

MUSTANG



MEMORIES

Fall 2007

San Dieguito Alumni Newsletter

The more things change...

Old San Dieguito is still our high school after all these years



“THERE WASN’T ANYTHING OUT HERE BUT RABBITS, COYOTES AND WEEDS.”

~Jay Williams ('42)

From its humble and somewhat bare beginnings in the late thirties to today’s hectic suburban sprawl, old San Dieguito has undergone many changes. One thing has

remained constant, however: for 70 years this site has nurtured an active and successful high school.

In fact, your alma mater has been ranked by *Newsweek* as one of the top 200 in the nation three years in a row; only 18 California high schools can say the same.

Go, Mustangs!

Welcome to the San Dieguito Alumni Newsletter!

This is *your* newsletter. We’ll be glad to publicize your alumni events here and on our website.

We’re also looking for your high school memories. Share them with your fellow alumni in the newsletter!

Contact us or email to SDAFoundation@sduhsd.net

**SAN DIEGUITO
HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY**



**1937 - 2007
70 YEARS OF MUSTANG SPIRIT**

The mailing list for this newsletter is for the exclusive use of the SDA Foundation. No contact information will be sold, traded, or published. Please contact us if you wish to be included in, or excluded from, future mailings.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1926, the Oceanside School District called for a \$70,000 bond election to build a new high school for students from Leucadia to Del Mar, but the more populous Oceanside voters defeated the proposal. Disillusioned, South Coast residents determined to break away and created the San Dieguito Union High School District in 1936.

Until classrooms were built, junior high students studied at Cardiff School and senior students at the Pacific View Elementary site. To relieve overcrowding, the district bought temporary classrooms: six tents and stoves from the Los Angeles School District.

(Source: *The History of San Dieguito Union High School District: 1936-1981*, by Robert Williamson.)

NEW THEATRE TO BE NAMED AFTER TEACHER



Mr. Clayton E. Liggett

Several former students successfully lobbied San Dieguito Union High School District officials to name a new campus theater after the late **Clayton E. Liggett**, San Dieguito's drama teacher from 1966 to 1985.

The theater is part of an \$8 million visual and performing arts center that will replace classrooms used by the drama and music departments.

Movie producer **Joe Drago** ('79), who

quit football to study theatre with Mr. Liggett, led the effort to name the theater after his teacher. Despite recent cancer treatments, Mr. Drago now heads the fund-raising effort for the performing arts center. "I seem to be entering a chapter of great gratitude in my life," he said. "One of the things I'm grateful for is having had Mr. Liggett for a teacher."

BLAST FROM THE PAST

"Plans are underway for the first annual **Spring Festival** to be held at San Dieguito on March 28.

Bill Hare will be in charge of the Festival, with **Ivan Tiedy** serving as adult adviser.

All organizations in the community are being asked to participate. The purpose of the festival is to raise money for new bleachers and to build a fence around the athletic field. ... The festival will unify the district in working and having fun together, besides helping the school financially."

-The Mustang, 26 Feb 1947

WE GOT SOME INTERESTING RESPONSES WHEN WE ASKED ALUMNI TO TELL US: "WHAT TEACHERS DO YOU REMEMBER, AND WHY?"

Oh, gosh, I remember **Mr. Moore**, the Latin teacher. If we got through with our work early, he would play us the violin. -*Bettie Grice Wolfe ('41) on Mr. Gilbert S. Moore.*



Mr. Dean E. Witty

Mr. Witty made us all want to be the best we could be and he was determined to make us great communicators and writers... My funny story about him is that he was a naturalist when it came to treating his colds. He would cover his body in

Eucalyptus Oil and then crank up the heat in the classroom; needless to say none of his students ever had a sinus issue during our 10th grade year.

-*Kathy Stanton ('70) on Mr. Dean E. Witty, a retired Marine officer who went back to school to become a teacher.*

Anybody who ever had a class with **Mr. Jordan** will remember him doing "When General William Booth Enters into Heaven."

He'd pound on the side of the podium and wiggle his hands in the air like the old time gospel singers and he'd have the entire class laughing so hard he'd have to repeat it three or four times before we could hear enough of it to discuss it in class.

It would be the talk of the campus



Mr. Gerald Jordan

for the entire week: "Mr. Jordan doing General Booth." -*Norman Keith ('54)*

Mr. Stuckenschneider was my trigonometry teacher during my senior year. I learned so much and found it so interesting I majored in mathematics in college. I became a teacher and recently retired after 32 years in education.

I have "Stucky" to thank for giving me guidance and inspiration in high school.

-*David Want ('66) on Mr. Norbert Stuckenschneider*

My favorite San Dieguito Union High School teacher was **Mr. Harold Grande**. He

taught U.S. History... A big, tall man, he made it very interesting and that is probably why so much of my life today is so involved with history.

-*Bette Butcher Topp ('50), who credits Mr. Grande for inspiring her love for history*



Mr. Harold Grande