

WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY



To: Staff
From: John
Re: Tidbits on Western's History
Date: September 2004-2005

HISTORY OF WESTERN JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

By Louise Booth...One to Twenty-Eight – AUHSD A History of the
Anaheim Union High School District (1980)

Western Junior High School (1954-1957)

The first new school to be built in the District after the junior high school plan was adopted was Western Junior High School at 501 South Western Avenue. Classes were opened September 1954 with R. Kenton Wines as principal and Fay Stanley and Chester Shirk as vice principals. Thirty-four teachers offered a curriculum based on the CORE (three periods in a block with one teacher covering the basic requirements of English, social studies, and reading). Each CORE teacher had two classes each day. Other courses offered were industrial arts, homemaking, agriculture, art, science, math, music, and physical education.

In deciding a name for the new school, the board considered a list that contained such traditional nominees as John J. Pershing and General Billy Mitchell. The decision was made, however, to name the school to match an adjacent street. The students chose the pioneer as their mascot and blue and white as the school colors.

The first student government was organized by the eighth graders who at-

tended the ground-breaking ceremony when construction began. With the opening of the campus, the student government was reorganized to represent the girls as one part (the Westernettes) and the boys as another (the Westerners). Each group voted on its own officers for each semester that first year. So it was Richard Mushegain and Rudy Mejera as presidents for the boys and Frances Brooks and Yoko Ohara for the girls.

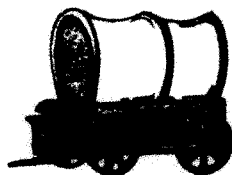
A separate set of officers elected for the entire year were those of the student body: Ronnie Freck (president), William Brooks (vice president), Jean Miller (secretary), and Beatrice Salseda (treasurer). Presiding over the Student Court was the Chief Justice, the first being Bob Oviedo, followed the second semester by Gay Wlaschin.

Dedication of the new school was January 6, 1955, at ten in the morning. The C.R. Rogers Memorial Auxiliary Post 9847 presented the school its first flag. Presiding over the program was President of the AUHSD Board Ray Terry. Speakers were Paul Demaree,

Ken Wines, and Robert Cawthon (trustee who lived in the western section of the District). Music was played by the Pep Band, directed by Paul Fancher, and the chorus, led by Joan Kuhns. The remainder of the day and again in the evening, the PTA, headed by president Mrs. Ivan Mahaffie, hosted an open house.

That first year was marked with the trials of starting a new school. Teachers did not know the students and vice versa. The facilities had not had the "bugs" worked out. An influx of East Los Angeles students did not mingle well with the cloistered Anaheimers who did not have "gangs" who were on police files. At the beginning, conflict came between the "east" Anaheimers and the "west" Anaheimers. To relieve the overly crowded classes at Fremont, a section of that school's area was assigned to Western, where the students were bussed across town. Fortunately, the animosity soon left, and the school year ended with the "twain" meeting.

Music was started that first year with some 80 members in the orchestra



and 40 in the mixed chorus. Roy Merk and Bill Hicks headed the boys' physical education, while Helen Grunenfelder and Jacqueline Reed had the girls. Three drill teams were organized by Helen Grunenfelder who had come from Anaheim, where she had already started such groups.

WESTERN HI-LITES was the first school newspaper. THE PIONEER was the name given the yearbook. The first edition came out in 1955, edited by Nancy Brown. It was a 40-page book with a soft cover in dark blue and a cartooned pioneer in a coon-skin cap. A plastic spiral was used for the binding.

The first graduation was held June 17, 1955, in the gymnasium with William Brooks and Jean Miller as the speakers. The class of 296 sang a song; awards were given by the American Legion, Kiwanis Club of Cypress, and the Reader's Digest. Outgoing Student Body President Ronnie Freck presented the class gift to incoming Student Body President Mike Anderson. Principal Wines presented the class to Trustee Cawthon, and the Pioneer Band and Mixed Chorus provided the music.

The second year began with a new problem, twice as many students as the year before. Sixteen hundred had to be accommodated on a campus that was built for 800.

The second semester, Shirk was designated as principal of Brookhurst that was under construction and due to open in the fall of 1956. He left his duties as vice principal and was replaced by William Moorhead who had been teaching at Western.

The athletic department was established with Bill Hicks as head football coach, assisted by Roy Merk, who headed the baseball team. Basketball was directed by William E. Walker, and Dave Messenger had the Junior-Varsity. Alvin Ashley had the track team.

Theron Jackman came this year as director of the band, which he developed into a fine musical group.

The third and last year of Western Junior High School, Wines was promoted to the District Office as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. Replacing him was Chester Shirk, who had been administering the newly opened Brookhurst, which was on double session on the Pioneer campus. When the campus on Brookhurst Avenue was completed enough for occupancy, the Spartans moved with Avon Carlson as principal.

Activities continued to grow on Western Avenue. Joan Kuhns took her girls' glee club to Disneyland to perform. Theron Jackman and his band marched in the Norwalk Parade, winning first place. There was a dance band on campus, directed by Leonard Ostwald, who also had an orchestra.

At Christmas the Westermettes bought toys for the children at Orange County Hospital, and the Westerners collected for the Marine Corps Drive of Toys for Tots.

The drill team, first known as the Toppers and later as the Silhouettes, were attracting much notice. They participated in a drill team competition for senior high schools. Although they were judged the best, they did not get the trophy because of their junior high school standing.

Football stars of the year were Jerry Taylor and Chris Vasquez, both of whom were also named best basketball players along with Dennis Painter.

Girls held their sports in GAA, coached by Shirley Lapier and Marjorie Cook, who had teams in volleyball, basketball, and softball.

According to the school paper, the most popular singer on the juke box selections was Pat Boone. His "Why Baby Why" was much in demand. In March the school had a "Big Switch Dance." The Stanton CHRONICLE sponsored a journalistic contest for the school to encourage interest in journalism as a class on campus. Editor Sharon Taylor wrote about too much

homework, while co-editor Irene Strelitz discussed knowledge as the essence of life. Richard Cormier, a feature editor, pointed out the low school spirit and the disregard for keeping trash picked up. Dorothy Brauner, homemaking teacher, had her cooking classes prepare some 1500 cookies for the Red Cross to give to the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach. A column on Flashin' Fashions told that flowers worn around a pony tail or on the clothes was the latest fashion. Sweaters and skirts with "bucks" (white buckskin shoes) were popular for cold weather, while cotton dresses and skirts worn with flats (flatheeled shoes) was for sunny times. The latest decoration on blouses and dresses was lace and ric-rac.

For the last graduation class, the speakers were Sharon McDaniel, Bob Holstron, and Steve Strelitz. Student Body President that year was Roger Aguinago.

The three years that Western Junior High School existed were important in the development of the District. That the administrators had all been Anaheim teachers (except Moorhead) brought a continuation of Anaheim traditions to the junior high school level. The faculty, however, were for the most part from out of the District, bringing new ideas and philosophies to the school. Thus, Western, along with Fremont, took on the attributes of a senior high school, while the senior highs emulated the junior colleges.

With the housing areas around Western being occupied by families that had moved into Southern California, the centralization of Anaheim was broken up, and new loyalties were created in the area around Beach Boulevard.

An interesting fact about those who were students at Western Junior High School is that some remained at the campus for six years, progressing as they should, and then were a part of the first graduation class of Western High School in 1960.



Western High School



The conversion of Western from a junior to a senior high school was a gradual process that began the fall of 1957. Only grades nine and ten were taught that first year. The ninth graders continued in the CORE program, while the tenth graders studied a curriculum similar to that offered the sophomores at Anaheim. For 1958-59, there were grades nine, ten, and eleven. The first year for a complete senior high school was 1959 with the first graduating class in June 1960.

The pioneer mascot and school colors of blue and white were retained from the junior high school days. Clubs that were already organized continued. The faculty and administration launched forth on a program in competition with the natural rival, Anaheim. The striving for excellence made both Western and Anaheim very competitive with other major high schools in Orange County.

High quality of academic work has marked the many years of Western High School. In May 1965, the Math Team won 12 trophies at Cerritos College in a field day there. Those who won first places were Bruce Troutman and Terence Lyle. Events were a chalk talk, leap frog relay, mad hatter marathon, brain teaser, and a slide rule game. In 1962, Camilla Kirkpatrick won first place in the annual essay contest sponsored by the Buena Park, Cypress, and Dairyland Board of Realtors. Her prize was a \$25 savings bond and her topic "The Home Is The Heart of The Nation."

May 1965, three Western seniors received awards at the AUHSD Spring Writers Workshop. Nina Goldman got third in poetry, Sue Anderson second in short story, and Mary Chisom honorable mention in short story. The same month, a team of boys won Sweepstakes at the Industrial Arts Rally at Fullerton Junior College. Lee Baxter, headed the department that eventually had nine full-time teachers who taught all phases of industrial arts. This same year, Chris Hoyt and Fritz Smith won the Southern California Plymouth Dealers Troubleshooting Contest, get-

ting a trip to Detroit to participate in the national competition. Richard Hoffman (Anaheim Class 1949) was named Orange County High School Industrial Education teacher for 1968-69.

Alex Encheff has been the choral director since 1958, when he established the tradition that is a symbol of the school, The Singing Christmas Tree, an annual part of the Holiday in Music. In 1965, Encheff and drama coach Caroline Brown produced the popular stage show OKLAHOMA, which starred Dottie Carlson, Bob Camp, and Dixie Whistler. Because Western had no large stage on campus, this production was given at Fremont Auditorium. Among the many interesting performances by the Pioneer vocalists was on December 7, 1976. Encheff took his A Cappella Choir to sing on the War Memorial at Pearl Harbor, where the Pioneers went at the invitation of the National Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

The band under Theron Jackman from 1955-65 became well known. Following Jackman, Tom Hrbacek led the band until 1978, when Paul Leonhart took over for one year. Since 1979, Arthur May has been the director.

Special events in the history of this popular group of musicians have been playing for half-time at Rams' football games, going to New York City to be in the Macey's Thanksgiving Parade, winning such tournaments as first place at Chaffey and Sweepstakes at the Los Altos half-time show (best music and best overall effect). One of the biggest thrills came when the spectators at the 1974 Band Spectacular gave the Pioneer Band a standing ovation. This group was also the only band invited to play for Emperor Hirohito of Japan, when he visited Disneyland. In April 1976, the Pioneers appeared on television as a part of Disneyland's "America on Parade." Then the fall of 1978, there was the fun of playing for the 50th birthday of Mickey Mouse.

The tradition of the drill team at Western started when the school was a junior high school and won a drill team

contest of senior high schools. Following the excellence of training given to the group by Helen Grunenfelder, the Silhouettes, accompanying the band on its many exciting trips, also had the pleasure of joining the Edison High School drill team of Fountain Valley for a trip to Moscow and Leningrad, where they performed on Soviet television. Following Mrs. Grunenfelder, drill team coaches have been Ruth Miyano and Margaret Eggertz. Janice Cook took over in 1967 with 60 girls. She and her husband have taken the girls on several trips: to the Calgary Canada Stampede with a side trip to the World Fair at Spokane, Washington; to celebrate the Bi-Centennial, the Cooks took 19 girls on a round the USA trip that had them in Washington, D.C., for the Fourth of July. The highlight of 1979 was a three-week tour of Japan.

Drama flourished beginning with Eugene Mitch (1959-63), who built the department to a high level of competition in the Southland. He affiliated his students with the National Thespian Society in 1962. Following the initiation, the group went to Los Angeles for a sneak preview of a new stage comedy, MARY, MARY. Carolyn Brown followed Mitch for six years, continuing in the same tradition. The much needed stage and theater seating at Western was finally built in 1975, just 21 years after the drama was started at the school. Called The Forum, the theater has modern equipment and a small enough "house" to make productions enjoyable. Prior to 1975, plays were given off campus or in the Pioneer Playhouse, a small portable structure that is no longer on campus.

One of the achievements of the last decade has been the production of student written plays, such as "On the Sixth Day God Created Me" by Alex Fogel and directed by student Trena Pickle. Winning Best Actor Award at the Long Beach Drama Festival in 1976 was Randy Skretvedt, who wrote a play for production on campus, "High School and Other Insults."

Doug Phelps coached drama until 1975. His leaving brought a lull in

dramatics. For 1977-78, Joy Maiville came to direct plays, giving the popular **THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK** and later **DAMN YANKEES**. Illness forced Mrs. Maiville to give up her directing of **OUR TOWN** in the fall of 1978. Her husband, David Maiville, formerly drama coach at Kennedy, substituted for her. Replacing Mrs. Maiville for the spring of 1979 was Mike McGinnis, who directed **CATCH 22**.

Western speech students were outstanding in Orange County tournaments under the tutelage of Peg Taylor, whose speciality was debate. In 1962, 11 of her students won awards and trophies at the Milliken Invitational Speech Tournament. Among them were John Dooley, Bob Fletcher, Frank Lange, and Don Hammons. First places individuals were given to Max Klein and Richard Foster.

Grad Night, a District tradition that sprang up in the mid-1950's, was initiated by a group of parents of Anaheim and Western. This night has a special meaning for the Pioneer campus, as it was here that the first Grad Night was held. The one for 1962 (June 14) began at nine in the evening with dancing and games. The theme, *Jungle Fantasy*, prompted the many luxuriant decorations that the committee used to change the gym into a wonderland. The Jimmy Henderson Orchestra played from 10 to 3 in the morning, followed by the Rhythm Rockers, a combo from Santa Ana College, that played until five. A buffet supper was served throughout the evening; then at five in the morning breakfast was available.

Prizes were a great attraction. In 1962, a late model "used" car was the grand prize, while lesser prizes were given throughout the evening. Tickets were five dollars each, covering the entire function. This was not a faculty sponsored affair. Few teachers were ever involved. It was an attempt by parents to make graduation night a loving memory for their children, instead of a nightmare, as the case had been for some graduates in previous years.

The first foreign exchange student came for the fall of 1959. As part of the American Field Service Program, Karen Wilderman of Sweden lived at the home of the Lee Sparks. Joel Poinis of Norway was at the home of the William Martins of Placentia. In 1966-67, Grace

Wickham of Western joined 64 other American students to go abroad for a year of living and studying. She was sponsored by the International Christian Youth Exchange. Grace lived in Woudschoter, Holland, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Klaus von Freeden. In exchange, Kurt Lorentzen of Denmark lived at the home of Grace's parents, the Paul Wickhams.

Among the many National Merit Scholars that this District has had, Jean Huntsman of Western was a scholar for 1972, the seventh year that the award was given. Other academic winners were Brenda Saucey (1976) and Diane Tinkham (1977). Both won a National Academy Achievement Award with trips outside the State to receive their trophies. In March 1979, James Brandenburg, a junior, received an invitation (no scholarship) to be in the Resident Honors Program at the University of Southern California. This opportunity allows a senior in high school to be on a college campus and earn credits for both his senior year in high school and his freshmen year in college.

The varied and interesting success story of Western athletics began in the fall of 1957 with football, coached by Roy Merk and Don Davis. Rivalry with Anaheim (the Co-Champs of the CIF the previous season) began at that time and has progressed through the years. Revenge came to the Pioneers in 1971 and again in 1972, when they defeated Anaheim, captured the prestigious Sunset League Title, and played in the CIF playoffs in the Los Angeles Coliseum. For 1971, the loss was to the very powerful Bishop Amat (37-21), a hard fought game that let the Pioneers know that they, too, were strong. Stars were quarterback Bob Acosta, running back Bob Dapper, and defensive men Dana Nafziger and Paul Charlton. The latter two were placed on the All-Orange County Team.

Many repetitions came the following season (1972) by going all the way to the CIF Finals. There the loss was to St. Paul (18-0). Many awards came to the Pioneers, however. Bob Acosta won the highest — CIF Player of the Year and placement on the All-American High School Team. Acosta and Paul Charlton were honored by the Anaheim BULLETIN early in 1980,

when they were named to the All-Decade Team, as the best offensive and defensive players (respectively) in Anaheim for the 1970's. Also, on the 1972 squad was another star player, Mike Bodkin, who took a coaching position at his alma mater in 1979.

Although the 1973, 1974, and 1975 seasons were not as successful, Britt Bell of the 1975 squad was named on the All-League Team.

When Coach Jim Everett moved to Savanna in 1979, Jim Howell took over as head coach at Western.

Pioneer football players who have distinguished themselves as alumni are Dana Nafziger, currently outside linebacker for the Tampa Buccaneers, coached by former USC mentor John McKay; John Hoffman, Pioneer end of 1961, played defensive tackle for the Washington Redskins; Doug Mooers was end with the Dallas Cowboys and later the New Orleans Saints.

While football was a source of much Pioneer spirit, baseball (centered around Coach Dave Hernandez, an AUHS graduate of 1946) had the most championships, 10 in 14 years. In the all powerful Sunset League, Western won the league title in 1962, 1963, 1969, and 1970 (1970 being Co-Champs with Anaheim). In 1963, the diamond boys were runner-up to Long Beach Poly in the CIF Finals. In 1970, Western made the CIF Record Book with the longest scoreless game in CIF history, by playing Keppel in 17 scoreless innings. In the replay, Western won 9-4.

Replacing Hernandez for 1970 through 1973 was Bill McIntire, who won a Sunset League Title in 1973. His 18-7 record was a result of such players as Mike Duffy and Rick Weeks, later signed to the Cleveland Indians organization as a catcher and first baseman.

Bob Flint coached baseball for 1974 and 1975, followed by Jack Pattison in 1976. Pattison's boys, Dave Evans and Ed Naglehout, were named to the Big A Empire Team in the Orange County All-Star game.

From the Pioneer baseball teams have come such major league players as Andy Messerschmidt (pitcher) who precipitated the Free Agent Rule in baseball, while he was with the Dodgers for the first time.

Wrestling was one of the first successful sports at this school. Don Davis developed the first team in 1959-60, winning 15 and losing four. Starring were Tom Horen and Gary Bennett, both of whom went to the CIF. It was Horan, who captured the big prizes, both the CIF and State in the 145 pound class.

In 1966, the wrestlers won the Sunset League with Paul Barba as captain. Ultimately, he won the CIF Title for the 115 pound class. His tournament record was very impressive with first places at Hawthorne, Fullerton Junior College, Five Counties, Sunset League, and CIF. His astonishing season record was 34 wins and no losses.

Coaching for the 1970-73 seasons was Bob Wilton. His 20 boys defeated Westminster 5-1 in 1970 for the Sunset Title, but they felt much competition from that school the next two years, when the Pioneers were runner-up. Wilton's last year as coach was 1973, when his 18 boys won the Sunset and went to the CIF.

Curtis Nichols was coach from 1974 to 1978, when Ron Crawford's boys had an undefeated season which took them to the CIF Finals.

Swimming and diving were popular at Western in the early years. Larry Andreason won the State Diving Meets of 1962 and 1963. Jeff Noch was given the All-American Interscholastic Swimming Team Award for his backstroke in 1966. Alumni of Western's water polo teams have done well at Cypress College. Chuck Samp as goalie broke many records at that school and earned him a number one ranking in the State. His records were broken by another Pioneer, Jim Armstrong, who had All-Freeway League honors while at Western. Grafton Weiss, team captain at Western, currently is an assistant coach of water polo and swimming at his alma mater.

Highest marks in track and cross country were in 1972, when Coach Bill Hiywka and his boys had an 8-1 record. The most satisfying win came with the 99-28 defeat of Anaheim, which had ranked number one, earlier in the season. Later, the Pioneers won the District Title. Stars were Steve Dyer (800 yard dash); Mark Rafter, Dan Porter, Gil Brito, and John Lenhart

(440 relay); and Porter, Rafter, and Lenhart (mile)—all District records that still stand.

The best of the cross country seasons were 1973 and 1975. In the latter year, the Pioneers took the District Championship. The star runners were Ken Kunzler (captain of his team for three years) who was named Most Valuable Player of 1978 and 1979.

A new sport came to this campus in 1974-75, soccer, introduced as a club; then by the next year, this sport was on the athletic calendar with Mikita Orloff as coach.

For 1957 to 1977, the girls on this campus participated in District Sports Day arranged on a Girls' Athletic Association schedule. During that 20 years, stars were not singled out in the various sports as they are now with participation in the California Interscholastic Competition.

Volleyball has been one of the biggest sports for the girls. Coached by Ouline Gregory, the teams made the CIF Playoffs for four consecutive years with two Freeway League titles in 1978 and 1979. Felicia Oliver was Most Valuable Player in the League for 1978. She with Margie Gesse and Liz Evans were on the league's First Team. In the CIF Playoffs, these girls lost in the second round, which placed them fourth in the AAA division. In the Millikan High School AAAA Tournament, the Pioneer girls took second place. Sandy Masuda, a junior, was named All-Tournament Player. In 1979, Liz Evans was the first girl in the Freeway League to be placed on the All-CIF Team.

Basketball in CIF competition began in 1971, but the first high honor came when Julie Wise was named to the CIF All Stars in 1976. For 1978, the 12-2 season placed Western second in the Freeway League and a chance in the CIF Playoffs. The following year, the girls were Co-Champs in the Freeway League.

Tennis has been popular with a first place win in the District for 1972. By the next year, there was a 6-0 record and another District Title. For 1977, the girls were in the Freeway League, placing third with a 10-4 record.

Competition in field hockey began at Western in 1977. Although the win-loss record was 0-6, that year Cindy Hamilton and Pat Audette were placed

on the All-Freeway League Team. The highest achievement in this sport was third place in the league in 1978.

Competitive badminton was started in 1977 also. That year the girls won second place in the league, the highest achievement, so far. Coaching the girls is Jenny Sammon.

In softball, Pioneer girls, coached by Ouline Gregory, began in 1971, when they reached their highest achievement, second place in the District Tournament. The next two years, the girls took first place in Consolation.

The physical change of the campus from a junior to a senior high was not until 1973-75. At a cost of \$1.6 million, much construction made the facility up-to-date. For the social studies department, offices and a lecture hall were built. The music department got rooms for the choral groups. Business education and math received classrooms. Central heating and cooling were installed. Automatic lawn sprinklers were added as part of the landscaping project. Two outstanding facilities were added to the campus: The Forum, an auditorium seating 350 with a stage and loft, and the Media Center, a tri-level space for study and research with the library.

The first faculty at Western consisted of 59 teachers. Among them were only seven who had opened Western Junior High School, three years earlier. They were Bert Bales and Muriel Wells in social studies; Helen Grunenfelder, Roy Merk, and William E. Walker in physical education; Joan Kuhns in music; and Richard Udry in CORE. From the last year of WJHS, 27 teachers made the transition to the senior high. The administrative staff was Chester Shirk (principal), Elizabeth Arnold and William Moorhead (vice principals), Frank Mattas (attendance counselor), and David Baarstad (counselor).

Roy Merk is the only teacher at Western today who has been at the school since it opened in 1954. His 26 years is seconded by Marjorie Cook, formerly of the physical education department and now a counselor who has been there only one year less.

Although the name "western" implies the western section of the District, the school has a more central location, which has made it a victim of

geography. While it was the only high school in the western area, there was a good mixture of social and economic groups. As each new high school opened, WHS suffered. Kennedy took many of the high achievers in 1964, followed three years later with another siphoning when Los Alamitos took the Rossmoor students. The leadership of the school was then taken over by the Japanese from 1967 until 1973, when Cypress opened and drained off another large group of students. To compensate for the loss of numbers, a portion of the Magnolia area (one not known for its high achievers) was reassigned to Western.

The late 1960's brought other troubles to Western. The "drug scene" was intense by 1968. The same year, a number of faculty that were discontented joined the American Federation of Teachers, stirring up dissonant voices.

Troublesome times were balanced, however, with fine achievements. Among the faculty and student body of 1971 there ran a feeling of success when the Pioneers beat Anaheim in football. The campus had been steamed up for a week, preparing for the game on Thursday night. T-shirts reading "Beat Anaheim" were seen everywhere. The day following the victory, a spontaneous spirit arose when Alex Encheff's choral group strolled out among the corridors, singing. The band soon followed. Teachers thinking that principal Bob Mohr had called a holiday, released their classes to join the procession. The parade wound out onto Orange Avenue and turned up Western Avenue, led by the Student Body President. Mohr recalls the sigh of relief that he felt when he saw the crowd turn into the school parking lot, rather than go on up to Lincoln, where traffic and students could not mix. After a short rally, the celebrants returned peaceably to their classes with happy memories to tuck in the recesses of their minds.

Later that day, some students took one of the T-shirts, inked in "We" above "Beat Anaheim" and went to Knott's Berry Farm, where they dressed the Pioneer statue.

Other thrilling times were the two games played in the Los Angeles Coliseum for AAAA Division CIF Finals in

football.

Traditions that have a long life at Western are the school emblem and the Alma Mater. Both were a part of the first year. The emblem is a large blue "W" topped with a Conestoga wagon, symbolizing pioneer courage, and encircled with twelve scallops that are emblematic of a complete education. The Senior Circle with a six-sided bench represents the first six years of the school (it was the sixth year when the first senior class was on campus). A bronze plaque that was embedded in the first hallway was the first of those that have been put there each year since.

Senior Class gifts, a typical American tradition, has been at Western through the years. The Class of 1961 presented the school a clock; the Class of 1962, the Pioneer Seal; the Class of 1963 planted a \$500 tree in the center of the Senior Circle.

The Class of 1965 was the first to design its own class ring. The Pioneer Gate and Park were established by the Class of 1966, inspired by a tradition of 300 years at Brown University.

The first county fair of the school was originated by the Class of 1967. The next year, the seniors expanded the idea, moved it to the athletic field, and held it for two days.

Administrators at Western have been Principals Chester Shirk (1957-62), Avon Carlson (1962-68), Robert Mohr (1968-72), Verne Horton (1972-78), and Martin Martelli since 1978. Assistant principals have been Elizabeth Arnold (five years), William Moorhead (one), John McGrew (three), Al Nelson (six), Norma Lee Elliott (five), Miles Brakke (two), Herb Roesener (nine), Martin Martelli (six), Erlend Eberhard (two), Anthony Ortega (seven), Flint Morrison since 1974, Leland Hanson (four), and Jene Mangan (three).

On the current faculty are several who have taught in the District for 20 or more years: Roy Merk (1954) physical education and coaching; Marjorie Cook (1955) physical education and counseling; Richard Hoffman (1955) industrial education; Carlin Coffman (1959) physical education, and coaching; Alex Encheff (1958) music; Ouline Gregory (1958) physical education; Jack Hoskins (1959) science; George Roussos (1957) math at Anaheim and

Western; Martin Martelli (1959) math at Orangeview, District Attendance Counselor at Savanna, Magnolia, and Western. Assistant principal at Western and Kennedy, principal at Kennedy and Western; Harold L. Irvine (1959) English at Western; Douglas R. Bennett (1959) math at Orangeview and Western.

Retired from the faculty are Myrtle Starr (1956-62) CORE at Brookhurst, math and special education at Western; Francis Sturgis (1955-1964) math at Western JHS and H.S.; Muriel Wells (1954-65) substitute CORE at Brookhurst, math and special education at Western; Genevieve Browne (1955-68) art at Western; Beatrice Griffin (1954-72) librarian at Fremont and Western; Howard Hovey (1955-75) English at Anaheim, District Curriculum Consultant, librarian at Western. Hazel Lindquist (1958-76) CORE, English, and reading at Orangeview, reading at Magnolia and Western; Avis Spencer (1955-76) nurse at Western; Louella Rodgers (1954-77) English at Fremont and Western; Florence Jones (1957-1977) social science and English at Western; Ralph Rothrock (1962-76) English and journalism at Western. Retired 1977. Paula Cota (1961-78) counselor at Anaheim and Western; Leland Hanson (1949-78) agriculture and student activities director at Anaheim, assistant principal at Walker and Western; Lee Baxter (1958-80) industrial education at Western; Francis Murphy (1958-80) social science at Anaheim, math and social science at Western.

Four teachers died while on the staff. The first was Joseph Scott (1957-60) English and social studies and coaching; Norton Feldman (1963-64) social science; Vincent Caruana (1967-73) industrial education; Wayne Held (1973-74) science.

The list of long-time classified employees is headed by Rosemary Odermatt (1954) clerk at Western JHS, Orangeview, Magnolia, Katella, District Office, and Western; Vernon Barker (1958) custodian; Maximilian Buczynski (1962) custodian at Western; Walter Fenimore (1963) custodian at Western; Arcola Perona (1966) custodian at Western; Karna Campbell (1961) clerk at Walker, Savanna, and Western; Geneva Goss (1961) foods at Anaheim, Pine, and Western; Jesse Madrigal

(1960) custodian at Walker, Oak, Apollo, and Western

Of the classified that have retired from Western, Rosemary Howery was the first (1955-1971) in foods, manager at Western from 1966-71; Pauline Tucker (1956-71) matron; Charles Flynn (1956-72) fieldman and equipment manager; Frank Biafore (1961-72) custodian at Anaheim and head custodian at Western; Gerald Dowling (1960-74) custodian; Porphee Castillo (1957-75) fieldman at Western; Marjorie Glenn (1961-78) baker at Western; Geraldine Witwer (1962-79) clerk at Loara, secretary at Orangeview, District, and Western; William T. Brown (1959-72) custodian at Western; Ella Mae Woods (1960-80) foods at Western; Christine Kinser (1964-80) foods at Savanna and Western; Bernice Boak (1961-80) library clerk at Western.

Of the many Western alumni who

have had success, one is Lee McLain, who has worked in the movies and television, especially in APPLE'S WAY. Al Gagnano teaches English at Los Alamitos. His wife Sharon teaches physical education at Magnolia. Paul Barba is a lawyer, having attended Harvard Law School. Bob Flint teaches physical education at Cypress. Dayna Benson won the National Junior Women's Golf Tournament the year that she was graduated from Western, 1974.

Student body presidents for Western High School have been Frank Ramsey (1956-60), Don Horn (1960-61), Tim Ingram (1961-62), Dave Steele (1962-63), Jim Shaffer (1963-64), Greg Sprecher (1964-65), Lea Nibblink (1965-66) (killed in Viet Nam), Norm Reed (1966-67), Rick Dortch (1967-68), Jeff Shank (1968-69), Chris Lyon (1969-70), Dan

Iwata (1970-71), Bill Jeffery (1971-72), Alan Kiyohara (1972-73), Joey Little (1973-74), James Miyake (1974-75), Mike Mattox (1975-76), Margie Love (1976-77), Kevin Cadabone (1977-78), Ron Warren (1978-79), and Manuel Verdugo (1979-80).

As this history ends, misfortune visited the Pioneer campus when fire destroyed the administration building on November 18, 1979. Disgruntled former students were believed to have been the arsonists. Then two weeks later, others of the same persuasion set fire to the remaining structures on the front of the campus. Plans are to rebuild the much needed offices for administrators and counselors.

With the ninth grade becoming a part of the senior high school in the fall of 1980, the Pioneers are hoping for a rejuvenation of their old spirit and achievements.

