

# WOODLAKE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION

Woodlake High School Foundation

Fall 2009

The 2009-2010 year is underway at Woodlake High School, and the WHS Foundation is already hard at work, seeking new ways to support the students and staff! We are excited about this issue of our newsletter with its focus on generations! It is amazing to see how many families have stayed in or returned to the area and continue to make our little corner of the world what author Grace Pogue called, "The Magic Circle." There are several more families we wish to feature in the future, so if you have information to share as well, please contact us. We don't want to leave anyone out!

We are forging ahead with plans for the 7th Annual WHS Foundation Golf Tournament at Valley Oaks Golf Course on October 24, 2009. Once again, Larry Garcia leads this project, the first of our two annual fundraisers; registrations are now being accepted. If you're not a golfer, but would like to support the tournament, we have other options for you: tee sign sponsor and raffle prizes are needed (gift certificates, golf accessories, etc...). Contact any Foundation member and we'll get the information to you or pick up raffle donations. You can also drop off raffle donations at the WHS office.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of the students!

*Barbara R. Callmeyer*  
President, WHS Foundation  
WHS Class of 1973

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# GENERATIONS TIGER *of* PRIDE CLASS OF 1938

The Class of 1938 had thirty three members, twenty males and thirteen females. All Twenty males enlisted in the service during WWII and all twenty returned safely. Five members of the Class of 1938 are still meeting once a month at Vallhala Restaurant in Visalia. Below is a short history of each of the members of this class that meet each month.

**Frances Gayer Wilson:** Frances is living in Lemon Cove, CA. She married Oleah Wilson in 1941. Oleah was in the Citrus Packing House Business and Frances worked with her husband until he passed away several years back. Their two grandsons are now running the business.

**Herky Allcock:** Herky played B football at Woodlake and lost a kidney in the game with Lindsay his senior year. Jim Rohn also lost his kidney the same day in the varsity game with Lindsay. These two injuries caused the Board of Trustees to require all players to start wearing kidney pads. Herky was also on the track and basketball teams. He was in the Army Air Corp as a link transfer in tractor and engineer school. After the war he received a degree in Engineering and went to work for the park service as a park ranger.

**Tom McGee:** Tom played football and basketball at Woodlake. He was co-captain of the football team his senior year and the captain of the basketball team his junior and senior year. Tom enlisted in the Navy

during WWII, serving the South Pacific and Atlantic Campaigns. Tom returned to Woodlake after the war was over. He became the Maintenance and Transportation Supervisor at Woodlake High until his retirement. Tom still lives in Woodlake.

**Roy Lantrip:** Roy played football at Woodlake and was the co-captain his senior year. Roy enlisted in the Army Air Corp during WWII serving as a Radar Technician. When the war was over he returned to his citrus farming business outside of Visalia where he continues to work.

**John W. Morgan:** John was a trackman and was captain of the Track Team his senior year. John enlisted in the Navy Aviation Cadet Program right after Pearl

Harbor. He finished Primary at Oakland, transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas. After he became ill and could not fly anymore he was discharged and returned to Visalia to work at Rankin Field. He then entered the Army Air Corps and became a flight engineer, spending two years flying out of England transferring materials, personnel and evacuating wounded back to England. After the war ended, he returned to Visalia and opened his own Real Estate and Insurance office on South Church. He has remained at the same location for forty-six years. He merged his office with the Nash Office and is now called Morgan Kelppe and Nash. He had four children three girls and one boy. All are graduates of UC Santa Barbara.



*Tom McGee Roy Lantrip*

*John W. Morgan*

*Frances Gayer Wilson*

*Herman 'Herky' Allcock*

**Have you included the Woodlake High School Foundation in your Will or Trust?**

# Generations cont...

## THE BARTON FAMILY AT WOODLAKE HIGH

Six generations of the Barton family have resided in Three Rivers. The last four of these generations attended Woodlake Union High School.

James and Susan Barton left Daventry, Iowa, on April 30, 1865, for their trip to California by covered wagon. Jason Barton, the 10th of their 11 children, was barely five months old at the time.

The family's first stop in California was in the Gold Rush town of Columbia. Soon after, they made their way to Tulare County because James had a land grant for 120 acres that had been given to his father as a bonus for service in the War of 1812. They located the land near Mud Springs Gap, west of Elderwood. James's oldest son, Hudson, later said, "A poorer piece of ground we couldn't have found."

The family moved into the foothills and homesteaded at Auckland (present-day Highway 245 at Drum Valley junction). Although at least four more generations of Bartons resided on this property, in 1880, James and Susan moved to Three Rivers and built a ranch home at the confluence of the Middle and North Forks of the Kaweah River. Today it is the oldest home still standing in Three Rivers. James was a Tulare County supervisor for 17 years and he is credited with the retention of the county seat in Visalia (instead of Tulare). In 1892, he deeded the right-of-way for North Fork Drive to the County of Tulare for one dollar.

Jason Barton was 16 when his family moved to Three Rivers. Since the age of 14, he had been driving an ox team at Smith Comstock's mill in the Big Stump basin near Grant Grove. He never attended high school because there weren't any in the surrounding region (Visalia would have been the closest). As a young man, he acquired a home from his older brother, Orlando, on the Barton ranch in Three Rivers, growing apples and citrus. With a partner, he bought and developed 800 acres in the Elderwood area; at the time, it was the largest orange grove in the county.

Jason's leadership in community affairs earned him the unofficial title of mayor of Three Rivers. He was instrumental in get-



ting the state highway through Three Rivers, donating land when the community needed a cemetery, and including Three Rivers in the Woodlake High School District (instead of Exeter). In 1926, he donned a coonskin cap and led a "wagon train" of Three Rivers residents dressed as pioneers to Woodlake, where they circled the wagons to participate in the Pageant of the Sun, a multi-day event that raised funds to build Woodlake High's first gymnasium.

Robert Hardin Barton was the second of four children born to Jason and his wife, Mary. Bob and his older sister, Verna, were two of the first students to attend the newly created Woodlake High School. Before there was bus service, the two teenagers lived on their own in Elderwood during the weekdays, hitching a buggy each morning for the five-mile trip to and from school. By the next year, they were able to commute by train on the Visalia Electric Railroad when the spur line was completed to Elderwood.

Verna graduated with Woodlake High's "Pioneer Class" of 1917 (the first graduating class of WHS). Shortly thereafter, she married Ray Pritchard. Ray was the first bus driver hired for the new high school; Verna was one of his passengers. During his senior year, Bob was elected student body president; he graduated with the Class of 1919.

In the summer of 1921, Bob married Muriel May in Mineral King. Like his father, he was a citrus and cattle rancher in Three Rivers and drove his cattle to high pasture above Mineral King in the summers. Their first son, Robert James (Jim), was born in April 1924. Bob finished building the family's Mineral King cabin that summer, and his descendants still enjoy the cabin today.

Jim attended Woodlake High and gradu-

ated with the Class of 1942. He was also student body president, but almost didn't make it to his inaugural address on the first day of his senior year. At the end of summer, he took a pack trip to Kern Canyon with his cousin, Milton Savage, and Harold "Shorty" Beutler (also WHS students). Upon awakening one morning, the trio discovered that their stock was nowhere in sight. The horses were located a couple of days later and the delay forced the boys to ride out to Mineral King in one day. Jim headed immediately to Woodlake; Milton and Shorty brought the stock to Three Rivers on the first day of school.

In 1950, Jim married Jeanette Tario. The couple had two children, Sarah and Mark, both of whom attended Woodlake High. Jim was the first member of this line of descendants to attend college, receiving a master's degree from University of Washington. His career as a math teacher spanned for more than 40 years. In 1992, he retired from the College of the Sequoias in Visalia. He also served on the Woodlake High School Board of Trustees for 17 years (from 1975 to 1992). Today, Jim and Jeanette, as well as Sarah and Mark, have homes on the original 19th-century Barton ranch.

Sarah Barton Elliott, who graduated with the WHS Class of 1976, married John Elliott in 1988. Since 1995, the couple has published *The Kaweah Commonwealth*, the weekly newspaper of Three Rivers, which proudly covers news of Woodlake High School. Because of the Barton family history, the owners understand the unique bond that links WHS and the community of Three Rivers.

Jennie Elliott and John Barton Elliott are John and Sarah's two children. Jennie graduated from Woodlake High School with the Class of 2006; she is currently a senior at University of California, Berkeley. Johnnie graduated with Woodlake High's Class of 2008. He is a sophomore at San Francisco State University.

Will there be a fifth generation of Bartons to attend Woodlake High School? Stay tuned...

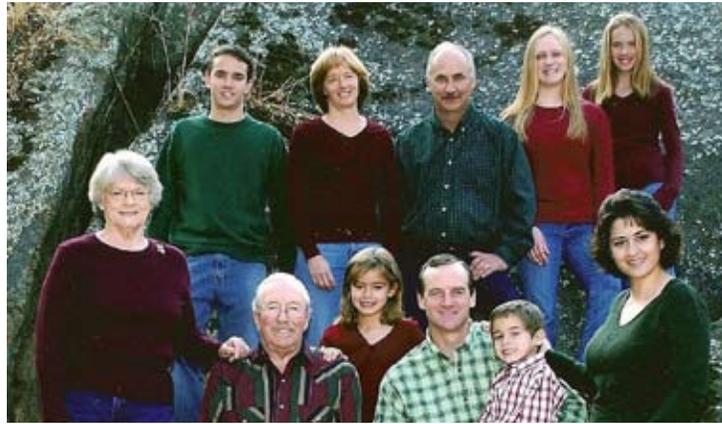
In 1852 Thomas Henry Davis made his way from South Carolina to California, seeking land to raise beef cattle. He found the grass-covered hills on and around the land which is now Woodlake to his liking. He returned the following year driving a herd of cattle and established a ranch with headquarters in Antelope Valley. (The valley got its name from a western-style Thanksgiving of sorts. Thomas Davis had killed an antelope and was dressing it for dinner when a group of Yokut Indians, including one Joe Pohut, came over to visit from the Dry Creek area. Thomas shared his game with the Indians and a long and close friendship began and endured for the rest of their lives. Thomas named his beautiful home place Antelope Valley in honor of the event.) The mountain at the head of the valley is named "Davis Ranch Mountain" on the maps of Tulare County. The gate to the ranch was near the Valencia - Naranjo intersection now known locally as "the four way stop."

Thomas H. Davis had three sons: Jefferson Jackson Davis, Philip William Davis, and Thomas Houston Davis. At this point we will follow only the children of Jefferson Davis with the purpose of establishing 4 generations attending the Woodlake Schools. Jefferson met and married Laura Pogue, granddaughter and ward of the Rev. Jonathon Blair and founder of the Woodlake Presbyterian Church. Blair was part of a group that established a rudimentary settlement along the river east of what is now Woodlake called Stringtown. The settlement existed from 1861 to 1867 when a major flood wiped out the settlement and the residents moved to several nearby towns and settlements such as Centerville and Orosi.

Jefferson and Laura Pogue Davis had two daughters and six sons, one of whom was Roy Davis. He began his education in a small school in Antelope Valley. He began at the age of four and was enrolled only to swell the roster in order to keep the teacher. He always claimed the older girls had to take him to the outhouse. When he was old enough to attend high school he attended Fowler High School because Woodlake didn't have a secondary school yet. Roy's younger siblings attended Woodlake High School. His brother, Lawrence, scored the first touchdown for WUHS.

Roy Davis grew along with the little town of Woodlake. He served his country in WW1 in and around the battles of the Argonne Forrest in France. He returned and married Vera Musson in 1927. Vera was a member of the W.H.S. graduating class

## THE DAVIS FAMILY



of 1919. The school was an important part of her social life. When she graduated, she used the business skills she learned while in high school to obtain a well-paying job with the Edison Co. Among some of her mementos the family treasures are the classic books of literature she studied while in high school and charming copies of poetry that her teachers gifted to her. Along with Vera, at least five of her siblings graduated from WUHS.

Roy and Vera Musson Davis were engaged in raising cattle, citrus, olives and during the summer months owned and operated a pack station in the Sierras from 1923 to 1957. The station was headquartered in Mineral King Valley.

In 1931 they produced a son, Roy Lee Davis, Jr. Roy Jr. grew up in the small thriving town of Woodlake which had quite a different look from today's streets. For instance he watched his Grandfather William Musson milk the family cow which was housed in a small barn across the street from what is now the Gas Ranch.

Roy Lee attended Woodlake Grammar School and Woodlake High School. In high school he was active in sports and FFA. John Ward, the band teacher, was a special favorite of his. Mr. Ward always welcomed Roy and his buddies in his classroom and would accompany them on many of their snow-skiing trips. One humiliating aspect of his high school years was the fact that the English teacher, Mrs. Richers (Ritchie), was a boarder in his home and he was always accused of receiving preferential treatment from her. During his teen years Roy worked with his father on the Woodlake Ranch and the Mineral King Pack Station. For recreation he loved to attend the school dances, ski, swim in the river and roam the Sierras. It is almost an understatement to say that Roy enjoyed his high school years and was privileged to be in an atmosphere of support and encouragement by teachers that knew him and his classmates well and were part of the community.

Roy Lee graduated from WUHS in 1950 and attended Fresno State for 2 years when he was drafted in 1952 and served actively in the Korean War. He was still serving when the 'Cease Fire' was signed. He returned to the Woodlake Ranch and packing into the back country of the Sierras and Fresno State.

He met and married Donna Emery from Porterville in 1957 and together they began ranching. Several years later he added a second career with the National Park Service as their chief wrangler and corral foreman.

Roy and Donna Davis produced three children: Mitchell Lee, Beth Suzanne, and Kyle Emery. They all attended Woodlake grammar schools and graduated from Woodlake High School with the exception of Mitchell who lost his life in an auto accident in 1976 during his senior year.

Beth Davis Spuhler graduated in 1978. During her years at WUHS she was active in the FFA, serving on the horse judging team and raising project lambs and beef. In her spare time Beth enjoyed working and showing her horses in jumping classes and dressage. She attended Cal Poly and transferred to Fresno State where she received her degree. She married Dennis Spuhler of Strathmore. They farmed on land west of Strathmore and raised 3 children, Kendra, Jared and Sarah. Two years ago her husband passed away and today she continues to operate their farm and raise their children. Beth still raises and trains horses as well as teaches equitation and training techniques.

Kyle Davis graduated in 1987. During his years at WUHS he was active in FFA, raising project swine and beef and serving on the Ag finance judging team as well as serving in various offices of the organization. He had the opportunity to attend the National FFA convention in Kansas and achieved the rank of State Farmer. He was also active in FHA, then a very active organization headed by Sally Pace. Kyle attended COS and received his AA degree in Ag Business. While at COS he served as president of the Ag Club. Kyle married Deanne Mendonca of Tulare and they built a home on part of the original Davis Ranch north of Woodlake. He is employed by General Mechanical of Visalia and helps his parents in maintaining the family ranch.

Kyle and Deanne are raising three children: Sayge, a 7th grader at Woodlake Valley Middle School, Mitchell, a 2nd grader at FJ White, and Lance who is 1 year old. They are all looking forward to being 4th generation graduates of Woodlake Union High School.

# THE MCDOWALL/HARRIS/PENA/GROEBER FAMILY TIGER PRIDE FOR FOUR GENERATIONS

by Jackie Harris Groeber

Our family history with the school system started in 1929 when Mary McDowall began to teach at Three Rivers School. Mary had immigrated from Canada along with her husband, Archie who had immigrated from Canada by way of Scotland and England. Mary became the Three Rivers School principal in 1931 and continued until her retirement in 1969.

The Three Rivers School auditorium was named "McDowall Auditorium" after her. Their three children, Keith, Phyllis and Bobbie all attended Woodlake High. Keith graduated in 1945, Phyllis in 1947 and Bobbie in 1952. This generation started our family tradition of sports, music and academics at WHS. Keith played in the band and was on the football team. Phyllis McDowall (Rose) was the accompanist for the high school choir and played in the band also. Bobbie was number 2 in her class. Keith served in the navy during the end of WW II and the Korean War before beginning a career with Edison. Both Phyllis and Bobbie followed the family tradition into education and became teachers. Bobbie taught at Three Rivers School from 1969 to 1994. Bobbie has also been a director of the Woodlake High School Foundation.

Bobbie's five Harris children all graduated from Woodlake High. Mary graduated in 1975 and had her first gig as a musician as the unpaid accompanist of the WHS choir. Mary played volleyball on the first inter-scholastic team at WHS. Mary went on to be a professional piano player, singer and teacher. She married "Ambrosia" drummer Burleigh Drummond and they live in Thousand Oaks with their two athletic and musical children. Jackie graduated in 1976 and played volleyball and was in band and choir while at WHS. Jackie has the most reunion-happy class as they have had FIVE great reunions since graduating! Jackie is a psychologist in Visalia and is married to the biggest tiger fan, Robert Groeber (fondly known as the tiger hat guy). Jackie and Robert enjoy career day and taking WHS



students on college tours. They loved helping to get Woodlake Club Volleyball off and running. Robin sang in the WHS choir also and added to her WHS legacy by marrying a fellow class of 1977 graduate, Edmund Pena. Robin is carrying on tradition at Three Rivers School and has been a teacher's aide there since 1992. Robin also has the Three Rivers After School Program. Edmund has been a WHS board member for 14 years. David Harris graduated in 1980. He played trumpet and guitar in the jazz band and regular band. David was on Woodlake High's last championship basketball team and was on the track team. David is carrying on the teaching tradition in San Diego where he teaches math teachers effective methods of teaching. He continues to play guitar professionally and he has two daughters who are also musical. Steven played bass with his brother and also played basketball for WHS. Steven, his wife Katy, and their three sons have moved up to the family hometown in Alberta, Canada.

The next generation was the first to benefit from the Woodlake High staff emphasis on getting kids to college. All six of this generation's alum have gone to college. Robin and Edmund's four children carried on the Tiger Pride tradition as they all graduated from Woodlake High. Eddie Pena played football, basketball and baseball. Eddie married fellow class of 1996 graduate, Carmita Rodriguez who is now the head counselor at WHS. Eddie often helps coach the next generation of Woodlake athletes. Christopher played basketball and ran cross country at WHS for his coach and grandpa, Jack Harris. Grandpa Jack designed the cross

country course at Lake Kaweah which is used for meets today. After graduating in 1999, Christopher attended Westmont College. He now teaches 6th grade in Colorado where he lives with his wife Kelly. Ashley played volleyball, basketball and was on the swim team at WHS. Ashley graduated in 2003 and then attended Westmont College where she sang in the gospel choir and graduated with a degree in Kinesiology. Ashley is planning

graduate school in a medically related field. Darcie played volleyball, basketball and soccer and graduated in 2007. Darcie is a junior at Cal State Channel Islands where she is following family tradition by majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Jackie and Robert Groeber's children both graduated from WHS. Travis ran cross country, played football, basketball, baseball, and was in the WHS band and jazz band. He (and his mom) got to go to London with the band. Travis graduated in 2005. He is at UC Santa Barbara just finishing his degree in Mathematics. Chelsea graduated with her cousin Darcie Pena in 2007. She played volleyball, soccer, golf and track and was in the choir at WHS. Chelsea is a junior at Loyola Marymount University where she is a Studio Arts Major with an emphasis in Art Education. Chelsea is taking prerequisites for a graduate program in Occupational Therapy.

All of our generations of Tigers valued the opportunities to participate in music and sports at Woodlake High. We could go on forever with the relatives of our relatives. The Pena story alone goes on for three generations and encompasses many tiger alum. Our cousins, the Graves/McKee/Dietz family, is another three generation story. But for now, here is our path of tiger pride. Our next generation is just two years away as Eddie and Carmita's sons, Eddie and Carlos, are in 7th and 5th grade.

Sports, music, education! Woodlake High and its traditions have been and will continue to be at the center of our family for generations. Once a tiger, always a tiger!

## THE GLENTZER FAMILY

According to family legend it was 112 degrees on the day in 1912 when Daniel E. Bachman arrived in Woodlake. The 11th of 13 children, he had left the family farm in Kansas to seek his fortune in California. Sight unseen he had purchased several parcels of land in a spot just a little north and west of Woodlake, not quite to Elderwood, tucked between Cottonwood Creek and the foot of Colvin Mountain. The land had been parceled into five and ten acre lots for family farms, many of which were purchased by other families from Mount Ridge, Kansas, including one of his sisters and her husband. These were all first generation Americans who spoke the German language of their parents as well as English. This small community of Deutsch (German) speaking farmers came to be known as "Dutch Colony". Mr. Bachman made his living farming oranges and olives, as well as making hay for the work mules and milk cows. He served on the Woodlake High School board from 1936 until 1948. His second wife Florence Bachman taught home economics at Woodlake High School from 1939 to 1957. Five of his children graduate from Woodlake, Verbena ('38), Ina ('40), Dan ('41), Babetta ('44) and finally Joy ('52).

Ina Bachman went on to attend Fresno State, where she met Kenneth Glentzer while he was doing four weeks of combat training with the Army Air Corps at Hammer Field in Fresno before deploying to the South Pacific. He returned to California to marry Ina and they settled in Dutch Colony on five acres purchased from her father, in a house ordered years prior from the



*Kenneth and Ina Glentzer behind the old house ordered from the Sears catalog (1950)*

Sears catalog. Kenneth, who became known as Dutch, was a carpenter by trade and built a new house for his growing family, right next to the old one. When he was finished the Sears house was loaded on a truck and hauled away. Ina Glentzer began her teaching career at the Elderwood School, spent two years at Sequoia Union School in Lemon Cove and then in 1958 hired to teach kindergarten for Woodlake Union Elementary School District until retiring in 1978. Ken and Ina's three children all graduated from WHS Peggy ('64), Keith ('66, valedictorian) and Carol ('68).

Keith Glentzer graduated from UC Berkley and settled into a teaching career in northern California with wife LaVonne.

Around 1988 his parents

Ken and Ina decided they were ready to leave Dutch Colony, where Ina had lived her entire life, and try the metropolitan life in Visalia. With four children of their own now, Keith and Lavonne were looking for a place with more room and decided to buy the home Kenneth had built and move to Woodlake. Keith found a job teaching math at his alma mater and spent the final 18 years of his career at Woodlake High, where among his many students were his own kids, the third generation of Woodlake graduates; Kyle ('92), Amy ('93), Eric ('95, salutatorian), and Karen ('97) and his two daughters-in-law Nicole Hocker ('91) and Jessica Hocker ('92).

In 2006 Keith and LaVonne sold the family home to Kyle and his wife Nicole Glentzer who are now the third generation of Glentzers to live in the home Kenneth built and the fourth generation of their family to live in Dutch Colony. The ties to Woodlake Schools remain strong. Nicole Hocker Glentzer has been a teacher, assistant principal, and currently serves as principal of Woodlake High School. Nicole and Kyle's older son Kenneth is a third grade student at Castle Rock Elementary School and part of the class of 2019. His little brother Guy (2025) is mainly occupied with playing in the dirt, the same dirt his father, grandfather, and great-grandmother all played in as children, the dirt that brought his great-great grandfather to Woodlake from Kansas 97 years ago.



*Clearing the rocks in Dutch Colony before planting the orchards.*

## THE DIXON FAMILY

*We three Dixon's: father, son, and grandson, have all been proud attendees of Woodlake High School. Each of us chose to share our own fond memories of WHS in our own words.*



My name is Vernon Dixon. I entered Woodlake High School in 1941. I lived in Three Rivers with my parents, brothers and sisters on our ranch. Between going to school and participating in sports, I also had to help my father on the ranch, cleaning the chicken house. This is how I got my nickname "Chicken-Dixon".

I went out for sports three of my four years, playing football, basketball and baseball. One game that stands out in my memory was the game we played against Lindsay. The score was still 0-0 late in the game.

Lindsay was about to score on a pass, but I intercepted it in the end zone and returned it 105 yards for a touchdown. We won the game 6-0. There were only 12 people on our team, so I had to be on offense, defense, and special teams. We still wore leather helmets, no faceguards and no pads except shoulder pads.

The highlight of my junior year was when Bob, my older brother, went off to the war and left behind his '41 Ford and a motorcycle all for me. I quickly became the hot shot of my class in my new car.

My senior year I, and others from my class, felt the need to serve our country in the war. By completing half of our senior year, we were all given diplomas as we shipped off for Europe. I spent a couple of years in the Navy, and upon my arrival home attended Visalia Junior College, now know as College of the Sequoias.

America's involvement in World War II changed a lot of things that normally went on in schools. Young male teachers were drafted, gas was rationed, and some high school seniors volunteered to fight. My graduating class of 1945 consisted of 31 people. I met my wife, Jackie, in Visalia in 1950. We are married to this day and reside in Three Rivers next to our son and grandson.



My name is Gregory Dixon. I attended Woodlake High School from the fall of 1973, to the spring of 1977. My class graduated just over 100 kids. I have nothing but good memories of, and praise for, Woodlake High School. I was one of the few kids that thoroughly enjoyed every day of my high school experience. I don't remember my GPA, but I do remember playing and lettering in 12 sports. I played four years of football, basketball, and golf. I re-

ceived two team captain awards for basketball, and two for golf. I was also the MVP my senior year on the golf team. Some of my highlights were being on the football team, attending the after-game dances, and being on the 17-0 undefeated golf team my senior year. Our football team compiled a 36-4 record with three championships, only to have our last season spoiled with a single loss to Exeter. One game, at Kingsburg in the fog, as we were doing our pre-game warm up we couldn't see them, but we felt the earth shake as they came. Mr. Ainley said "Boys, don't look up, just keep stretching." We ended beating the mighty Vikings.

Mr. Ainley was my mentor. He was not only my teacher, but he also coached me my freshman year in basketball, and all four years in football. Mr. Ainley was a big influence in not only my life, but the lives of many others. I was fortunate enough to have the chance to return the favor to Mr. Ainley when he was the athletic director by working under him as a coach of the girls' basketball team the last six years. Building coach-athlete relationships with the kids has been very special to me. I continue to reside and work in Three Rivers, and support Woodlake High School in many ways.



My name is Philip Dixon. I am a senior at Woodlake High School. I came to the United States when I was ten years old. My mother and I came from Lugansk, Ukraine which is located next to Russia. Neither one of us knew any English when we got here, so learning the language proved to be a challenge. We are now both fluent in Russian and English. I came in search of a better future, since in a Ukrainian high school we didn't have sports or clubs. I only knew how to play soccer, so when I came

here I fell in love with all the new sports like football, basketball, baseball, cross country, and track. Classes are a lot different, but also a lot more fun here. The teachers are very interacting and helpful here, so I think my mom's decision to move here has really benefited me and my family.

I have attended Woodlake High School from fall 2006 and will be graduating in the spring of 2010. WHS has been quite an experience for me. I have enjoyed my time here. My current GPA is a bit above 3.0.

I'm a student-athlete and have competed in a few different sports. I went out one year with the baseball team, two years with the track team, and four years with the cross country team. I was on varsity for both years in track and three years in cross country. I was a captain for two years on cross country, leading my team to a league championship, ripping it from the state-winning team McFarland, and working very hard to get MVP. Tony Ramirez has been my coach for three years now, both on and off the track. He helped me improve my times and smash all my previously set personal records.

There are a lot of nice people that have graduated and some who still attend Woodlake that I can call my friends. It's been fun getting to know people, and I hope to keep in touch with some of them when I move on with my life.

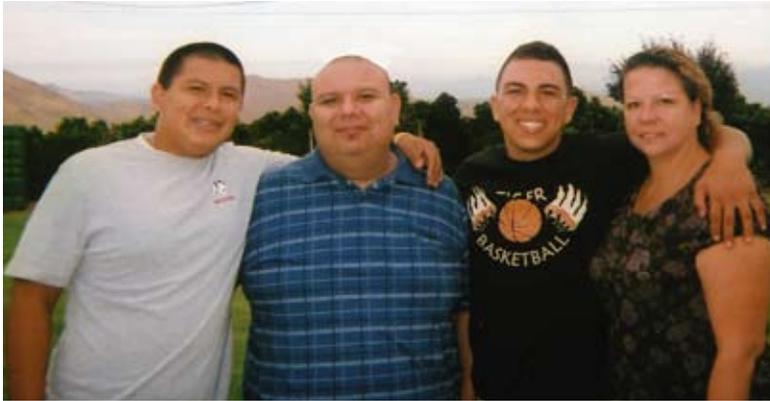
I really enjoyed all the History classes. During my four years, I have taken World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government, and Economics. History easily became my favorite subject at Woodlake, and I have learned a lot of fascinating information from the teachers about all the different civilizations and global economic powers.

I am definitely planning on going to college. I have a passion for cooking, and therefore hope to attend a culinary school. I have been looking at quite a few of them, and have decided that I want to go somewhere around the San Diego area. There are a lot of good schools down in there and I've been to some restaurants that serve extremely tasty food that I would someday love to have a chance to cook. With thanks to the Woodlake High School counselors, the college I want to attend is in my sights.



## THE MESA FAMILY

Florentino (Tino) Mesa ('47) was born in Seville, raised in Redbanks and schooled in Woodlake. Like most of the kids around him, he had no time for extra-curricular activities but helped provide for his family. During his senior year at WHS, he decided to join the Army. Three years and a trip to Korea later, he came home to Woodlake and married Julia Arroyo Mesa, a Woodlake girl ('51) upon his return. They settled in Woodlake after a brief stint in Visalia. Of their five children, two are proud graduates of Woodlake High: Philip and Chuck. Philip and Chuck were on the football team, wrestled and played baseball. Philip and Lori were 1986 grads, and had been very involved with FHA and Mrs. Pace, cooking for Rotary meetings and many special events.



Presently, Philip and Lori's sons, Daniel and Nate are at WHS. Daniel plays Varsity football and Nate is on the JV team this fall. They look forward to expanding the wrestling program this year and continuing the Mesa wrestling championships! Daniel hopes to attend college next year with studies in the field of medicine.

Their oldest daughter, Frances, holds down the Finance Office and ASB Accounts at WHS and carries on her parents' tradi-

tion supporting WHS. She is very proud of her WHS grads, even some who are not related to her! She enjoys her job and is very involved with sports and activities at WHS. More than most people, Frances knows the meaning of "Tiger Pride!" even though she attended and graduated from that other school across Hwy 198. Frances' husband, Chuck Mann is a 1971 graduate of WHS. His father, Charlie Mann, married Gloria Sommer, both WHS graduates.

Frances' family tree has so many branches...including the Arroyos, who graduated from WHS. Gabriel Arroyo married Mary Mota; their daughter Vicky Arroyo (WHS '81) settled down in Woodlake. Her son, Austin Keller now attends WHS! Other branches to be explored later include the Munos, Perez, Leon, Garcia, Rubio, etc...all WHS Tigers!

## THREE GENERATIONS OF HANSEN WOODLAKE TIGERS

The Tiger Tradition began when Fred Vanderhoof moved his family to Elderwood from Pasadena and enrolled his children in the one-room Elderwood Schoolhouse. His daughter, Elizabeth, then became a part of the Woodlake Union Class of 1938. When WWII was over, Elizabeth married



Leonard Hansen a returning B-17 pilot and German POW in the family garden.

Leonard and Elizabeth raised four children, all Woodlake Tigers: Suzanne (Class of '64), Cynthia (Class of '65), Betsi (Class of '67), and David (Class of '71). All four kids became teachers: Suzanne taught many grade levels for Woodlake mostly in third grade; Cynthia taught English in Clovis Unified; Betsi is a Speech Therapist for Tulare County and Dave taught Missions and coached football

for 20 years at Immanuel in Reedley. When Woodlake played Immanuel Dave coached against his former coach, Leo Robinson and his cousin Frank Ainley, so the family never knew which side to sit on.

While raising their kids, Leonard and Elizabeth became 25-year volunteer Young Life leaders to Woodlake High School. Young Life met in homes and brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to high school kids. Leonard also became a school board member,

first in Elderwood, then Woodlake Union, then Tulare County. During those years Leonard became the "Voice of the Woodlake Tigers" football team "...and that'll be one more first down for Woodlake!"

Suzanne Bidwell's two kids Liz and Luke VanLanningham were

both Woodlake Tigers, and Betsi's kids: Kristen, K.T., and Eric and Zach were too. David married a Tiger cheerleader, Janice Walters and raised four kids near Woodlake.

The Tiger tradition continues with Liz (VanLanningham) and Hud Rose's son, Wyatt who will enter kindergarten at Woodlake Elementary in two years. Now that is family Tiger Tradition! Wonder if Cousin Frank Ainley will top this?

# ROSIE REYNOSO COFRE

CLASS OF 1986

*Career Day Keynote  
Speaker*



Rosie Cofre grew up in Woodlake as Rosie Reynoso. During high school she was Yearbook Editor, played Varsity Tennis, and participated in Mock Trial competitions all four years. She placed 1st and 2nd statewide in FHA sponsored events as well as held various leadership positions within the organization. She was a member of CSF all four years, a member of the Drama club, President of the Science Ecology club and was Vice President of the Student Council. As a Senior she was voted Most Likely to Succeed and Best Personality.

Rosie attended San Jose State University for her undergraduate degree and Golden

Gate University for her Graduate degree. She has a double major in Business Management and International Business, a triple minor in Spanish, Areas Studies and Psy-

chology and a MBA with a concentration in Business Management. She completed one of her minors in Madrid, Spain and as a recipient of the Rotary International Ambassador scholarship, she served as a Youth Ambassador in Concepcion, Chile where she studied at the University.

For the last 11 years, Rosie has worked at Cisco Systems as a Global Program Manager. In addition, she is an entrepreneur. She has owned Cofre Investments, LLC a real estate investment company for the last 8 years, and is in the process of starting another company.

Rosie is married and has three children under the age of 4.

## 7TH ANNUAL TIGER GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY

**OCTOBER 24, 2009**

8:00 AM SHOTGUN START

7:00 AM CHECK IN

VALLY OAK GOLF COURSE (VISALIA, CA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 559.564.3307

## SPORTS UPDATE:

### Football

As of print date the football team has a record of 4-1. Orange Cove was the opener, with the victory going to the Woodlake Tigers. Our first home game was against Exeter, who won the contest. It was a standing room only at the game with much excitement. Woodlake played host to Farmersville on the 18th of September, Woodlake taking that game. The Tigers traveled to Caruthers on the 25th of September and the Tigers were victorious! On October 2, Homecoming, the Tigers defeated the Shafter General. We wish Coaches Scott Hernandez and Eddie Dominguez and the fighting Tigers the best of luck.

### Cross Country

Coaches Tony Ramirez and Tammy Range both have strong teams. Their first run was at Kingsburg, where the runners learned what need to be done to win league. They all had strong times. The second meet was a mini league meet at Strathmore where our runners ran against all schools in our league. We had strong finishes and times. The running Tigers ran at Mt. Whitney, again doing a great job. Woodlake Cross Country hosted it's annual cross country meet on October 10 at Kaweah Lake. Last year they hosted 16 schools. Come cheer the Tigers on!

### Girls Tennis

Girl's Tennis is showing great team work. They are hoping to repeat last year's record: league championship. The potential is there to do it again! The girls competed at the Clovis Invitational, hosted Selma, Exeter, Fowler Orosi and Lindsay, coached by Mr. Judson. Come and cheer us on to victory!

### Volleyball

All three volleyball teams are strong, playing well and winning! They won the match against Farmersville but lost a close one to Selma. We fought hard at the Visalia Tournament against strong teams from much larger schools. We were victorious over Parlier and won a nail-biter over Lindsay, with the encouragement of our fabulous fans! We invite you to join Coach Tori Johnson and Coach Dave Pasquini to help cheer them on.

*If you have any question regarding sports contact the high school at 564-3307 or come by and pick up a schedule. Go Tigers!*

## MILESTONES

### LOUISE ACHENBACH



Louise Achenbach was honored at a luncheon and banquet, introduced at half time of a football game and honored in a parade through Spear Fish, South Dakota as she was inducted into the Coaches Hall of Fame during the annual "Swarm Week" activities at her alma mater, Black Hills State University. Louise graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education with emphasis in physical education, health and recreation, and psychology, with a minor in music and social science.

After graduation from Black Hills State University, Louise came to teach at WHS. She taught PE, History, Health & Wellness, and Driver's Education until retiring in 2007. She established the girls' inter-scholastic volleyball, basketball and softball programs. She coached volleyball for 32 years, bringing home the league championship 29 times! Nine times they were finalists for the Central Section Volleyball Finals. She was named Coach of the Year for our league seventeen times, and inducted into the CA State Coaches Hall of Fame, and CIF Central Section Volleyball Coach of the Year. She was selected to the CA State Volleyball Advisory Board, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the CA Interscholastic Federation for serving twenty-seven years on the Board and was inducted into the CA Coaches Hall of Fame.

WHS didn't have a tennis coach when Louise arrived, and to her surprise, she was called in to Principal Loverin's office at 1:00

pm in early February, 1970 to discover that she was the new tennis coach. Not to worry – practice didn't start until 3:00 pm! The first day of practice was spent running the track. She had checked out a book on tennis from the library and read all she could each evening coming up with drills she could practice at home with a spatula. After fourteen years as the tennis coach and many league championships, she still has never played a game of tennis! She also started and coached a softball and a basketball team for girls; the basketball team won the League Championship that first year! Aside from her coaching achievements Louise was the Cheer Squad advisor for twenty years as well as the Tiger Marching Band flag and letterette advisor for twelve years.

Louise was named Woodlake High School Teacher of the Year, CA State High School Region 9 Teacher of the Year and CA State High School Teacher of the year 1st Runner-Up. Louise was a member of the US Army Reserves for 14 years, where she earned a variety of medals and letters of achievement and commendation, including Battalion Soldier of the Year.

Louise is now retired and is raising horses on her ranch outside of Woodlake. She continues to serve on the board of the Assistance Service Dog Education Center in Woodlake, utilizing and training WHS students in readying Assistance Dogs for physically and emotionally disabled persons.

## Our Foundation Goals

The purpose of our foundation is to generate significant financial support for projects which otherwise would not be possible within the budget of our district.

Individuals or businesses interested in contributing to the WHS Foundation are encouraged to contact any of the members of the board or call WHS @ (559)-564-3307.

### Mark your Calendar

**Oct. 24** - WHS Foundation Golf Tournament

**April 30** - WHS Foundation Spring Dinner

The Publishing of this Foundation newsletter was funded by the WHS Foundation.

Publishing Team:

Bobby Mashtal, Class of 2005

and the WHS Foundation  
Board of Directors



**Woodlake Union High  
School Foundation**

P.O. Box 475  
Woodlake CA. 93286

Return Service Requested

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### Advertise Your Class Reunions

If you would like to have your reunion advertised in the newsletter, please contact Sally Pace at 564-3307 ext 139 or email [sally@woodlake.k12.ca.us](mailto:sally@woodlake.k12.ca.us)

**Visit the WHS Website - [www.whstigers.org](http://www.whstigers.org)**