



Corbett Quarterly

Serving One of the Best Small Public High Schools in America

The Newsletter of the Corbett Alumni Association

December 2009

The "School Community" Includes You and Me

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"The goal of Corbett School District is to foster intellectual development, social awareness, and civic responsibility among the members of our school community."

We are sometimes questioned regarding our goals and objectives, as they don't fit the model employed by other schools. Our goal statement, cited above, is simple and direct, but it is substantial.

This most ambitious of goal statements has guided Corbett Schools throughout the dramatic improvements of the last several years. And yet it doesn't look like the goals of other organizations. There is not a single measurable objective in sight! According to common wisdom, it's hardly a goal at all. And yet we have, under its banner, posted higher scores, better numbers, and more impressive, measurable results than we would have dared commit to explicitly before-the-fact. I have said before that I see specific academic objectives (like the 10th grade benchmarks) as stifling more than inspiring achievement. I said that the State's academic goals need to be met on the way to doing something really interesting. By the same token, I believe that Corbett owes much of its success to an unflagging commitment to an open-ended vision of the future that allows for improvisation, vigilant serendipity, and, occasionally, educational opportunism. Like a running back cutting for daylight, we don't always have a clear path defined ahead-of-time. But we keep moving forward, keep our heads up, keep our feet moving, and when we see an opportunity for kids, we take it. We don't

need a goal says we will gain 3.4 yards per carry. We know where the end zone is. (Excuse the sports metaphor. Done now.) We are relentless in our pursuit of ever greater opportunities for more and more kids. And this is a project that is too complex, too multi-faceted to be captured in a set of goals, objectives, and action plans.

Finally, someone might point out that the word 'students' never shows up in our goal statement. When we say 'school community', we mean all of us.

Corbett School District will never hide behind the claim that we 'met' mediocre performance targets. We are willing for someone else to do the counting, the measuring, and the calculating in any manner that they see fit. We want to create extraordinary opportunities for our kids and, as the adults, to set the example for them.

As for goals after K-12, we believe that there will always be great opportunities available to kids who are intellectually prepared, socially aware, and committed to active participation in their communities.

-Bob Dunton, Superintendent

Reunion Committees

Don't forget to provide photos and an account of your special event so we can share them with your fellow alumni in our next newsletter.

We can help if you're starting to plan a reunion. Phone (503) 695-3207 or e-mail us at jlewis@corbettalumni.org.



President's Message

By Tom Cowling '56

YOUR HELPING HAND IS NEEDED!

It's important that we look after each other, offering encouragement in good times and providing support when the going is tough.

I am writing this today to let you know that an old friend of ours is showing its age. My visits to Corbett have confirmed that the campus has experienced heavy use, budget cuts and neglect over many years. It's time for all of us to roll up our sleeves and give it a facelift.

The *Corbett Alumni Association*, with the enthusiastic support of the administration and school board, will plan and organize a **community work party at the Corbett Campus on Saturday, May 1, 2010**. It will be a time when all of us can put on our work gloves and, together, make a big difference.

Every Corbett student and their parents will be asked to join us. Community organizations, area churches and local businesses will be invited as well. The campus is large and there will be plenty of work to go around with adequate supervision provided by CAA.

To keep us focused and energized, preliminary plans call for music, entertainment and a BBQ to wrap up the day. I have learned that all work and no play are downright boring!

Mark your calendar. May 1, 2010 will be a special day when the facelifted Corbett Campus will be a showcase for one of the best public schools in America. Your helping hand will make that possible. Details will follow.

The Newsletter of the
Corbett Alumni Association
November 2008

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Board members showing proper tools to bring to the workparty.

L-R: Tom Cowling, Marilyn Dearixon, Marion Kirkham,
Jean Carter, Jim Lewis and Mel Bacon.

FROM THE CHS ARCHIVES

Excerpts from CORBETT NOW and COLUMBIAN THEN

By Clarence Mershon, CAA Historian

NINETY YEARS AGO. Clifford Reed married Marguerite Pulliam ('25) in 1927. He had attended Oregon Agricultural College (now OSU) and completed his undergraduate work at the Oregon College of Education. He taught at Powellhurst and Fairview Elementary schools and returned to Corbett Grade School, which he had attended as a youth, to serve as Principal in 1945. He held the position until his unexpected death in June 1966, just before the school year ended. He and Marguerite had three children, Donna ('50), Susan ('67) and a daughter, Ruth Ann, who died in her childhood years.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO. The 1940 *Cohimore* was dedicated to Miss Peggy Newby. Other members of the staff for 1939-40 were: Mr. C.C. Owenby, Principal, Mrs. Cheney, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Johnson and Miss Rosen. Student Body President Ellis Snodgrass also played on the basketball team that took the Big-Nine Championship in League play. Fujie Uyetake served as editor of both the *Cohimore* and the *Cardinal*. According to an October 6, 1939 issue of the *Cardinal*, summer improvements to the school were made: "This fall, before school began, several...local men were busy scraping and varnishing the desks and repairing the building in general. The building has been greatly improved since we left it last May and every student is asked to give his fullest cooperation in keeping it so. The W.P.A. (a U.S. Government program) completed work on the new basement and there has been some talk of skates and parties there this winter."

FIFTY YEARS AGO. Mr. Arthur Hiemstra took the position of Superintendent of Corbett

Schools effective this year. Student Body President Mike Goertz provided leadership in

student endeavors for the year. Barbara Berney served as Editor of the *Cohimore* while Carole Windust had the responsibility of editing the *Cardinal*. Barbara Berney served as state president of Future Teachers of America, while Queen Donna Cook presided over the evening's homecoming festivities. Larry Faught scored in the 99th percentile of the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and also took the honor of being named class Valedictorian. In the fall, Corbett voters passed a bond issue to pay for bring the school buildings up to code. The Springdale and Corbett districts were consolidated. After being re-opened after the fire in 1936, the Bridal Veil Lumber and Box Company closed after 24 years under the ownership of the Kraft family, and 73 years in operation.

THIRTY YEARS AGO. A new school superintendent, Dr. Dale Nees, started at Corbett this school year and Mr. Dave Thompson continued as Principal. Steve Pulliam served as Student Body President while Monia Edlin directed the *Cardinal* staff as Editor-in-Chief. Doug Tarpley edited the 79-80 annual. Sara Place directed the activities sponsored by Girls' League and also won the EC Clements Award. Lynn Minch was named class Valedictorian while Mark Lewis and Robert Alelyunas shared the runner-up academic position. The girls' basketball team went to the State tourney for the 1st time and came home with the championship trophy. Mt. St. Helens erupted on May 18.

Keeping in Touch...

1937

CATHERINE (CHAMBERLAIN) ROLEY writes, "John Roley passed away August 26th, 2009. He was not a graduate of Corbett, but all our children attended school there. We (John and I) resided there until 1978 when we moved to Gearhart, OR. Our daughter Nancy Wilson still lives in our old home."

1938

GENE HENSHAW conveys, "I am recuperating at home in Gresham from two recent hospitalizations for heart related issues. Arlene, my wife of 67 (!!) years, and I remain together and are assisted in our care by sons Roger and Keith, and daughter Elaine. High school memories are a frequent topic of conversation, especially my enjoyment of Spanish Class and sports (basketball and boxing, in particular). I extend my best wishes to my former friends and classmates."

1944

MAYES SIMPSON sent, "I did not graduate from Corbett but it is still one of my favorite places. I took my wife to Crown Point for my proposal 62 years ago, 7/26/1947. She is also a native Okie."

1947

ROBERTA (COLLINS) HELLING updates, "All is going well. We had a very good wheat crop and I keep busy with the Wray Senior Center. It has been a mild summer."

1953

JEAN WARREN CARTER exclaims, "I am so proud to be associated with the outstanding Corbett Schools. After spending 25 years in education, I understand what an achievement this is. Corbett has educated three generations of my family: Margaret Johnson Warren '34, Jean

Warren Carter '53 and Jared '04 and Kimberly '05 Hargens. Community support not only helps, but is essential!"

1955

MARILYN HANKS DEARIXON shares, "My youngest sister, Nancy Hanks Nicks '62, and I enjoyed a wonderful, educational, 18 day cruise with port stops in nine countries, including the Panama Canal. We booked interesting and beautiful excursions in each country. It was heartbreaking to see some of the poor, living in homes with dirt floors, missing windows and doors. Often there were no chimneys for the wood fires, so the smoke rolled out from under the tin roofs. It was enough to make us stop and start counting our blessings."

1957

BILL DEARIXON conveys, "I turned seventy-one in August and am still working on a 15,000 acre wheat ranch, staying busy and planning to travel again in late September. My wife, Iva Thompson Dearixon, had both feet operated on and will stay home."

1958

JIM LEWIS reminisces, "It's been over 50 years ago that I attended CHS, but I have never forgotten what I got out of those 4 years. Being involved with the *Corbett Alumni Association* has brought a lot of the good memories and feelings back. Friends that I forgot and those friends that I hadn't seen for a long time have surfaced with the CAA connections. It's been fun making new friends, as well. Just being around the school again has been very uplifting to me and I think, overall, it has made me a better citizen."

1959

LINDA BURKHOLDER THOMPSON recounts, "I have two children left, a son passed away in 2004, six grandchildren and two great-

Continued on page 5

Keeping in Touch...

Continued from page 4

grandchildren. Retiring from King City Rehab last December after thirty years, I now volunteer two days per week and enjoy taking care of my husband and my Chihuahua, Mr. Boozer."

1965

COLLEEN O'NEIL shares, "I'm retired from teaching English in the Vernonia and Banks School Districts. (Think Mrs. Perry). I have enjoyed keeping up with Corbett High over the years through nieces and nephews who attended."

1967

LINDA DOOLEY FARLESS invites, "Hi from Wallowa County! I've been living here with my husband Jim since 1987. I am a cook at Joseph High School in the winter and work at Wallowa Lake State Park in the summer. Look me up if you come camping at Wallowa Lake. We have two daughters: Amy, 40 and Hannah, 36 and six grandchildren."

REUNION CALENDAR 2010

Class of 1940 – 70-Year Reunion

Contact: Marion Kirkham, (503) 695-5122
mekirkham@gmail.com.

Class of 1945 – 65-Year Reunion

Contact: Irma Kimbley Biornstad
(503) 665-7735.

Class of 1950 – 60-Year Reunion

Contact: Mel Bacon (503) 639-6677.

Class of 1955 – 55-Year Reunion

Contact: Marilyn Hanks Dearixon (503) 695-2266, Dona Schneringer Layton (503) 695-5438 or Donna Peterson Davis (503) 695-5327.
Date: Saturday, August 14.

Details: We will have dinner at the Gresham Elks Club. Classes '52-'55 are invited.

Class of 1960 – 50-Year Reunion

Contact: Mike & Barbara Goertz
(503) 695-2266.

Class of 1965 – 45-Year Reunion

Contact: Kathy Clark Godwin (541) 352-7774 or Pat Baker Lucas (503) 695-6488.

Date: July 4 Weekend.

Details: Join Classmates for a variety of activities in the Corbett area. One big event will be the dedication of the Jeff Lucas Stadium.

Class of 1975 – 35-Year Reunion

Contact: Charles Tarpley (503) 695-2582.

Classes of 1970-1980-1985-1990-1995-2005 Reunions

Contact: Jim Lewis (503) 663-9370 if you would like help in planning your 5-year class reunion.

In Memoriam

Edith (Warren) Faught – Class of '35

Edith was born in Aims on February 10, 1917. After graduating from Corbett (then known as Columbian) she married Lewis Faught (CHS class of '33) on December 24, 1936. Edith was a lifelong Corbett resident, a member of Corbett Community Church, and an avid gardener. An expert on wildflowers, Edith enjoyed creating floral displays, some of which she provided to Vista House, where worked as a volunteer. She passed away on November 15, 2009 and was laid to rest in Corbett's Mountain View Cemetery.

Dr. James Scudder – Class of '43

James Scudder, son of Mary Deaver (CHS class of '19) and Grove C. Scudder, died November 16, 2009. He was an Army Major and a regular contributor to the Corbett Alumni Association.

Corbett Announces Advanced Placement Scholars for 2009

Corbett School District is pleased to announce that 28 students received recognition as Advanced Placement Scholars from The College Board for their achievements last spring. Students are listed by award level and alphabetically by last name. They are as follows:

Lara Dunton, AP State Scholar and Scholar with Distinction (3rd award). The AP State Scholar Award recognizes two students in each state and the District of Columbia. One boy and one girl are recognized for passing the greatest number of AP exams in their respective states.

Joe Perry, AP National Scholar and Scholar with Distinction (2nd award). The AP National Scholar award is given to students who pass 8 or more AP exams with a score of four or higher on a five point scale. Last year fewer than 12,000 AP National Scholar Awards were given.

Laurel Bryggman, AP Scholar with Distinction (2nd Award); Jacy Clare, AP Scholar with Distinction (2nd award); Will Hiscox, AP Scholar with Distinction (2nd Award); Mark

Huddleston, AP Scholar with Distinction; Tyler Jones, AP Scholar with Distinction (2nd Award) ; Daniel Rodriquez, AP Scholar with Distinction (2nd Award) AP Scholar with Distinction is awarded students who pass five or more Advanced Placement exams with an average score of at least 3.5.

Brandon Sager, AP Scholar with Honors (2nd award), Andy Svesko, AP Scholar with Honors (2nd award). AP Scholar with Honors is awarded to students who pass three or more exams with a score of three or higher and with an average score of 3.25

The following students were recognized as AP Scholars for passing three or more Advanced Placement exams with a score of three or higher:

Dan Bechtoldt, Chelsea Blakeley, Aaron Brandt, Molly Busk, Lily Carey (2nd award), Laila Collman, Lucy Cultrera, Matt Hammel (2nd award), Laura Kimes, Will Matheson (2nd award), Lindsey Miller (2nd award), Amanda Payne, McKenzie Peterson, Morgon Purvine, Mijah Rasmussen, Jessica Winters, Ashley Young, Maggie Young.

THE FALL FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN!

By Wes Post '5, CAA Treasurer

Our letter that was titled, *We Are (Still) Investing in Excellence*, was recently sent to you. It indicated that our Corbett Alumni Association's primary project again this year is to contribute as much as possible toward the district's cost of paying for over 800 **Advanced Placement** exam fees. As Superintendent Bob Dunton stated in his interview with CAA in that letter, the

purpose of encouraging as many students as possible to enroll in the A.P. Courses is to "prepare students for success after graduation," whether or not they continue on to college.

In addition to the grant for A.P. Exams, the CAA provided a second grant to the School District, which contributed toward

Continued on page 7

Leslie M. "Spike" Emerson

By Clarence Mershon, CAA Historian

Mr. Leslie 'Spike' Emerson came to CHS as a teacher in 1928, serving as a teacher and coach until 1943. He taught science, industrial arts and physical education. Spike Emerson was born in Oxford, Nebraska, June 24, 1902, and moved at an early age with his parents to Forest Grove. He attended grade and high school in Forest Grove and graduated from Pacific University.

He married Florence Riffle, who was born in Denver, Colorado, May 25, 1907. The Emersons had four children: Carol, b. July 28, 1933; Lewis, b. May 25, 1935; Gayle, b. August 28, 1941; and Frank, b. December 15, 1943.

In 1943, Mr. Emerson took advantage of an opportunity to become the Principal at Cascade Locks High School, and moved his family there. In 1947, after four years at Cascade Locks, he returned to CHS as Principal. Until he left CHS in 1954, the Emerson family lived in a home Mr. Emerson built off the scenic highway west of Settlemier's store.

Mr. Emerson retired from CHS as Principal after serving seven years in that position. Thus he devoted 22 years of his life to the education of Corbett students. During his earlier years at CHS, Mr. Emerson taught and coached the boys' athletic teams.

He is particularly remembered as its basketball coach, 1928-43. In 1940, his CHS team took the Big Nine Championship with a 9-1 win/loss record. The Big Nine included teams such as Gresham and Parkrose. In 1941, he took the CHS boys basketball team to the first State B tournament, at which event the team took runner-up honors.

Mr. Emerson is remembered as a very personable, dedicated individual who loved working with youngsters. He also had an 'iron grip,' with which he gained one's undivided attention when he applied it to the shoulder of an obstreperous student. Not a strict disciplinarian, his students came to appreciate his more subtle methods.

When Mr. Emerson retired in 1954, he went into the insurance business and moved to Sandy. Spike Emerson retired from the insurance business in 1965. He died February 11, 1969, and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Gresham. In 2003, Florence Emerson passed away. She had moved to Bremerton, Washington, to live near her daughter, Gayle.

The Hall of Fame Committee elected Mr. Leslie M. "Spike" Emerson to the Cardinal Hall of Fame in 2008. The award was presented to family members at the Boosters Club banquet and auction held on March 14, at the high school.

FUND RAISING

Continued from page 6

the cost of sending the Corbett Academic Decathlon Team to the national competition in Nashville. The Association also paid approximately \$500 per issue for printing, publishing and mailing the *Corbett Quarterly* newsletter.

To cover the above expenses, last year over 75 alums contributed nearly \$6,000 to the Corbett Alumni Association. Our goal this year is to attract at least 100 donors with a target of raising \$9,000. Having no dues, we rely on your loyalty and generosity. I look forward to depositing your tax-deductible contributions!

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 _____

(Include maiden name, if applicable)

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