Happy birthday, Cleveland High School

You've had a long and eventful life

By Don Duncan ('43)

The glistening new Grover Cleveland Junior-Senior High School that awaited students and teachers as they hiked up the hill from Georgetown back in 1927 has changed more than a little. The junior high school is gone. The bricks are grey and some are chipped. There have been additions— not counting outbuildings and portables—at both ends. And there are signs at several entrances promising the school is a gun-free zone.

Not surprisingly, the interior looks as if a lot of young people have trooped through its halls, written on its blackboards and climbed its stairs.

But 70-year-olds are supposed to have a few infirmities. And as public structures go, Cleveland has held up rather well.

That the school was ever built is a miracle.

That it still is in the business of educating young people on the edge of the most industrialized area of the largest city in the state is an even greater miracle.

Like many of us, Cleveland is a survivor.

To those who were there at the start, and to the thousands who followed, this is how the school began, how it grew and how it manages to hang on in the '90s.

For years, whenever the South End asked for its own high school, the Seattle School Board politely responded that there weren't enough young people in the area to warrant their own school.

But by the early 1920s, South End PTAs and Improvement Clubs became increasingly vocal. The little high school that had been crammed into the top floor of Georgetown Elementary School was far from adequate. Furthermore, students from South Park and the west side of Beacon Hill were crossing overcrowding at Queen Anne, West Seattle, Broadway and Franklin high schools.

Although getting up at 5 a.m. to catch an early streetcar across town had become a way of life for many South End teenagers, an increasing number were dropping out of school because of the inconvenience.

In time, the we-want-our-own-school forces were joined by the powerful voice of Thomas Cole, then Seattle's superintendent of schools. In 1923, Cole sat down with the school board and said, "Gentlemen, it is time we take another look at the need for a South End high school."

The all-male school board listened as Cole laid out the pros and cons, and for the first time in history, the board did not consider a contract bill.

To further inform that there would be enough students, the superintendent proposed including a two-year junior high school in the new building, making it a six-year educational facility.

The school board bought the idea, and it was agreed that the outpost students for the new high school would be drawn from Georgetown, Maple, Concord, Van Asselt and South Seattle elementary schools and housed, temporarily, on the second floor of the Georgetown Elementary School.

Seventy students showed up in the fall of 1924 and were greeted by a principal, H.N. Gridley, who had been teaching history at Cleveland.

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Johnny Cherberg was only three years out of the University of Washington, where he majored in business administration, marketing and education, when he coached Cleveland High School to its first and only all-city football championship in 1937.

Cherberg, who had picked up the nickname "Cowboy" as a football and baseball star at Queen Anne High School (Class of '29), played halfback and quarterback for the Huskies.

One year after winning the championship, Cherberg left Cleveland to coach football and teach at Queen Anne. After a succession of winning seasons, he was hired in 1949 to coach the freshman team at the University of Washington.

In 1953, he was a popular choice to succeed Ralph "Pete" Welch as head coach of the Huskies. Two years later, a handful of football players staged a revolt, saying Cherberg was too hard on them and not accessible enough to players.

Cherberg named Jim Sutherland, an assistant coach, and Roscoe "Torchy" Torrance, a prominent fund-raiser for Husky sports, as likely sources of the players' unrest, both denied it. Nevertheless, Sutherland was ousted.

The university's board of regents appeared to support Cherberg, despite student demands that he be fired, and it appeared the trouble was over; it wasn't.

In 1956, athletic director Harvey Cassil suddenly announced Cherberg's firing. Cherberg, who felt he had been betrayed, responded by blowing the whistle on a secret athletic slush fund, administered by Torrance and well known to Cassil.

In the resulting furor, Torrance was barred from the campus and Cassil resigned.

Cherberg may have done Cherberg the biggest favor of his life. Always popular with the public, the former coach and civic teacher ran for lieutenant governor as a Democrat later that year and won handily.

Always a skillful speaker, he became a masterful parliamentarian who was reelected seven times, holding the office of lieutenant governor — just one step below the governor — for more years (35) than any other person in the nation's history.

Cherberg was born Oct. 17, 1910, in Pensacola, Fla. He was a member of the Washington State World's Fair Committee for the Century 21 Exhibition in 1962. He also served as chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors.

Cherberg's widow, Betty, is with us today, along with their daughter Kay Cherberg Cohrs, who taught at Cleveland just as her father had.

Max Starcevich was fresh out of the University of Washington, where he had been named to the 1936 all-American football team, when he became assistant coach of the Cleveland High School team that won the city football championship in 1937.

When head coach Johnny Cherberg left Cleveland to coach at Queen Anne in 1939, Starcevich became head coach, continuing to teach U.S. history and Contemporary Problems.

Starcevich grew up and played his high school football in Duluth, Minn. He was recruited to play for the Huskies by a Chicago physician (Dr. Strass) who became famous for sending strapping farm boys and miners' sons — whose names ended in "ski" and "vich" — to the University of Washington.

Starcevich earned top grades as well as all-West Coast honors throughout his Husky career.

In 1936, he was a guard on the national championship team that lost to Alabama in the Rose Bowl, 20-19.

Starcevich returned to Cleveland through the spring of 1945 (he was succeeded as head coach by Jimmy Ennis), transferring to

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Videotapes of celebration available

For those who enjoy reliving memories, a two-hour videotape of highlights of Cleveland's 70th Birthday party will be available through Ken's Video, of Sumner.

Ken Denivan promises to capture on film, the music, interviews with alumni and former teachers, interior and exterior shots of the school, the assembly, the sock hop and the re-created "Walk Up the Hill."

The total cost is $21.95 for orders received within 30 days (postmarked by Oct. 27). After 30 days, the cost will rise to $25.

To be sure to specify "Cleveland High School's 70th Anniversary" on your order.

Make checks payable to Ken's Video, 22616 Cedarview Drive E., Sumner, WA 98390.

For further information on Ken's Video, call (360) 897-8586.
In 1910, the Rev. Mark Matthews, the anti-fighting preacher who made Seattle’s First Presbyterian Church the largest in the nation, sent the Rev. J. C. South Park-Georgetown area as “the cesspool of Seattle,” according to “That Wild Frontier” (1901), by June Peterson Robinson (42). South Park was the site of the Meadows Race Track. Georgetown had the town’s largest brew- estery, half a dozen roadhouses, and on almost every corner of the business dis- trict.

George to Seattle didn’t help much. Shortly after, Georgetown became home to the county poor farm. Beacon Hill didn’t fare much better. In its early days, it was the site of the city’s poorhouse, and plans to build the city’s major in- ation of higher learning there (that’s how “University Street” got its name) fell through.

Hiram Pratt, long-ago Clevel- land math teacher, left the school in the spring of 1914 and moved to Captain Prather C.C. C.C. Camp No. 561, in Glenburn, Ohio. Pratt wrote to say that he thought the young men were doing worthwhile work and he was especially pleased that their wages ($1 a day) were being home to their parents to help them cope with the Depression. Pratt later returned to Clevel- land as a highly respected teacher.

One of the most popular classes in 1935 was William Maginnis’ dancing class, held in the gymnasium. On date nights, boys showed up in coat sweaters, clean cords, white shirts and ties, and the girls arrived in stylish school dresses (skirts, blouses and sweat- ers), plus their best long stockings. Maginnis, the boys’ physical- education teacher, usually asked one of the school’s many female piano players to bring sheet mu- sic and play such popular tunes of the day as “Red Sails in the Sun” and “That’s an Old Spinning Wheel in the Parlor.”

With Principal Grizzle acting as a chauffeur, Maginnis would line up the boys on one side of the room and the girls on the other and direct the boys to pick a partner. Few would move.

Maginnis would then order the two lines to walk toward each other. When the students reached a member of the opposite sex, that would be their partner. If more girls than boys showed up, as usu- ally happened, some of the girls would have to dance with each other.

In an interview printed in The Cleveland Journal, most of the boys said they were taking the dance classes “just to please their mothers happy.” The girls declined comment.

Roosevelt High School as a his- tory teacher.

Where Roosevelt left Queen Anne to coach the freshman team at the University of Washington, he asked Storrs to be his as- sistant for one season. Storrs agreed, continuing to complete the full schedule of high school classes.

Storrs never again coached football. He did return to the school a few years later to love watching and stum- med the boxing ring by knock- ing out Freddie Steele.

Al Hostak.

Steele, in 1942, the first round, thus, be- coming the new NBA middleweight- weight champion of the world. Former heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey, who refereed the bout, proclaimed Hostak the “hardest hitter for his weight I have ever seen.”

It has been nearly 60 years since the “Pro Football area’s fight of the century,” but for those who were alive at the time the memory remains Hostak was vice- principal at Seattlath.

Seven years later, led up with being a parade commander, Storrs returned to his first and only love: the classroom. He spent one year at the school and seven years at Lincoln, teaching his beloved his- tory and Contemporary Problems classes before retiring in 1973.

In 1973, Max and Esther became active in environmental causes, particularly those relating to the nuclear-submarine base at Bangor.

Before his death, he was honored by the University of Washington for being on the 50 All-American football team. And in the fall of 1990 — a few months after his death — he was named to coach the men’s non-

The Cleveland Journal

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Along with their annual dues, many who replied to the March Alumni Association newsletter included donations, letters and answers to the following “Bid for Immortality” questions:

E.M. Nist, of Tacoma, donated to the alumni fund in memory of his wife, Carolina, who died last year at 79.

Nist, himself a West Seattle High School graduate, said he and Caroline Tarp, a former Miss Maple Hill, were married in 1936 at her parents’ home on 42nd Avenue South on the street from Cleveland High School.

Betty Harney Pieren (’35) donated to the Cleveland Forest in the memory of her parents, a classmate who recently died.

Ed Jensen (’48), who started at end in the All-City vs. All-State football game in August 1948, sent a sizable donation from Hoodport, where he lives with his wife, Erlyn, a 1951 graduate of Cleveland High School ("Rick — his description of Franklin, not ours.

Ed teamed with Roland Doneen and Bob Rua, who was just a freshman at the time, to win first place in the "all-winners" relays at the 1948 all-city track carnival.

Along with a donation to the alumni fund, Joecri Willie Orrutt (’27), of Solvang, Calif., noted that her late brother Raymond Willers (’29) and her late sister Carolyn Willers (’31) all took courses at the new Cleveland High school.

Florence Fitzgerald Lungahl, of Seattle, sent her note with her contribution to the association: "Call me if you need any old people to help out.

Florence graduated 69 years ago, in the class of ’28.

Mary Catherine "Kay" Ward Anderson, of Seattle, said her graduate parents (’29) were very active since 1981, giving $4,000 in scholarships to Cleveland graduates.

Jean Zandt Lasセき (’56) reports that her sister, Violet Zandt Meinzinger (’48), of Mercer Is­land, typed the original "Dawumish Diary," their mother, Anna Kucherski Zandt "walked up the hill" in 1927; and their father, Al Zandt, cast the bronze plaques in Cleveland’s halls.

The school — designed by Floyd Naramore, the district’s main architect — would cost the tax-exempt sum of $750,000. Construction on the first phase (the west side of the building) began in 1925 and was completed in December 1926; the second phase (the east hallway) began in February 1927 and was completed in December of that year.

I was tentatively decided to name the school Woodrow Wilson High School-Junior Senior High School; in honor of the President who led the nation during World War I.

Almost immediately a protest was launched by the large Repub­lican contingent on the school board. It wasn’t just that Wilson was a Democrat, they said, but he had been president too recently and been too controversial for his name to be attached to a new school.

A compromise was called for. Democrats and Republicans met and settled on Grover Cleveland, the 22nd President, to serve one separate four-year term.

It was a departure for Woodrow, but his time in office was far enough in the past to be acceptable to the Republicans.

And so it is that the new school, Cleveland Junior-Senior High School, opened on Jan. 3, 1927, right after Christmas.

H.N. Gridley, who led the "Walk Up the Hill" parade, was the longest tenure: 12 years (1927 through 1938).

There was no vice principal until 1939, when Ray A. Imus was ap­pointed to the pos­ition.

Imus had the longest stay of any of the school’s administrators: 26 years (1939 through 1964).

Gridley was succeeded as prin­cipal by Heber D. Johnson in 1939, the same year Imus arrived as vice principal. In 1941, Johnson was succeeded by Kenneth Selig, whose five years as principal were the "golden age" of the Cleveland Memorial Forest with money from the graduating class of 1943.

Selig’s successor was Homer Davis, who spent nine years as principal (1946 through 1954).

Harry L. Garrison took over from Davis in 1954 and stayed through 1962.

Then came Lore Ralph, who served for six years in 1963.

When Ralph left in ’64, Imus also retired as vice principal, cre­ating the first vacancy in that po­sition.

When classes began in the fall of 1965, Cleveland was 37 years old. During that time, there had been six principals and one vice principal.

In the next 33 years — up to the school’s 70th anniversary — nine principals and 18 vice principals will be named.

Stability appeared to be re­stored in 1994, with the appoint­ment of Tamar Doggett. Howard served two years as vice principal and one year as acting principal before being appointed to the top job.


From 1928 Cleveland Journal: "Will Tell" — a burlesque of the William Tell story — was the first operetta staged in the new auditorium.

"Ava’s Emily Krose won ribbons at the Redmond Fair, a blue rib­bon for an embroidered cushion set, a red ribbon for a pair of hand­worked pillow slips and a white ribbon for a fancy tea towel. She also won a blue ribbon at the Puyallup Fair for her po­wdered wigs.

From 1928 Cleveland Journal: "Will Tell" — a burlesque of the William Tell story — was the first operetta staged in the new audi­torium.

"Ava’s Emily Krose won ribbons at the Redmond Fair, a blue rib­
How to negotiate the minefields of a reunion

By Don Duncan (’43)

Once, in the long ago, the week before Christmas was an "eternally," and the face of the big clock on the classroom wall seemed to smile, but our impatience, as I ticked away the minutes with glacial slowness on the last day of school.

Today, of course, time passes so quickly that years and even decades become all jumbled together, like waves of Play Doh.

As one who now frequently turns life’s telescope hindside to look past the present to some distant feature, here are some observations about reunions reflected:

"Good grief, everyone in the room looks old. I can’t be this old, can I? Maybe I made a mistake and this is the wrong class?" You have just been described to the Virtually-Everyone-Has-Aged-More-Than-I Syndrome. All the other folks in the room are thinking the same thing. It will pass.

"After a few minutes with a person you haven’t seen for a long time, it’s usually the voice and the mannerisms — rather than the face — that seem most familiar.


She: "No, you don’t. I didn’t go to that school. That’s my husband over there.

Male’s eyes follow hers to Jumbo Smith, former 6-4, 275-pound, football star who now looks much larger. Funny, you never did have much in common with the football players in the room.

He: "Well, nice meeting you. Gotta go now."

Female thinking: ‘There’s Herbie over there, still telling jokes, still skipping the ball — the same fellow I dated a few times in high school. Isn’t it amazing how personalities seem frozen in time. Am I sorry I didn’t wind up marrying him? Ha!’

Further facts of reunion life: "The human mind is equipped with a remarkable filtering system that kicks in at about age 50, removing virtually all bad thoughts about teachers and fellow students."

For purposes of this column, I looked through three anthologies of poetry and came across this silly poem in a pocket-book edition. I had remembered it correctly.

I was ready for poems of praise. What I heard was quite the opposite.

Unfortunately, the poem doesn’t ring true. The net result of Mr. Snyder’s little joke with “Trees” is that I have no desire to add my writing material, however admired, without a certain amount of skepticism.

Other teachers also left their mark. I remember another English teacher, Miss Margareta Rainie, as the most demanding and the kindest, although she had a reputation as a bit of a lass.

Mr. Stackebruch was truly inspiring. The fact that I loved history and still have a crush on him did not alter the fact that he was an exceptional teacher — someone I would have liked to have been associated with.

I was terrified of Mr. Hiram Pratt for a long time, until he passed me in algebra, which I did not deserve, but the system still makes no sense to me.

And I cordially disliked Miss Weller’s girls’ physical-education class — gym being my favorite subject.

For my memory — or worse — what I heard of the beginning in the Pacific war when the two Japanese girls who would have been valid for the plebeian and satiristic ranks of the class of ‘42, disappeared into this at just a couple of months before.

We had been classmates through junior and senior high school. They were really good people, and I cried every week when I passed Nao Okuda’s house on the bus trip. I didn’t eat there, unattended and decaying, as was dragged on."

Trivia

Cleveland’s yearbook is named Aquila because “Aquila” means “eagle” in Latin.

The first yearbook, in 1926, was called Cleveland Spirit.

There was no name on the cover again until 1934, when Capita appeared for the first time.

When Cleveland was dedicated in 1927, Horace Van Win-

ker purchased school with a soil painting titled “Venice,” by Paul Guindon. The painting still hangs in the principal’s office.

In 1939 — two years prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor — Cleveland’s annual operaetta was Gilbert & Sullivan’s “Mikado,” directed by Mr. Stackebruch.

Although “Mikado” was a huge success, it was never again performed at Cleveland.

The stained-glass window at the school over the middle of the school’s doors, was designed and made by Ted Ihsada, former head of the school’s arts department.
Cleveland Forest cause of debate

Back in 1944, Cleveland principal Ruralk Schley paid $800 to a King County tax agent to buy a little more than 160 acres of forest land. The money had been raised by Cleveland's classes of 1943 and 1944 as a memorial honoring former Cleveland students killed in World War II.

A year later, realizing he could not develop the property on his own, signed a quiet deed and transferred it over to the Seattle Chapter. Development has been minimal — the area has some trails, a few buildings were erected and a plaque bearing the name of those who died in World War II was affixed to a large rock.

The most frequent users of the forest in recent years have been Garfield High School students, because of the investment of Margaret Wathome, who held classes in the area, which included Cleveland High School. That manuscript, published in 1949 as "Dwumdi Diary," covered the history of the area from the time of Native Americans and early pioneers through World War II.

In the ensuing months, the Seattle School Board took a greater interest in the forest than it had for more than 50 years, agreeing with the Alumni Association that the name "Cleveland" should continue to identify the forest, that the "Masonic" aspects of the forest should be broadened to include the school's war dead from all wars, that new buildings should be erected and that the forest should be used by more students.

With the help of Tom Hudson, a curriculum is being developed for environmental classes. And this past April, the first in-service day was held at the forest for prospective teachers.

The school board also proposed a nonprofit organization be set up to accept funds and run the forest for its original purpose. The nonprofit organization would include Cleveland High School alums, the school's principal, school board members and students from schools throughout the district.

In late April, a judge dismissed the lawsuit. Consequently, the forest will be open to the public. However, the future of the forest is still in doubt.

"Dwumdi Diary II"

Back in the late 1940s, students at Cleveland High School — under the direction of Margaret Wathome — wrote and edited the manuscript for a history of the Great Cleveland area, which included Cleveland High School. That manuscript, published in 1949 as "Dwumdi Diary," covered the history of the area from the time of Native Americans and early pioneers through World War II.

A few years ago, Georgia Kumor, Cleveland's librarian, conceived the idea of having present-day students write a sequel to the first book, covering the same area from the 1950s through the 1970s. "Dwumdi Diary II" was started several years ago and is still in progress.

Don Duncan ('43), retired newspaperman, received a grant from the Seattle Arts Commission to assist the students in preparing this manuscript. Meanwhile, the original "Dwumdi Diary," with a new introduction by Duncan, has been reprinted by Tony Ferrucci ('38), who ran Art Print Co. In South Park for many years. The book may be purchased for $15 through the Cleveland High School Library.

Thanks to Don and Pat Clifford and Roy and Lois Olson for updating our records.

Fish & Roses: Teaching by doing

You can't spend much time in the Tallow Hills today without hearing about the Fish & Roses project, an innovative teaching program designed to blend education with income-producing work. Fish & Roses is pretty much what the name implies: two related projects: growing a freshwater fish (called tilapia) in tanks at the school and marketing them; then using waste water from the aquaculture center to fertilize roses and other flowers in nearby beds.

The new aquaculture center — several years in the planning and building — was opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in November 1986. The entire operation is to be handled by students, who will rear the fish, market them and grow well-fertilized flowers, which also may be marketed. The students also are responsible for cleaning the center's two fish tanks and weeding the gardens.

Most of the school's curricular has become involved in the Fish & Roses program, said principal Ted Howard, whose dream is to transform Cleveland into a nationwide model for inner-city schools.

Students in shop class helped design the aquaculture center. Marine-biology students care for the fish. A marketing class is involved in sales and students in English classes have written about the project and researched the history of the fish (tilapia) with the strange-sounding name. Fish & Roses has created a lot of enthusiasm among students and faculty, but it also has required no public funds. Area businesses — with a big boost from Costco and Boeing — and the state chapter of an organization called Communities in Schools, came up with $700,000 in cash and free labor needed to build the aquaculture center.

Miscellany

Most people now living in the United States have no memory of smallpox, a dreaded disease prior to the smallpox vaccine. A 1935 issue of The Cleveland Journal brings home the tragedy of the disease with this item:

"Many Cleveland students and teachers mourned the death of Vincent Evans, a former Cleveland student, who died last Friday of infantile paralysis. Vincent is to be remembered as a student at the '33 graduation. He was also a member of the Honor Society and French Club. He was in hospital for four years and played in the orchestra (in his freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years, as well as participating in the Vodva as a senior). He also held the position of sports editor and feature editor of The Journal. "Before his death, he had been studying classics at the University of Washington, where he was majoring in chemistry."

..." In 1934, Vera Hylton, Brussels, Arthur Horn, violinist, and George Kumpf, bass violinist, were chosen to play in the All-City Orchestra.
1976 Eagles basketball team called state’s all-time best by Seattle Times

Cleveland High School’s 1976 basketball team, which won the state AA championship after winning the state AA championship the previous year, recently was named by The Seattle Times as the finest prep basketball team in state history.

Although the Eagles lost one game that season, to go 23-1, they were rated ahead of the ‘74 Garfield Bulldogs (24-0); Mercer Island’s 1985 team, led by Quinn Snyder (28-1); Everett’s 1941 team (29-0), so dominating that it won the state championship game 64-19; Davie’s 1965 team, and the 1980 Garfield Bulldogs (25-0), which coach Al Hairson felt was one of his best.

Cleveland’s lone loss in ’76 was to Lin- cola, of Tacoma, the defending state AAA champs, in the second game of the season. The Eagles avenged that all-state final game of the season when, with just seven seconds left, Carl Ervin, Cleveland’s all-state point guard, sank an 18-foot jumper to clinch a 42-41 victory at the Seattle Center Coliseum.

Those Eagles were not just a one-season wonder. They had won the state AA championship the previous year, blowing out Mark Morris in the final, 77-57, and finishing the season 27-0.

Even though Cleveland was a small school, even by AA standards, coach Fred Harrison felt the team had the ability to step up to AAA the next year.

His faith was justified. In two years — 1975 and 1976 — the Eagles were 50-1.

Cleveland was led by center Jawann Oldham, 7-0; forwards James Woods, 6-8, and Eli Carter, 6-3, and guards Ervin, 6-1, and Brad Bowser, 6-1, Robert Keller, 6-2, was the main rebounder.

The reserves were known as the “Blue Bandits.” Four members of the ’76 team went on to play Division I college basketball. Ervin, who twice made the all-state first team and still holds the AAU tournament assist mark (35), was selected for the mythical all-state, first-team basketball team by the same coaches and sports writers who felt the Eagles were the best prep team of all time.

Named to the first team along with Ervin were Detlef Schremp (Centralia), who plays for the SuperSonics of the NBA; James Edwards (Boise State), who played 19 years in the NBA; Steve Hawes (Mercer Island), who played for the University of Washington and then in the NBA; and Clint Richardson (O’Dea), Seattle University and

The NBA.

Cleveland’s Oldham, named to the all-time second team, played at Seattle U and then in the NBA and CBA.

Ervin, Woods, Oldham and Carter played summer ball in ’76 on a Seattle team that took second in a national tournament, losing by one point to a New York team that had several future NBA players.

Cleveland’s all-time basketball team came together at Asa Mercer Junior High School, in Frank Ahern’s physical-education class.

When the youngsters moved on to Cleveland, Ahern followed them as an assistant coach to Harrison.

Victor Yoshida, a Cleveland graduate, wrote a story about Cleveland’s all-time team for The Seattle Times earlier this year.

The athletes he spoke were so amazed at how swiftly 20 years had passed, and they fondly recalled eating patty melts and fries at Louis’s and attending movies, in Oldham’s Fairlane, at the old Lewis & Clark Drive-In theater.

Yoshida noted that a major difference between the 1976 players and those of today is that “shorts have gotten longer and the socks shorter.”

Cowboy Johnny honored with weight room

One of the newest additions to Cleveland is the Cowboy Johnny Cherberg weight room, honoring the memory of the man who coached the Eagles to their only all-city football championship, back in 1937.

The weight room, opened for use in 1994, is in the locker room of the old girls gym. Although it is used by the physical education department and by athletes in all varsity sports, football coach Hoover Hopkins said, “Those playing football use it the most.”

John and Betty Cherberg called upon Eddie Blakely, an all-city player on the ’37 team, to spearhead fund-raising for the weight room.

Coach Hopkins describes it as “an ongoing project...still needing money for more equipment.”

Blakely, who was to have been honored at the 70th-anniversary celebration, passed away in May.

The following list of names were compiled from plaques and trophies on display on the main floor.

If there are omissions, accept our apologies and take time to notify the Cleveland High Alumni Association so the records can be set right. It is our hope that the Alumni Association — rather than atlas, basements and other tricky memories — eventually will be the repository for important Cleveland High School memories.

CHAMPIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALL-CITY FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1937

John A. Cherberg, coach
Matt Singo, end; coach
Eddie Blakely, center
Bill Friesen, end
Don Harvey, tackle
Bill Jones, guard
Boyce Lamb, backfield
Ken Asdourian, end
Dick Moyer, center
Jack McLean, tackle
Dut McMullen, guard
Dave Perry, backfield
Cherone Rath, backfield
George Richardson, end
Jim Rosener, end
Bob Rundell, tackle
Andy Thomas, end
Bennie Thomas, end
Joe Utley, guard
Harry Williams, tackle
Bill York, end
Mauri Zanazani

ALL-CITY HALF-MILE TRACK CHAMPION 1942

George Petree, coach
Robert Griffin

ALL-CITY BASEBALL CHAMPIONS 1942

Newport, coach
Ed Lando, 2nd; coach
Jim Bogan, catcher
Dick Bronson, pitcher
Warren Carlin, catcher
Jim Collins, 2nd; coach
Ron Fray, pitcher
Bob Gudzic, pitcher
Bob Henry, pitcher
Vic Ingram, catcher
Ken Kue, pitcher
Don Minter, pitcher
Don Moscone, pitcher
Dave Pearson, pitcher
Shane Swanson, pitcher
Bob Upp, pitcher
Bruce Willings

ALL-CITY TENNIS DOUBLES 1943

Jack Dolezal, coach
Quin Clary and Max Clary

ALL-CITY BOYS TRACK & FIELD 1947

Howard Grant, coach
Dick Bascom, coach
Dorin Lamb, 1st; coach
George Honey, 2nd; coach

ALL-CITY TENNIS CHAMPIONS 1958

Jack Dolezal, coach
Tom Jones, erg
Jerry Ahl
Joe Alu
David Averett, coach
Lana Chis, coach
Mara Chis
Jerry Kiel
Jim McConnell
Allan Moford
At Wolf
Richard Yoo

CITY TENNIS DOUBLES CHAMPIONS 1963

Fred Jacobs, coach
Charles Chinn and Sherman Wuu

METRO TRACK CHAMPIONS 1963

Bill Fleissner, coach
John Richardman, assistant coach
Andra Young, 2nd; coach
Tim Higgins, 3rd; coach

METRO BASKETBALL SOUTHERN DIVISION 1964

Bob Pahley, coach
Paul Walter, assistant coach
Bob Nendick, coach
Jim Deery, assistant coach

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS 1965

John Smith, coach
Good Will and Herbert Look

CITY TENNIS DOUBLES CHAMPIONS 1965

John Smith, coach
Good Will and Herbert Look

70 years of sports champions
It took 60 years to get a byline, but it was certainly worth the wait

By Vince O’Keefe (’30)

There were three great “firsts” in Cleveland baseball history, and I was fortunate enough to see them all: our first varsity touchdown, our first varsity victory and the first championship.

The historic touchdown came on almost the last play of the ’29 season at old Civic Stadium. Cleveland had gone scoreless in its first varsity football schedules in 1928 and likewise up to the final game of ’29.

But against the Ballard Beavers in November, Kinkella threw a 40-yard pass to Willie Segalla in the end zone. The next day’s Seattle Times described how “joy rejoiced in Georgetown” that Saturday night. (Sixty-eight years later, Bill Segalla’s obstetrician ran in the Seattle Times’ Seattle Post-Intelligencer, reading, “Scorched Cleveland High School’s first varsity touchdown”.)

Eagle football improved steadily after that. Although they were winless in 1930, there were no more 6-7-0 humilations like the 1926-open season win over Art Clarkson and Lincoln High School ran us to death.

In the fall of 1931, victory came at last: 18-6 over Broadway. The third touchdown was scored by Kenny Halvorsen, my neighbor up the street, he intercepted a Les Collins pass and returned it about 40 yards to the end zone, where he collapsed. He was the only kid on our block who smoked cigarettes (111s and Clovens), and that ran almost dead him.

Now, fast forward to the big one: the 1937 championship team we honor today. It was a dandy, soggy Thanksgiving Day at Husky Stadium, and the Eagles were playing mighty Garfield for all the marbles.

Late in the game, Garfield was backed up to punt in its own end zone; the ball was fumbled and Garfield lost the attack of the Eagles, and it went for a safety. The final score was 2-0, for Cleveland. (There was a time when I can’t remember the names of every Eagle on the field that day, but no more.)

I was writing high school sports for The Seattle Times by then. I produced a game story worthy of a Pulitzer Prize about “my team” winning the title. Alas, sports editor George M. Vaneel wouldn’t sign my name to the story; I was crashed. But when my old friend Don Duncan asked me to do this column, 60 years later, he said, “Don’t worry, I’ll give you a byline.”

I was a Times carrier on the occasion of the 1929 touchdown. I thought nothing of riding the old No. 6 streetcar to Civic Stadium, then bustling back to pick up my bundle of papers at the foot of the Lucile Street Bridge and trudging up the wooden walk on hill and dales with the Post-Intelligencer in my pocket. I must have told half my customers about Segalla’s touchdown catch.

For the 50 years, I was a copy boy at The Seattle Times. I managed to wangle a Saturday afternoon off and hiked over to Civic Stadium, where I witnessed the victory over Broadway.

By 1937, I was established as The Seattle Times “prep writer,” averaging about 60 hours a week for the princely sum of $100 a month.

The long hours were spent keeping track of every high school in the Puget Sound area, in every sport; I loved every minute of it.

I have in front of me our school’s first championship. Back The Cleveland Spirit for 1928. It contains a brief history of Cleveland football, which started in the fall of 1922 under the coaching of K. Lyden Hasseman.

Hasseman was the iron man of early day Cleveland. His regular job was science teacher; the coaching was an avocation. He started the first football team, which won three and tied one in the freshmen division of the City Prep League. Then he took over the first basketball team and the baseball in the fresh division.

Since there was no gym in Cleveland’s original quarters — the top floor of Georgetown grade school — the basketball had to practice at South Park Fieldhouse, five miles away.

How about baseball? The indomitable Hasseman handled that, too, in 1925-26 Moving into the new building in January 1927 we had a basketball floor of our own. It was in the auditorium, the space between the front seats and the stage, with portable baskets over the north and south entrances.

In the fall of ’26, Ed Liston became coach of all three major sports. Did Hasseman quit coaching? Not at all. He took on the gold job.

One note more about our early sports history. We were Highlanders the first few years, turning into Eagles in 1928. I’m not sure how the name change came about; some of you older alumni probably could tell us.

But enough about sports. The first Cleveland Journal, a mimeographed affair, appeared in 1925, under the direction of Miss Alice Stach, then Harriet Lacocq.

Euster Ruth Campbell in the fall of 1926. She organized a news-writing class, which produced The Journal as a full-fledged high school newspaper. I had the pleasure of studying under her in my last three years, from 1927 to 1930.

When I retired from The Seattle Times in 1982, one of my first congratulations telephone calls was from Ruth Campbell Vickers, who had encouraged me so many years before. She invited me to tea at her home. Alas, I put it off too long: Mrs. Vickers is no longer with us.

We had a lot of good times in this auditorium, auditorium shows, operettas, famous speakers and not-so-famous ones. I saw and heard such famous singers as Lawrence Tibbett and Paul Robeson in later years, but neither of them could make the rafters ring on “The Road to Mandalay” half as well as our music teacher, Verna Delaney.

Nor was there a dry eye in the house when Mrs. Miller, mother of one of my classmates, played the harp and sang “Among My Souvenirs.”

Vince O’Keefe was assistant sports editor of The Seattle Times for many years. He entered Cleveland as a freshman at age 11, possibly the youngest freshman in the school’s history.

Cleveland joins NicquaLeague

Ever since Cleveland High School fielded its first football team, its opponents have been close-to-home schools. That is about to change for what has always been the smallest school in town.

This fall, Cleveland, which has been playing competitively in recent years against O’Dea, Blanchet and other smaller schools, will be a full-fledged member of the Nicqua League (Class AA). Besides Cleveland, the league includes Port Townsend, Chimacum, Vaughn Island, Foster, Klahoya (Bremerton), Orting, Eatonville, Steilacoom and Lynden Christian.

Hoover Hopkins, who coached the team to a 3-6 record last year, thinks the new league is “a perfect fit” for Cleveland. “I think it’s realistic to believe we will contend for the championship in this league,” said Hopkins.

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, which governs high school sports in this state, recently voted to create a new division (AAA) for the state’s largest schools, three to four times the size of Cleveland. The AA division, in which Cleveland will play, is for schools with 650 to 600 students in the top three grades.

Cleveland also will compete in the Nicqua League in baseball. However, the Eagles will compete against Metro League and Seattle private schools in basketball and track. Should they win a basketball championship, they will play in the state tournament at the AA level. Track athletes qualifying for state also will compete at the AA level.

The 1937 championship football team: Ken Musak (back, left), Bayne Lamb, Hal “Foot” Williams, Joe Williams, Eddie Blackley (front, left), Bill York, Dave Perrig, Don Harney, Jim Robiekrit, Bill Jones and George Richardson. Photo courtesy of Tony Ferrucci.

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Male Bo
Dereks

In 1935, 10 young men were selected as the "healthiest boys" at Cleveland High School, based on appearance and strength tests. Those long-ago "10s" were Gene Naugherthy, Walt Ellis, John Kearny, John Kehl, Bayne Lamb, Tom Olson, John Reynolds, Thomas Docherman and Russell Yocom.

70 years of sports champions

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vacation. There was a festive air that Monday morning as Principals C. L. Grifflie and Teachers picked up boxes filled with maps, charts, rulers, pencils and began the now-fa- mous "Walk Up the Hill," across Denver's Five Points (now Airport Way), where they held up traffic, and on to the many flights of stairs up the wood, lemon ice Street Bridge.

Finally, they arrived at the new — and still uncompleted — school story, with its 31 class- rooms and 240-seat cafeteria.

Upon entering the new school, students were ushered into the auditorium and lectured by Principal McPherren on the don'dt of good citizenship in such a wonderous structure "built for your education." Although the auditorium was not yet completed, architect Naramore president, and Jean would be as impressive as the city's new Fifth Avenue, Coliseum and Omniplex movie theaters.

The school board had given Grifflie the option of having a large hotel ball or an auditorium in the new school. Grifflie wisely had chosen the more expensive auditorium.

Among the special features of the school were sound-proof rooms for choir and oral expression classes and such "modern kitchen gadgetry" as an electric potato peeler, a steam cooker and an automatic bread slicer.

Despite some grumbling about the cost, South End voters — wanting their new school to be the very best — demanded that the auditorium be finished and that the school be completed with gymnasiums. Naramore also had included a swimming pool in his original plans, something that was to be found in no other South End school.

The school board weighed all the options, and available money, and approved the gymnasiums and the auditorium. The swimming pool disappeared from the plans.

According to official Seattle Public School records compiled by Kenneth Selby, Cleveland's third principal, there were 50 students in Cleveland's first graduating class June 14, 1928. The valedictorian was Marguerite Fox, and the salutatorian was Moorell. Other student speakers included Lulu Sakura, Walter Fisher, Gunnar Carlson and Marjorie Brown.

Class officers were Walter Fisher, president, and Jean Wil- son, Bob McChesney and Kathleen Everham.

Selecting colors for the new school was relatively easy. No other school had chosen red and white. Selecting a nickname took more time. Several nick- naming contest yielded Mug- wumps, Busy Bees, Larks, BUT- falcons, Panthers, Ionians, Bears, Cardinals, Highlanders, Hotentottos, Hillclimbers, Red- coats, Wildcats and Eagles.

A student-faculty committee met to make the final selection. After the first vote, three names remained: Eagles, Highlanders and Cardinals.

Cardinals were removed after a teacher noted that the name al- ready was used by Stanford Uni- versity and so they didn't want to copy anyone. That left Highlanders and Eagles. And so Eagles was chosen, right, wrong? The final vote fa- vored combining the two names and calling the new school's teams the Highlanders. Principal Grifflie was pleased with the de- cision.

Highlander, however, proved to be too much of a mouthful for most students; while long — with an assist from Seattle sportswriters — they were drop- ped "highlander" and simply calling them the "Eagles." By 1931, the Cleveland Eagles be- came.

There was no problem at all in selecting a tune for the alma mater. Half the school in the city already were writing their own words to the Cornell alma mater "Far above Cayuga's wa- ters...". Cleveland simply fol- lowed the crowd.

For the first 30 years of its life, the school building re- mained pretty much as those first students remembered it. Then, in 1957, a one-story rect- angular structure was attached to the northeast end of the building to house music, art and art classes. Within the next few years, chemistry, physics, food, clothing and mechanical-drawing rooms were remodeled.

In 1969, Wick Construction began work on a new, detached gymnasium at the southeast end of the original building. The brick-faced building, designed by Edward Manum & Associates, was for- mally dedicated with a dinner- dance the evening of April 17, 1970. Among the speakers were John Cherberg, the city's lieutenant governor and coach of Cleveland's city-champion 1937 football team, and Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman.

In 1995, the old vice principal's office and adjacent student-ser- vices area were vacated to ac- commodate the new Cleveland Harborside Health Clinic, a Harborside Medical Center- Cleveland High School coopera- tive venture designed to provide readily accessible health care to students.

The latest change to the school was the addition of a detached building at the school's South End in 1996 to accommodate aqua- culture tanks for the school's Fish & Roses project. The goal is to raise fish for commercial sale and use the waste to fertilize roses in beds.

And so the years passed. Cleveland marked its first major anniversary (its 25th) with an all-school reunion in 1962. On Cleveland's 50th birthday, there was another big party at the school, with an estimated 1,000 alumni walking the halls, reading anniversary editions of the Cleve- land Journal and greeting former classmates and teachers.

For this, the 70th anniversary of Cleveland, the ranking of the top football players, the names of those who graduated in the 20's and 30's have been deleted by age, wars and disease. Now it's the alums from the '40s, '50s and '60s who are leading the way.

This is a special anniversary because what once was "the newest high school in Seattle" no longer is young by any standard. Three of the city's "old" schools — Broadway, Lincoln and Queen Anne — have been closed. Franklin was closed for a year and completely renovated. Ballard — just 12 years be- fore Cleveland — is soon to be demolished and a new Ballard High School constructed. (Ballard's students will attend a reopened Lincoln while awaiting their new school.) A few years ago, Cleveland's student body was so small and the interest in football so lukewarm that the school that had won the city football championship in 1937 couldn't field a team.

It was rumored then, and re- mains, that Cleveland could be scheduled for closure within a few years, with its students being sent to other South End schools.

Meanwhile, however, Grover Cleveland High School hangs on. Like its namesake — the only president elected to non-consecu- tive terms in the White House (1885-89 and 1893-97) — it is close to the people and has a knack for bouncing back after setbacks.

Sources for this article include "The Cleveland Story," a Vadil book staged in 1940, "Seattle High School" by Margaret Raine, Seattle Public Schools' archives; a history of Cleveland High School compiled by former principal Kenneth Selby; "The Georgetown Story: That Was a Town, 1904-1910," by June Peterson (1942), "The Duwamish Diary" and Sadie Michael, a student in the Duwamish Diary II class, under the direction of Georgia Kumor.

We'd Grown Accustomed to This Place

We'd grown accustomed to this place.

To long vacations every June.

We'd grown accustomed to the teams.

We indulged our youthful dreams.

The books, the clocks, the gym, hard knocks electric patience and "like brown-bag sandwiches at noon."

We were happy riding buses, buying milk at a dime.

We were happy waiting by the radio, our pencil keeping time.

We'd grown accustomed to the bricks, the academy, the hall, accustomed to this place.

2nd verse

We'd grown accustomed to this place.

To all the times we didn't win.

We'd grown accustomed to the rain.

To tests that were a pain.

Tan cords, white shirts, blouses and skirts.

We'd such a habit with us then.

Like faded loves that might have been.

Like Mister Imus roaming hallways and the rules that didn't bend.

Tardy bells and blackboard chalk — we thought they'd never end.

We'd grown accustomed to a way Of living that's no more, accustomed to this place.

Alma mater

(To the tune of Cornell's alma mater, "Far Above Cayuga's Waters")

1st verse:

Morning sun greets many banners with its glorious light.

Fair to us above all others, waves the red and white

Chorus

Cleveland High, Cleveland High, Hall, all hail to thee!

May thy glories be ever loyal to thy memory

2nd verse

Cleveland High of old Seattle, to thy praise we sing.

All our songs to thee are given, ever may they ring.

Repeat Chorus