. and Dec.'09 issues). The SHA and Serra classes of '59 solved the mystery of why it disappeared and to where. Although it was never found again, thanks to Gordon Gruenfelder, the legacy will continue. Earlier in the day during the Cav Pride Day Assembly (see page 3), a next generation sparkling new bench will be presented to Blanchet for safekeeping. It replicates the bench created and donated by Gordon's father, Walter C. Gruenfelder, over fifty years ago. Amazing!



Too much fun to miss. See you there! §

alumni update form

Share with your classmates what's new in your life . If you'd like to share the latest news with us, you know of someone who isn't getting this newsletter, or you need to update our data files, fill this out today!

Name: _____

Maiden: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Serra or SHA? _____ Class Year: _____

News you would like to share with us: (attach if more)

What is your preferred method of receiving this newsletter?

Email In the mail

Do you want to also receive a Blanchet newsletter ? Yes No

Mail to the LASC or use our online update form at www.blanchetcatholicschool.com. Follow the link.

About Connections

This newsletter and our webspace are supported by volunteers and Blanchet. We welcome your suggestions. We also accept donations online or by mail. You may contact us at the following:

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LASC@blanchetcatholicschool.com

Phone:
Brandy O'Bannon, Dir. Development
503.391.2639

Fax:
503.399.1259

Website:
www.blanchetcatholicschool.com (see link)

Mailing Address:
Blanchet Catholic School
LASC Steering Committee
4373 Market Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

What's Inside



Class of '60 Reunion
*The Class of '60 celebrates their 50th.
Begins on page 4.*

Gerry's Corner

More from the man who remembers everything about back then. Begins on page 2.



Alumni News & Events

Find out what's going on with your fellow classmates, about reunion events and more. Begins on page 2.

How it all began

The saga continues, revealing the long forgotten details of what was happening behind the scenes. Begins on page 6.



Brandy O'Bannon
503.391.2639

or email her at lasc@blanchetcatholicschool.com

alumni in memoriam

We send our condolences to the families of the following Sacred Heart Academy & Serra Catholic alumni who passed away during the last couple of years. This information was obtained from obituaries printed in the *Statesman Journal*. If you know about other classmates we have lost, please send the information to lasc@blanchetcatholicsschool.com so that we can publish this for you.

SHA '36 - Moore, Marion Lorraine – Marion taught piano, organ, and violin for many years. She became a published poet and would often write poems for family and friends on special occasions. She also studied the birds and flowers of the Northwest extensively. † **SHA '40 - Renner, Joseph Ralph** – Joseph joined the US Army and served five years during WWII. His entire career was spent in the banking and financial industry. After retiring, Joe volunteered at the senior center assisting seniors with their tax returns. Joe was a long time member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus member. † **SHA '43 - Peerenboom, Raymond Edward** – Raymond served in the Air Force and fought in WWII. He married Kathleen O'Mara and had four children. Ray worked at Oregon State Highway Division for 40 years. He attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church and was the first person to be baptized at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. † **SHA '46 - Albrich, Alan F.** – Alan was born in Salem. He was a weighmaster supervisor for the state of Oregon. Alan is survived by his wife, Barbara B.; daughters, Anita Rhodes and Janet Hooton; and sons, Alan D., Glenn, and Hal. Died on Father's Day, 2010. † **SHA '53 - Inman, Joanne Margaret** – Margaret married her husband in 1955 and together had five children. She spent the majority of her time raising her children. She also enjoyed fishing, traveling, sewing and reading. † **SHA '53 - LaRoche, Sandra Bliven** – Sandra was an active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church where she sang in the choir. She was a ballet dancer for most of her life as well as a fantastic debater and conversationalist. She was an avid reader and had a great love for art and antiques. She is survived by her three children.

† † †



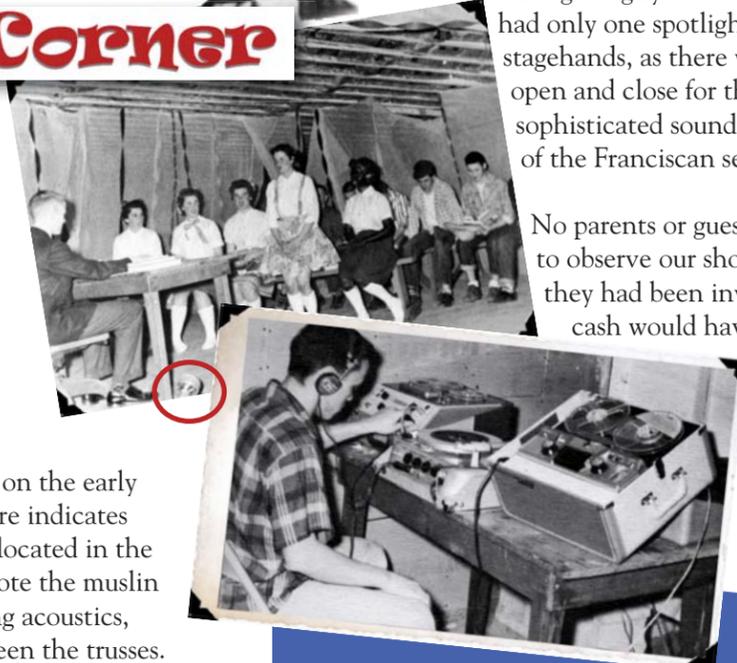
This column is written by Gerry Pavelek, Serra '58

Gerry's Corner

Performing arts the ol' fashioned way

Those who attended the May 1st event that Blanchet hosted for the alumni of Serra and Sacred Heart were treated to an outstanding performance of *Into the Woods* by Blanchet's drama department.

It did cause me however, to reflect on the early years at Serra Catholic. The picture indicates our performing arts stage that was located in the school's unfinished wing. Please note the muslin background curtains and the ceiling acoustics, consisting of insulation batts between the trusses.



alumni happenings

Denise Nelke, SHA '80, remembers that it was 30 years ago this past May that she was traveling with the SHA Choir. On the way back from a concert at one of their sister schools in Seattle, Washington, Mt. St. Helen blew! Can you believe it's been that long ago? They could see the plume from the freeway. She remembers the driver and teachers making sure to get them to a pay phone somewhere (a restaurant as she recalls) so the students could each call their parents so they would not worry. No cell phones back then. Denise is now a principal with Davis, an architectural design firm in Tempe, Arizona. She has been with them for over 20 years, since receiving her BS in Interior Architecture from University of Oregon. Thanks Denise, for the memory. §



Our lighting system was easy to operate as we had only one spotlight. We didn't require stagehands, as there were no front curtains to open and close for the performances. Our sophisticated sound system was operated by one of the Franciscan seminarians.

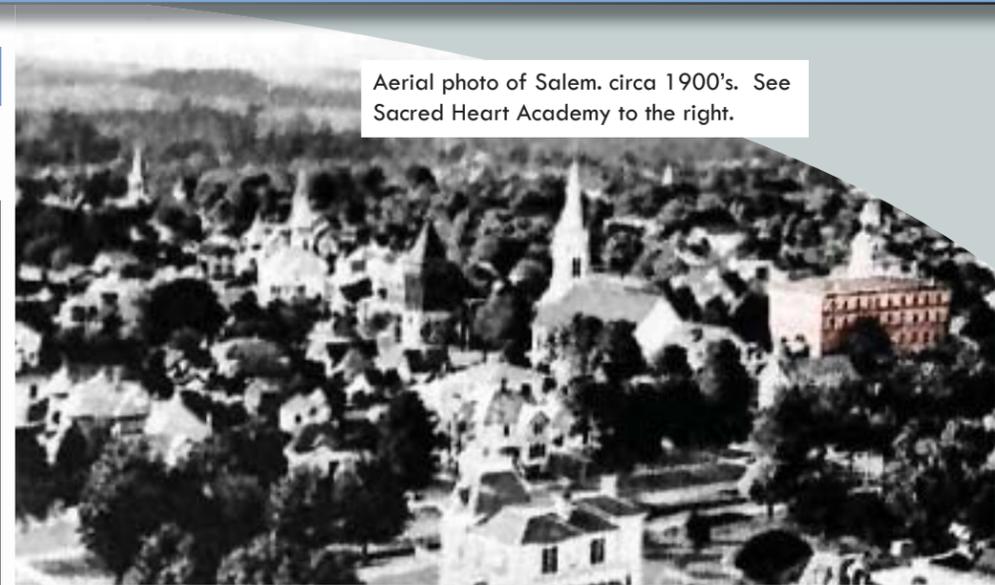
No parents or guests ever had the opportunity to observe our short events. I know that if they had been invited, a large amount of cash would have been paid to see us. I only wish we could have had the affectionate cow (from *Into the Woods*) at Serra, as she would have "udderly" enhanced our performances. §

Sacred Heart Academy, 1919

The 20th century brought challenges and change for Sacred Heart. During the Great Influenza Epidemic of 1919, all public places had to close. Sisters and students did not escape the disease. With the church and the academy closed, the pastor, Fr. Jacob Buck, held services on the academy's front porch. A major change came in 1925. Archbishop Christie created a new parish in north Salem, appointing Fr. Thomas V. Keenan as pastor. Named after St. Vincent de Paul, only the school was built, serving both boys and girls. Holy Name Sisters, who staffed the school, commuted from the academy. Sacred Heart, in order to accommodate boys graduating from St. Vincent's, became permanently co-educational.

In August 1934, Fr. Theodore J. Bernards became pastor of St. Joseph. Three years later the church and Sacred Heart celebrated their 75th anniversary. It was noted that a number of graduates from the academy became well-known in various fields, including Sara Baker Hutton, who became the mother-in-law for two Oregon governors, Oswald West and Ben W. Olcott. A surviving issue of a monthly publication of the students, Sacred Heart Highlights (previously called The Keyhole), provides a snapshot of the school in 1939. Entering freshmen underwent an "initiation chamber of horrors" by "the mighty Sophs." Freshmen had "to blow into a dish of flour while being blindfolded." The music program included a Glee Club, a boys' Treble Triad and a girls' The Cecilians. An athletic program included basketball, football, volleyball and "soccer ball." The teams were called The Gladiators. In 1938 the first "cheering section" was organized. Fr. John Reedy, an assistant pastor, was the Director. The newsletter noted that the competition with "the boys of St. Vincent's was fierce." Boy Scouts were part of Troop Six of the Cascade area. An investiture of 26 scouts was done according to the "Catholic rite."

Beginning in the 1940's, important changes came. Sacred Heart Academy



Aerial photo of Salem, circa 1900's. See Sacred Heart Academy to the right.

had provided the elementary education for the children of St. Joseph's. Despite some controversy, Fr. Bernards decided that a separate grade school was needed. The six-room school was opened in 1940. The growth of the parish required a larger and more modern church. On March 19, 1953, the new brick church was dedicated. In 1948 St. Vincent de Paul parish's increased enrollment made necessary the remodeling and enlargement of its school. No longer would the sisters have to commute from Sacred Heart. Temporary living quarters were provided in the school and in a one room dwelling. Catholic education was at its height in the 1950's. At St. Vincent's a new convent opened in 1953. Until 1954 Sacred Heart provided the only choice for secondary education in the Salem area. This now changed. The Franciscans of California accepted an "invitation" from Archbishop Edward D. Howard to provide another option by opening a "co-instructional" high school. In Salem some felt that the Catholic laity should have been a part of the decision-making process. Others feared that the new school could become a possible threat to Sacred Heart. In September 1954 Serra Catholic High School opened for boys. At first all went well with shared social activities and with Sacred Heart girls supporting Serra's sports program as cheer leaders. In 1957 when Serra had become a four year school, girls were accepted. One consequence was that Sacred Heart once more became a girls' only school.

Time was catching up to Sacred Heart as it was approaching the centenary. The aging building could no longer meet its educational goals or serve as living quarters. Plans began to build a new school in northeast Salem. Disaster struck in October 1962, the Columbus Day Storm. The wind peeled back the roof. Plaster gave way with water leaking upon the sisters in their attic quarters. The recreation room was turned into a temporary dormitory, until repairs could be made. Still when the Centenary was observed in 1963 there was much to celebrate from the past and hope for a great future. Forty-one girls made up the Centenary Graduation class. On September 8 a Solemn Pontifical Mass was held, followed by the Centenary Banquet at Marion Hotel.

After the new Sacred Heart complex opened in 1965, the old structure was sold to St. Joseph's for \$190,000. In 1971 the building was torn down to make room for a parking lot. In June five sisters, who had taught there, paid a final sad visit. Memories were exchanged. Sister Ann Bertha recalled as a student sliding down the banister into the arms of the sister superior. A final Mass was held in the chapel with music provided by the old foot-pump organ. Sadly the cornerstone with its memorabilia was not located as the building was demolished. (Watch for the conclusion in our next issue.)

Our next issue will conclude both stories, for Serra in 1969 and Sacred Heart in 1984. Space limitations prevent us from publishing the source information for this issue. However, these can be found in our last two publications of *Connections* and you can find online at www.blanchetcatholicsschool.com. Follow the link to the SHA/Serra alumni pages.

How did this all begin?

In our last two issues of "Connections" we shared with you the history of Sacred Heart Academy (1846-1984) and Serra Catholic (1952-1968). This work by D. Robert Kovarik may be the most comprehensive writing about our alma maters. The journey continues.

by Dr. Robert J. Kovarik
Archivist, St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Serra Catholic ~ 1967

Serra High School Board met. The Board decided to request a subsidy of \$15,000 from the parishes to cover the operating deficit. A request would be made to the Archdiocese to cancel the balance due on the capital improvement note. As of December 31, 1967 the balance was \$63,720, plus accrued interest of \$8,050. An archdiocesan-wide campaign to raise funds was underway. Salem parishioners could designate their pledges either to Serra or Sacred Heart.

Concerned that private schools could no longer operate on tuition alone, the Archdiocese began an evaluation study of Catholic education. The input of the Salem pastors was that they could not "support our educational system as we have it." Priorities had to be established, since "we cannot afford twelve years of Catholic education." At the moment the parishes were responsible not only for the operational deficits of the two high schools, but also for any new building programs. The pastors, giving their priority to Sacred Heart, suggested that Serra become an all-boys school. The Franciscan sisters had announced their withdrawal from

Dedication photo honoring Fr. Kevin Murphy, O.F.M., first principal at Serra. Photo from *The Serran*, 1958.



Rendering of Serra Catholic. Featured in *The Serran*, 1957.

Serra, raising the question of replacements. Another proposal was that a junior high system be created to help both high schools. Sister Marian Paula, Sacred Heart's principal was opposed to this plan. In February of 1968 the Serra School Board met with the parents of students. Facing the increasing doubts about the viability of the school, three options were offered. Serra would become an all boys school with programs coordinated with Sacred Heart; both Serra and Sacred Heart would be converted to a co-educational junior/high school system; or Serra would remain as co-instructional. The parents approved the third option.

The Salem Area Catholic Council, representing the parishes and schools, developed a long-range plan. Over several years Serra and Sacred Heart would merge their facilities into a single institution on one campus. Under pressure and hoping to put off the inevitable, the Council met on March 6, 1968 to recommend to Archbishop Robert Dwyer that Serra be allowed to function unchanged for one year "on an experimental basis." In a letter sent the following day, Fr. Thielen reported the Archbishop's reaction. While the Archbishop accepted the recommendation,

he imposed conditions. The Salem pastors and their parish councils had to state how much responsibility they were willing to assume for the existing indebtedness and payment of accruing interest; for covering the operational deficit for the school year of 1967-68 and for subsequent school years; for stating the share of fiscal responsibility to be borne by each individual parish and for giving the exact dates on which the parishes would make available funds to meet operational deficits. The letter made clear that "the Chancery Office will NOT under any circumstances advance money" to cover future indebtedness. An agreement on the conditions had to be drawn up immediately and "must bear the manual signatures" of the pastors and "superiors" of the Franciscans and Holy Names Sisters. Only then would Serra be allowed to operate for the school year 1968-69. On March 11 Archbishop Dwyer sent his "Dear Friends of Serra High School" letter, that opened with the observation that "a shadow seems to darken the future of Serra High School." Reacting to the withdrawal of the Franciscan Sisters from the school, he felt the best solution was for Serra to be converted into an "all-boys college preparatory institution." (Watch for the conclusion in our next issue.)

Note: This is the author's reconstruction of events based on available information. The interpretations are the author's.

upcoming events

"THE GATHERING" Sacred Heart & Serra Catholic Alumni

All Class Reunion
Saturday, August 6, 2011
Blanchet Catholic School

Featuring
*Mass * Meal * Memorabilia Displays
Great Music & Dancing with the
"Live Five" & Much More!!

We had 300 attendees at our last "Gathering" and we hope to triple that number this time around. Get in touch with your classmates and plan on attending this reunion of all reunions.

Keep posted about plans and details from upcoming newsletters & online.



Join us for our CLASS OF 1965 REUNION!

Lee (Joyce) Effinger and several classmates will be setting up her back yard for a Serra Catholic High School Class of 1965 Reunion and Barbecue on **August 28, starting at 3 PM**. The address is:

325 Dogwood Drive S.
Salem, OR 97302.
503-375-3511

Registration is \$20, which should be sent to Ken Hesketh, PO Box 832, Pacific City, OR 97135.

Classmates are invited to bring appetizers and snacks and beverages to share, until the barbecue meal buffet is served at 6PM. There will be ice chests available for beverages.

The barbecue will include ribs, chicken, baked beans, corn on the cob, green salad, coleslaw, hot and cold pasta salads, fruit platters, rolls, dessert, coffee and tea.

Lee invites classmates to bring pictures from grade school through high school. The entire affair is informal, so there will be plenty of time for classmates to visit.

What Are You Up To? If you would like to share the latest going on with you and your family, email us the details or use our online update form. Use "Alumni Happenings or Upcoming Events" to announce a memorial service, wedding anniversary party, and so much more. §

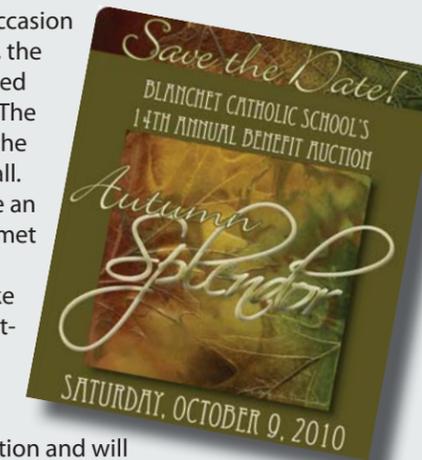


"Autumn Splendor" Saturday, October 9, 2010

Blanchet's largest social occasion and fundraiser of the year, the annual auction, is scheduled for **Saturday, October 9**. The theme will pay tribute to the beauty of Oregon in the fall. Reed Catering will provide an excellent Northwest gourmet dinner. A new auctioneer, Mrs. Kelly Russell, will make sure the oral auction is fast-paced and exciting.

The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a silent auction and will be followed by musical entertainment by Blanchet students, a catered dinner and live auction.

You can purchase tickets now and make a donation online. Go to www.blanchetcatholicsschool.com to find out more.



Cavalier Pride Day

Blanchet is hosting its first Cavalier Pride Day on **Friday, September 10**. This event's goal is to kick-off Blanchet's 16th school year with incredible spirit and pride. The school day will conclude with a pep assembly that will introduce the school's fall sports teams and new cheerleaders. After school there will a carnival with face-painting, activities, and booths hosted by Blanchet clubs.



All Blanchet supporters are invited. A BBQ meal will be available for \$5.00 starting after-school at 3:30 p.m. All of our supporters are encouraged to continue the festivities at Willamette University's McCulloch Stadium to watch Blanchet's varsity football team take on the Regis Rams. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. SHA/Serra alumni are invited to the game and to the tailgate social beforehand. **Please RSVP by September 3rd** for free admission. (See our cover story for more details.) §

The Class of '60
gather to celebrate over 50 years
of memories & friendships.

Serra & Sacred Heart

by Norma Bernardy (Rupp), SHA '60

OUR CLASS REUNION STARTED JULY 23RD (FRIDAY NIGHT) AT BLANCHET SCHOOL. WE HAD A GREAT TURNOUT NOT ONLY OF HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATES, BUT GRADE SCHOOL CLASSMATES ALSO. SOME OF US HAVE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE FIRST GRADE, SO WE ARE A VERY CLOSE CLASS.

Don Upjohn (he was class president at Serra) gave the welcome talk and then there was a memorial service for our departed classmates. Our classmate Marie Phillippi (Steiner) and her husband Darryl created a DVD that was shown throughout the evening. The DVD depicted pictures of our grade school/high school years and our past reunions.

The July 24th (Saturday afternoon/evening) reunion took place at the Keizer Elk's Club. Again we had a fantastic turnout with many friendships renewed. Norma Bernardy (Rupp) gave the welcome talk and introduced the devoted committee members. After our buffet dinner, Roberta Carney (Thrush) and Gary Koehler went around the room as roving reporters to interview various classmates and have them tell something funny or interesting that happened to them or their classmates. Many memories were brought up that took us all back to our grade/high school years.

All in all our reunion week-end was a huge success and we are looking forward to our next one in 2015.

Thank you to your amazing Committee Members: Roberta Carney (Thrush), Adell Gaudon (Nash), Marie Phillippi (Steiner), Clem Unrein, Jerry Halfman, Bob Ward, Chuck Dabler. Also helping: Gary Koehler, Don Upjohn and Janet Hornschuch (Foster).



The Sacred Heart women from the Class of 1960 on July 24, 2010. **1st Row:** Janet Foster Hornschuch, Rosie Fisher Nash, Sr. Lynda Thompson, Marilyn Schnell Krupicka, Norma Rupp Bernardy, Adell Nash Gaudon, Marie Steiner Phillippi. **2nd Row:** Judy Hauge Plechl, Janice Hauge, Margie Wilson Moorman, Susie Marker Harris, Karen Hassing Thwaite, Sally Schunke McFarland, Mary Ellen Johnson Kennedy, Roberta Meusey English, Colleen Kelso Steele, Jerri Ellen Trott, Roberta Thrush Carney, Marceline O'Connell and Jeanne Stone Sweet. Thanks to Norma Bernardy (Rupp), SHA '60 for the photos.



The Serra Catholic men from the Class of 1960 on July 24, 2010. **1st row:** Bill Lange, Mike Gallagher, Joe Stowitschek, Jerry Neuberger, Tom Alley, Don Schartz, Drew Link and David Schmidt. **2nd row:** Morry Doerfler, Chuck Dabler, Jim Panger, Don Upjohn, Tom Jungblut, David Martinmass, Rick Ritter, John Lucero, Jarry Halfman, Bill Barr, Gary Koehler, Clem Unrein, Craig Brokow, Jerry Earls and Bob Ward. Thanks to Norma Bernardy (Rupp), SHA '60 for the photos.



SHA women from the Class of '60 at their McNary breakfast gathering. Thanks to Marie Phillippi (Steiner), SHA '60 for the photo.



We remember our departed
fellow classmates:

Anna Decker Nekuda, Mary Ann Kaneski, Alice Karau, Marianne Schaffers, Joni Slimak, Donna Strauch, Bev Weis Kelly, Joe Moorman, John Poujade, Jerry Rund, Bob Wolf, Margaret Dauenhauer Winter, Ray Carney, Gene Davidson, David Diedrick, Lyle Durbin, Michael Fritz, Ross Hall, Michael Lowery, Max Lucero, Jim Reis, Dennis Schmaltz, Don Rosera

This is poem, written by Roberta (Thrush) Carney, was near an altar set up in memory of the classmates. We lit a candle for each classmate.

Memory Rose

There's a rose that blooms within our hearts
Each petal is a memory
No flower that grows would be sweeter
Than the happiness it has brought

Our classmates love for eternal life with God
has left memories etched in our hearts.
Their stars now shine in the sky above.

When you see a rose
remember our fallen classmates
and all the memories they have brought us.

Memories will live forever in our hearts
a blossom will show you the way.

Please take the time to smell the roses
and hope that your special memories
will bring you peace.

\$\$\$



Share your reunion plans! If you have an upcoming reunion or want to share your story and photos from recent class gatherings, let us know. Email us at lasc@blanchetcatholicschool.com or call Brandy at 503.391.2639.

