



Corbett Quarterly

Serving One of the Best, Small Public High Schools in America

The Newsletter of the Corbett Alumni Association

November 2008

Population Explodes at Corbett

The summer migration brings different people each year.

Alumni from Corbett High School have been packing their suitcases in growing numbers as they receive notices that their class is having a reunion. May through September are the usual months of travel, but there have been exceptions.

Distance is no object. Some have traveled far, coming from all corners of our country—Maryland, South Dakota, Nevada, Florida, California, Washington, and most states in between. Others, if they don't already live in Corbett, have easily driven from Newport, Medford, Kent, Sandy, Otis, Milwaukie, Tualatin, Portland or Gresham.

What's the appeal? The school years at Corbett are instrumental in building the citizens of tomorrow, and Corbett School District has been "doing its job" for nearly 95 years. Alumni can look back on their experiences, remembering the tools for the future that had been handed to them while they were students. Friendships were formed, some of them lasting for many years. Their class reunion has given them an opportunity to revisit their past, to catch up with old friends and to hear how the alma mater is doing. It's a time for socializing.

Events at class reunions are many and varied. The long-anticipated weekend is often filled with well-planned events and many surprises. Friday evenings have often been used for an informal BBQ or light dinner at a classmate's home, providing a relaxed time to loosen up and renew old relationships.

Last September, the Class of '58 attended a Corbett football game after the home gathering, and the entire class was introduced at halftime. Three of the classmates, who had "Cheerleader" on their school resume, joined the alumni *Retro-Cheer Leaders* in enthusiastic support of the home team.

Other classes have coordinated their reunion with the Corbett July 4th Festival, the Pioneer Picnic in September or the CHS Homecoming game.

Saturdays are usually reserved for the big event, but many classes have included a golf tournament or tour of the school, both popular daytime activities. Reunion dinners or banquets have been held at a variety of locations, including Menucha, Multnomah Falls and the Gresham Elks Lodge. The Corbett School Cafeteria has also been used successfully with the school cook providing an excellent banquet. The invitation list has sometimes been expanded to include favorite teachers, school administrators and representatives from the Corbett Education Foundation or Corbett Boosters. It is not uncommon to also invite other classes to the reunion banquet.

Activities provided at the Saturday event are varied. A sit down dinner will often contain music entertainment. Sometimes, dancing to music from your era is encouraged. An official opening welcome, a few brief speeches and perhaps a tribute to classmates who have passed away can add formality to the evening. A nostalgia table for classmates to view memorabilia from the classes' past and a continuously running slide show of old class photos in one corner of the room can "personalize" the reunion experience for each classmate. Some classes have also assembled an anniversary yearbook as a reunion memento.

Some classes have had a Sunday picnic, if they weren't completely burned out from Friday and Saturday festivities. It is a wind-down event and provides a chance for last minute catching up and to say your goodbyes in a less hectic atmosphere.

The CORBETT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION provides invaluable reunion support. The CAA encourages each class to have a reunion every five years. A broad program of support can help make

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President's Message

By Tom Cowling '56

WHERE DID THEY GO?

Every year since 1916, the high school at Corbett has had a graduating class. The first graduate, Clara (Lasley) Saltzman, was the sole graduate in her class. Since then, classes have increased, recently numbering in the fifties. **Where did they go after the ceremony?**

One of the most important tasks undertaken by *Corbett Alumni Association* is to find each Corbett alumni. Until they are found, there can be no communication with other classmates and our alma mater. The job is ongoing and it will continue until all alums are accounted for.

Anyone can be a researcher. Until now, CAA Board Members have taken primary responsibility for providing current contact information for their classmates. Class reunion planners are excellent researchers and have often updated our database with their mailing lists. Classmates, family members, neighbors and friends have also been helpful.

Initially, CAA had focused on assembling class rosters for each class, a "shotgun" approach in an effort to gather information on a large number of alums. Using this approach, CAA accounted for 833 alums with "good" mailing addresses by June 30, our fiscal year end. We also have noted the deaths of many of our classmates.

This year, as we apply a more "focused" approach, we are asking every alum to be a CAA researcher.

Here's how you can help:

1. Review the list of "Missing Classmates" that appears in this edition of *Corbett Quarterly*.

2. If you have information about someone on the list, send us their **name (include maiden name), class year and mailing address** so we can include them in our newsletter mailings. A **telephone number and email address** would also be helpful for reunion planners. If someone is deceased, please let us know, noting the **date of death**.
3. Mail the results of your research to us:

Corbett Alumni Association
PO Box 525
Corbett, OR 97019

Population Explodes

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each reunion a resounding success. Representatives from each class celebrating a five year anniversary reunion serve on CAA's Board for one year. Each month, the meeting agenda includes a Reunion Planning Workshop that covers the entire process of planning a successful reunion. Class rosters, tips in finding lost classmates and mailing labels are provided. Publicity in the *Corbett Quarterly* and CAA website is also available.

LATE-BREAKING NEWS:

The *Corbett Alumni Association* has just received a letter from the IRS approving our application for tax-exempt status under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to CAA are deductible under section 170 of the Code. The Effective Date of Exemption is retroactive to January 8, 2008.

History of Columbian High School (1914-1931)

By Owen Emily, Student Body President, 1931. This history appeared in the 1931 *Cohimore*.

"Columbian High School, Union High School District No. 1, was organized in the summer of 1914. The first day of school, September 28, 1914, saw 13 students enrolled. Today, in the last semester of 1931, the roll lists 92 names. This is a suggestive indication of the growth of our community during the intervening period.

The school board at once created a bonded indebtedness for funds to construct a school building. Pending its erection school was started in the Corbett Church building, with Mr. A.R. Tollefson as principal and Miss Helen Coulter as assistant. The new building was completed in March and dedicated on the twentieth of that month. It occupied the present site of the Corbett Grade School.

School opened the following fall in the building (1915). Mrs. Clara (Lasley) Saltzman, the first graduate, received her diploma in June of 1916. The fall term began with Mr. Glasspoole as principal (1916). He resigned, however, midway of the term, and the vacancy was filled by Mr. G.N. McKay. There were five graduates in the spring of 1917. This year the first annual called *Columbian*, was published. The following fall Mrs. Leila Thompson held the position of principal.* Mr. McKay returned in 1919, the sixth year of the school's existence.

Columbian enrollment grew steadily during these years, and the school was in a flourishing

condition, when on July 3, 1922, shortly after the close of school, the building was burned to the ground by sparks from a blazing building near by. This was a blow, but the school carried on. The Grange Hall was used to house it during the whole of the following winter while a new building, the present one, was being constructed. There were now about 35 students.

This year the second issue of the *Columbian* was published. The following year the name was changed to *Cohimore*.

The new building was dedicated and occupied in 1923. Mr. G.N. McKay, who had held both the position of principal and his students' affections for eight years, resigned in 1926 because of ill health. Mr. H.L. Moody then assumed the duties of principal. Mr. P.J. Mulkey, the present principal, has been with us for three years. Last year (1929) the graduating class consisted of fifteen students.

This short sketch can give only an outline of the school's growth. Extra-curricular activities, such as athletics, library, glee club, dramatics, etc., have grown proportionately."

The *Cardinal*, October 2, 1951 issue eulogizes Owen Emily. "A Scholar Passes: Columbian High School Alumni lost one of its outstanding scholars with the passing of Owen Emily who graduated with the class of 1931. Owen held the highest scholastic record in his class and was among the most intellectual (of graduates) from the school. His talents were many and varied and if physical handicap had not hindered him, he would have gone far in the business world. Those who knew him admired his sunny disposition, his keen intellect and his friendliness. The (people of this community and) alumni of CHS regret his passing."

Of historical interest is an article in the November 29, 1933, issue of the *Cardinal*. "NICKNAME, CARDINALS, IS CHOSEN AT MEETING: 'Cardinals' was the name chosen for the school, at a student body meeting on Friday afternoon." Thus Columbian High School athletic teams and other student groups representing the high school received their 'name,' and were to be referred to thereafter as the Columbian High School "Cardinals."

The Oregon legislature passed a measure that allowed small school districts to unite to form Union High School Districts. Corbett was the first Union High District formed in Multnomah County, hence its designation as Union High School District #1. Prior to the establishment of a local high school, students attended high school elsewhere, usually Portland. Often students ended their schooling at this point. Some students, often girls, attended high school in Portland, paying their expenses by becoming 'mother's helpers.'

Contributed by Clarence Mershon, CAA Historian

Keeping in Touch...

1939 Floyd Bates sends "I was married in 1941 to Dorothy (Connie) Conn, class of 1941. We lived in Bremerton, Washington for a couple of years where I worked in the Bremerton shipyards. We moved into our home in east Portland in 1945 and lived there for 63 years, where I still reside. I worked for Barnard Cadillac as a body and fender man from 1944 to 1957. I started working as an insurance adjuster for Allstate Insurance in 1957, retiring in 1984.

Dorothy and I were married for 66 years when she passed away on June 20, 2008. We have four children—Dennis, Judy, Linda, and Kathy, 9 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. Dorothy was instrumental in starting the first cheerleading squad at Corbett High School in 1940. I enjoy attending the Pioneer picnic held each year."

1940 Eva Knieriem Beeman conveys "I graduated from (Columbian) Corbett High School in 1940, one of only twenty students. I married Martin O. (Buck) Beeman in 1941. We lived in Vancouver, Washington for a little while, moved to Greenville, California for a few years, moved back to Corbett to take care of my Dad for ten years and then moved to North Portland. I lived there for forty-three years and then moved to Hillsboro to a retirement community. I'm still able-bodied and sound of mind. I worked for Armour Meat Company for thirty years and retired when they sold out to Con-Agra.

I lost my husband after fifty years in 1991. We had a daughter and son, five grandchildren, six great-grandkids plus seven more after my daughter married the second time.

My brother, Robert (Fritz) Knieriem graduated from (Columbian) Corbett High in 1939 and lives in Woodburn, Oregon. I am sending a few names and addresses of some of my classmates.

1960 Carole Windust Cruson writes "I've lived in Denver, CO and its suburbs since 1968. I got an MS in Special Ed at Western Oregon University after a speech/drama teaching bachelors at PSU. I have worked in schools and private practice many years ago. My husband Mike traveled a lot as a mining geologist so I stayed home to raise three children much of the time. Now, Mike has an independent

oil and gas business in Golden, Colorado. It's kind of the Wild West only 20 minutes from downtown Denver. My daughter Nicole married Hans Vockert, a CHS alum. They have a gorgeous son, Henry Walter Vockert, new last December. I come to Corbett a lot!"

1963 Patricia Cowling Smith mails "Although my last two years of high school were completed at Parkrose Senior High School, my roots are certainly in Corbett soil. After high school I graduated from University of Oregon School of Nursing which prepared me for four decades of satisfying work as a nurse in community and school settings. I was able to work briefly with Northwest Medical Teams in Banda Aceh after the Tsunami. That trip and one to Uganda, Germany and the UK have whetted my appetite for future travel.

Phil, a retired teacher, and I have been married 41 years. Our offspring, Tiffany, Chad and Amanda, have given us a total of 7 amazing grandkids who we find to be a constant source of amusement and joy. We are currently starting the fifth year of building a handcrafted home above Mount Angel. Bridal Veil vertical grain fir, salvaged from a beam in the Bob Bird home, has been lovingly worked into our kitchen cabinets and we have hauled rock from my childhood BV home to incorporate into the landscaping. Our hope is to be moved in within the next few months!

We enjoy fellowship in a church we have attended for 40 years, lifelong friendships, hospitality, reading, rafting, backpacking and country living.

1968 Carolyn Wand Eslick announces "My husband Don and I have lived in Sultan, Washington for 29 years. We owned and operated the Dutch Cup Restaurant for 20 of those years. In January of 2008, I was elected mayor for our city."

1984 Lori Link Harris shares "When I was a child, growing up in the small town of Corbett, I remember thinking, "When I grow up, I'm moving to the city and I'll NEVER live in a small town again!"....funny how quickly our priorities change. I met Mark Harris in the summer of 1990 and we were married in the fall of the same year. In 1992,

Keeping in Touch...

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our daughter Kelsie was born and it became harder and harder to imagine her growing up in the 'city'. My parents were still living in Corbett and we wanted family nearby, so in 1993, we found a little house to rent and moved back 'home'. I worked as a bartender at the Springdale tavern for "Wonderful Wayne Lewis" for quite a few years and many of the good folks there are still extended family to me and mine.

Mark, Kelsie and I have had some overwhelming trials in our lives and through it all, the people of Corbett have been the best support anyone could hope for. Mark has worked at the Corbett School District for a number of years—in custodial and maintenance and Kelsie, now a junior, has gone to Corbett since kindergarten. She will be the 3rd generation in my family to graduate from Corbett High School. I am now working in Clackamas for North Pacific Supply—working with builders and homeowners. I have been fortunate enough to find myself in another job where the people I work with are like family. I love my family, living in Corbett, and my job. How lucky is that?! As of this summer, I serve on the Board of the *Corbett Alumni Association* (thanks to Tom Cowling) and we are planning the 25th year reunion for the class of 1984. If you are from the class of '84 or know someone who was, get in touch with us at the Alumni Association!!

Campus News

19 Students Named AP Scholars

The college board announced this week that 18 former and current Corbett High School students were named *Advanced Placement Scholars* for 2008.

Seniors Lara Dunton and Joseph Perry, along with '08 graduate Adam Waldo, were named *Scholars with Distinction* for having passed 6 or more AP exams with an average score of 3.5 or higher.

Senior Laurel Bryggman was named a *Scholar with Honor* for earning scores of 3 or above on four or more exams.

Juniors Lily Carey, Daniel Rodriguez and Brandon Sagar; Seniors Matthew Hammel, William Hiscox, Tyler Jones, Lindsay Miller, Amanda Payne and Andy Svesko, and 2008 grads Benjamin Hewitt, Benjamin Luna, Jeffrey Monroe, Craig Schaaf and Alexander Steele earned *AP Scholar* designations for earning a score of 3 or above on three or more exams.

Reunion Success

The Corbett High School class of 1958 held their "50" year class reunion on September 12th and 13th 2008. Our last class reunion was held in 1983.

On Friday afternoon we gathered at the home of Jim & Karen Lewis in Gresham. We enjoyed a picnic style dinner with Karen's homemade lasagna with all the trimmings. The food was very good and the weather was perfect for the event. After dinner we caravanned to the Corbett High School football game at the high school.

Prior to the start of the football game the "Retro Cheerleaders" arrived on the football field to cheer for our home team. Three of our fellow classmates belong to this group made up of past cheerleaders. Jim Lewis, Sally Iadarola (Windust), and Marsha Rhodes (Howell) joined other cheerleaders to encourage our home team during the game. During the half time period our class was recognized and introduced on the football field to the crowd at the game. We all felt welcome and enjoyed being part of the football game, although our team lost.

Saturday Evening September 13th our Banquet Dinner was held at the Gresham Elks Club starting at 6:00p.m. Cocktails and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Dinner was wonderful Prime Rib and Salmon along with wonderful salads and dessert. During dessert we shared many stories one by one. Our Special Guest Mrs. Elsie Clements (Home Ec) Teacher 50 years ago, shared several funny stories she remembered.

Those responsible for planning this Great Affair were Alice (Parker) Dixon, Barbara (Wilson) Barry, Roland Cartisser and Jim Lewis (Jimmy Lewis as I was called) Our 55th Class Reunion is already in the works. Thanks everyone for such a WONDERFUL TIME!

Contributed by Roland Cartisser and Jim Lewis

From The CHS Archives

Excerpts from *CORBETT NOW and COLUMBIAN THEN*
By Clarence Mershon, CAA Historian

EIGHTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. Forty-nine students enrolled at Columbian High School September 10, 1923, greeted by a faculty of five: G.N. McKay, Principal; Joy Crockett, Joseph Finley, Robert Hamill and Pauline Rickli. This was to be the first year in the new building. The Class of 1924 had eight graduates.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. Principal P.J. Mulkey directed a staff of four, including Mr. Emerson, Miss McEntire, Miss Poor and Miss Rosen. Miss McEntire was a new addition to the faculty, teaching English, World History and the new subject, physiology. Jerome Fehrenbacher served as Student Body President. There were 21 graduates in the Class of 1934.

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. Enrollment at Columbian High School had declined to just over 50 students by the start of school year 43-44. The impact of the war upon students and the school was noted by Mr. Owenby, Principal, in the *Cohimore*, "Four years ago a class of fourteen girls and fifteen boys entered Columbian High School. (Class) numbers have now dwindled to an even dozen. These 12 (the Class of 1944) are to graduate on May 12." The faculty included William S. Beck, Mrs. Leora Cheney, Mrs. Joy Perry and Miss Genevieve Rosen.

FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. The faculty included: Mr. Arthur Hiemstra, Superintendent/Principal, Mr. LaVerne Atherly, Mrs. Elsie Clements, Mr. Ben Goodling, Mr. William Hanson, Mr. Gary Law, Mr. V.O. Monroe, Mr. Dean Morrow, Mrs. Joy Perry, Mr. Willard Sogge, Mr. Leonard Wells and Mrs. Mattie Wells. Jerry White was Student Body President, Pat Graff edited the *Cohimore* and Betty Dobrinski headed the *Cardinal* staff. Betty was also class Valedictorian and Homecoming Queen. Howard Winters was class Salutarian. Mrs. Joy Perry retired after an extended career teaching at CHS that started in 1922, just after the original high school burned to the ground. The Class of 1964 had 30 graduates.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. Dr. Dale Nees continued as superintendent of Schools. The Drama

Club presented "The Green Pastures." Katie Lange, class Valedictorian, and Kathy Collins, Salutarian, spoke at the graduation ceremony. Ed Dunlap served as Student Body President. Student publications were under the direction of Editors Jennifer Richardson (*Cardinal*) and Lori Link (*Cohimore*). There were 64 graduates in the Class of 1984.

Reunion Calendar

Class of 1968 - 40 Year Reunion

Reunion time is quickly approaching! Bruce Reiter needs class members to help plan your 40th class reunion. Please contact Bruce at (503) 695-2766.

Class of 1973 - 35 Year Reunion

Please contact Gary Smith (503) 665-0153 for more information.

Class of 1983 - 25 Year Reunion

Phil Dearixon is your reunion contact. Please call (503) 695-5159 and help Phil plan a great 25 year reunion.

Class of 1998 - 10 Year Reunion

Contact Brooke Kinney for more information and to help plan your 10 year reunion. You can reach Brooke by phone (503) 803-4062 or by email at:

brokkie45@msn.com

Class of 2003 - 5 Year Reunion

Five years already? Get in touch with Zach Bertz (503) 758-4446 or by email at: zacaronius@gmail.com for planning information.

Annual Contribution

We hope that you enjoy reading this Newsletter. It is one of the services provided Corbett alums by their Alumni Association. One of the small pleasures in publishing this paper is compiling the names of our annual contributors. They are tangible evidence to our volunteers that their efforts are appreciated. Many thanks! If it was inconvenient earlier to respond to our annual appeal, do so now and give us the same satisfaction when we list your name in the next issue.

Checks payable to and sent to: Corbett Alumni Association
PO Box 525
Corbett , OR 97019

___ \$35 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ Other

Name _____ Class _____

—

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Keeping in

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Corbett Alumni Association

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