

FROM THE PUBLISHER

REBUILDING
THE SHIELD FOR
YOUNG AND OLD

It is my honor to bring you the 50th Anniversary Alumni Edition of the Saxon Shield.

In 2011 my sister, Cari Marshall Forrester, Class of 1979, found an issue of The Saxon Shield from March 14, 1969 at my parent's house. She thought I might be interested in having it and it brought back some great memories of my years at Loara.

I decided to scan this issue and post it on the Loara group page on Facebook. It generated some interesting conversations.

About this same time, Geoff Morgan, Class of 1967, passed away. His friends, Cary Adler and Patrick McLaughlin, Class of 1968, asked me if I would like to take care of some of Geoff's memorabilia from Loara, including many issues of the Saxon Shield.

I was honored to do this and started scanning everything they brought to me and posting it on Facebook for all to see. Many alumni were thrilled to see the old papers and some had even worked on those issues of the Saxon Shields.

About this time I was contacted by Paul Chylinski, Activities Director at Loara, and was asked to be on a committee of alumni to plan for Loara's 50th anniversary celebration.

After a couple of meetings Paul found a whole crate of virtually every edition of the Saxon Shield which I have scanned. He also explained that the Saxon Shield was no longer being printed. I found that to be very sad and I came up with this idea of producing one more issue for the school's 50th anniversary.

I want to especially thank Bill Norris, Class of 1989, my editor for all his expertise and all the great articles from those Saxons who contributed. I am pleased to present this paper to all Saxons.

I hope you enjoy it!

— John Marshall
Class of 1969

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

50 YEARS LATER,
LOARA'S STILL
GOING STRONG

Back on Nov. 1, 1962, Loara High School opened its doors to the public.

Over the intervening 50 years, it has been an outstanding public high school, one with a rich history of academic and athletic successes and one that is still cherished by its students, staff, alumni, and the local community.

This is a very special year for all Saxons because it marks the actual 50th Anniversary of Loara High—that's right, Saxon scholars and staff have graced these halls and classrooms for half a century!

I hope you are as proud as I am to be part of the incredible Loara lineage, and I hope you are as excited as I am to be celebrating this very special year.

Go Saxons!

— John Briquete
Principal

It's One Big, Happy Family

Story and Photo
By Bill Norris
Class of 1989

Turns out, Oct. 19, 2012 wasn't as much a homecoming as a family reunion.

I've been to plenty of homecomings in the 20-plus years since graduating from Loara High School in 1989. A lot of them not Loara's in my role as a journalist.

But that night was more than another football game with a longer halftime that would end up costing me precious minutes on deadline. I finally felt like I was at a place I belonged.

It must have been the Loara effect. The "Once a Saxon, Always a Saxon" mentality that we've all adopted since leaving high school. It was a place that was at once different but the same.

It was family. Faces you remembered. People you cavorted with and cared about. And ones you swear you'll want to talk to again more than once a year at a game or reunion.

Of course, in the age of Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites, keeping up with those people is much easier than it had been for previous generations. But there's nothing like being there in person, sharing drinks, laughs and smiles. Those don't translate as well online.

It doesn't mean, however, that we can't reminisce. The number of comments grows and grows on many threads, as we look back at what a special time and place Loara was for many of us.

For example, early this year I posted a photo of my recently uncovered the Empire League Championship certificate I received as part of the 1989 baseball team.

That was a magical spring for the team, as they overcame a difficult start (13 errors in one game) and



Following the Homecoming game, many gathered at Mama Cozza's for food, drinks and reminiscing. The crowd filled the entire restaurant.

went on to beat a loaded El Dorado team twice to win the title.

How loaded was El Dorado? The eventual CIF-SS champions had 12 players on that team go on to play Division 1 baseball and three played in the major leagues, including the top overall draft pick Phil Nevin. They were good.

Meanwhile, the Scrappin' Saxons kept scrappin'. As one of my friends put it among the 40-plus comments from former classmates and coaches: "Meanwhile, we had 'the other Jeff Gordon,' a future West Coast Customs standout Kenny Williams, a guy whose brothers were featured on Undercover Boss, insurance and sporting goods salesmen, engineers and essentially a bunch of scrappers that

'just found a way.'"

Oh, we did end up with one major leaguer on the team – Charles Gipson – who was called up to varsity for our only playoff game.

But that was just Loara. We were a bunch of rag tag misfits thrown together from a part of Anaheim that was expanding in diversity. We never had the problems you heard about at other schools in the area – we were a welcoming, growing family.

Look at the loyalty the school has spawned. How many graduates return as teachers and staff members? When was the last time there wasn't a Lappin at that school? And the teachers who aren't grads? They stay, too. I saw as many teachers enjoying themselves at

the Homecoming game and staying in contact with the school.

We all came away from Loara with our own stories and our own memories. Some make us laugh, some make us cry and some, nowadays, would probably cause salacious newspaper headlines if they got out. We lived together, we fought together and we learned together. It wasn't always an idyllic, Mayberry-like existence, but we made it through.

That's what this issue of the Saxon Shield is all about. Family getting together and telling stories. Laughing and sharing. Loving and remembering. Looking back with a smile, a nod and a bit of forgiveness for sins long passed.

And isn't that what families do?

Once a Saxon, Always A Saxon

Don't Just Say It ... Mean It!

You can join the
Loara Saxons Alumni Association

Starting at \$20 a year, you can help protect the heritage and legacy of Loara High School and future generations of graduates. Your membership includes a twice-yearly newsletter, and for additional donations, extra perks, including:

- Alumni Sweater
- Your Name on a Walkway Paver
- Letterman's Jacket
- Your Name in the Senior Circle

Join through June 2015, and be considered a founding member of the California-recognized nonprofit organization.

For more information, visit:

www.SaxonAlumni.com



IN THE BEGINNING

The Evolution of Saxon Pride

For members of the first graduating class, opening a new school meant starting traditions

By **Steve Milner**
Class of 1965

It was an exciting time and place. Southern California was booming, largely driven by the “Space Race” — and Anaheim was right in the middle of the boom.

In the early 60s, Anaheim was the fastest-growing city in America. Local aerospace companies were advertising nationally for workers, who moved here in droves.

California led the nation in education and entrepreneurship.

Innovative “Space Age” architecture popped up everywhere. The future seemed bright, possibilities seemed endless and optimism reigned.

New tracts of affordable homes were replacing orange groves throughout Orange County. Anaheim Union High School District was building and staffing new schools at a frantic pace in order to keep up with the swelling population.

In 1961, construction began on Anaheim’s fifth high school. It would be named Loara. It was a time of innovation for the new school, too.

It was decided that Loara would open in the fall of 1962 with only 10th grade. There were about 600 of us, so it wasn’t hard to know almost everyone.

Not only did we get to set our own traditions, we had the unique experience of being upper



All images courtesy Paul Chylinski/Loara High School

The evolution of Loara’s logos and Sammy Saxon through the years, clockwise from top left: Loara High School’s original coat of arms; Sammy drove to school in this 1970s era logo; another 1970s era version of Sammy Saxon showed him as a fierce warrior; Sammy put on some cleats to become a football star during the early days (1970s era); and the official school 50th anniversary logo (featuring wings on the helmet, instead of horns).

classmen from the beginning. As sophomores, we had the place to ourselves. As juniors, we welcomed a new 10th grade class and as seniors, we became the first graduating class.

Our new school wasn’t completed in time for its scheduled opening in September of ’62, so we were bussed to Magnolia High, where we attended double sessions for the first few months.

As mostly 15-year-olds, most of us were thrilled to find that we would learn to drive in Drivers’ Training class. That was the good news. The bad news was that we drove Studebaker Larks.

While at Magnolia, optimism turned to fear of imminent war

with the Soviet Union during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We prepared for an expected Russian missile attack, with daily duck-and-cover drills and survival instruction. Many families installed underground fallout shelters in their back yards.

Fortunately, Russian ships carrying missiles to Cuba turned away from a military confrontation with the US blockade of the island — and the crisis was averted.

So it was with a sense of relief — and pride — that we finally occupied our (mostly) completed new school.

Loara began to make a name for itself almost immediately in a number of ways — in sports, musi-

cally, socially and academically.

Our first football team played in the Inland League, consisting of mostly all-sophomore schools like ours. Because only a few such schools existed, we played teams from all over Southern California, from Carpenteria near Santa Barbara to Colton near San Bernardino.

There was tremendous enthusiasm for our team, coached by Herb Hill. We packed stadiums, both home and away, bussing to away games in great numbers. And, to our surprise, we were good, finishing the season second to the only school with a junior class.

And it wasn’t just football. We discovered that we excelled in

almost every sport.

The Saxon Marching Band — under the direction of the legendary Rick Marino — was another surprise, winning many competitions.

Academically, we also excelled, placing high in statewide testing.

Our principal, O.G. “Tommy” Thomason, an exceptionally nice man, assembled a superb group of teachers. Members of our class still tell stories about some of the memorable teachers we had.

But not all the memorable moments were positive. In November of ’63, at the beginning of 5th period, Mr. Thomason’s shaken voice announced over the PA system that President Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas. Silence fell over the classrooms for long moments, then sobbing. We were all stunned, our innocence forever lost.

Then came the Vietnam War, which would claim the lives of too many Saxons and divide our country.

As we got our drivers’ licenses, the Loara parking lot started to fill up with great cars from the 50s and 60s and as we became mobile, Loara window decals appeared all over town.

In time, we found respect from the community and students from other schools — and Loara girls were considered the prettiest in town.

Saxon alumni found success in many fields and some became famous. From our class, singer-songwriter Tim Buckley recorded a number of albums before his tragic early death. Jim Fielder was a member of The Mothers of Invention, Buffalo Springfield and Blood, Sweat and Tears.

There was always sense of personal involvement in almost everything Loara did — dances, plays, sports, parades.

It was our school.

We were proud of it — proud to be Saxons.

Despite Changes, Senior Circle Serves Students

Story and Photos

By **Ken Hecker**
Class of 1966

In the middle of campus are a few bricks and some cement, surrounded by pavers.

As of this writing there is still a bronze plaque mounted on a roughly-poured block of concrete near the center of that “circle.” A circle that is dedicated to Loara’s first Senior Class President, Larry Lawrence.

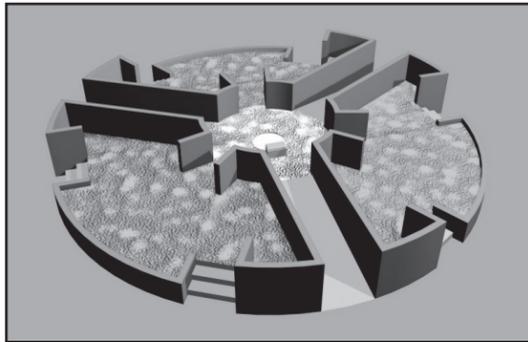
It was once a circle, but now, it appears more like a hexagon. Half the original bricks are gone, as walls have become a seating area.

But let’s look back at what this “circle” was, or was meant to be.

Lawrence was integral in starting plans for the area, which was to be a place for seniors to relax in the middle of campus.

This overhead view (right) was the original vision for the Senior Circle. Vertical surfaces would be red brick, and it would be raised approximately one and one-half feet above the surrounding pavement, have three ramps up to the center of the Circle, and have raised lawns, trees, and shrubs. In the center would be a fountain.

It appears that by the end of the 1965 school year, the plans had changed. I suspect that money was the main concern, and so the brick walls were shortened



A computer-generated model shows how the original design might have appeared.

to about one quarter their original length, and the height-above-grade of the Circle decreased to about six inches. Larry seems to have replaced the long brick walls with brick pillars and a chain around the Senior Circle.

But tragedy struck in the summer of 1965. Lawrence died in Italy (see sidebar). Plans for the circle went forward, with a new title.

Construction began on the Larry Lawrence Memorial Senior Circle in 1965, and was dedicated before Loara’s first Homecoming Game.

The 1966 Senior Class President, Leonard Rumery, presented a bronze plaque (above right), which reads “Larry Lawrence



Larry Lawrence Remains Loara’s First True Hero

Larry Lawrence (Wayne Lowell Lawrence Jr.) was Loara’s first Senior Class President. Class of 1965.

He was also an athlete (quarterback and pitcher for the baseball team). Larry was the main force in developing plans for a Senior Circle, an area where Seniors could go to socialize, eat lunch and study. It would give them something to be proud of, and to look forward to, year after year.

During the summer of 1965, Larry Lawrence died while attempting to save two women, members of a tour group he was with, who were caught in heavy surf off the coast of Italy on June 30th.

At home, shocked Loara alumni and present students were brought together for a memorial service. At the time we were told that Larry’s body was never found, but his niece, Erin Armstrong, has told me that he was found four days later. Larry was awarded the Medaglia



D’Argento Al Valore Civile, which is Italy’s second highest civilian award for bravery.

Larry’s family was invited to the Italian Embassy in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1966 to accept the award on behalf of Larry.

Larry is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California.

See CIRCLE, PAGE 4

50 Years Later

... And Still Trying to Get It Right

Story and Photos
By Ken Hecker
Class of 1966

Where shall I start? I was born a poor black child ... no, that's been done. I started at Loara High School as a sophomore (we all did back then) in the fall of 1963. Unlike when we opened Ball Junior High in 1962, nobody came to our junior high and tried to sell us on flocking to Loara. You were either in or you were out. My sister was at Magnolia, but was going to be a senior, so she stayed put. So it was really early September. Labor Day usually fell on or around my birthday, so I looked forward to starting school. NOT!

Loara? That was the name of a street. A street at least half a mile from the new high school. A street I'd walked down each day when I came home from Palm Lane School. The story of a "Lost Child?" No, the story of a Post Office a mile away. No poetry to it at all.

It was sort of special being the second class at Loara. Only juniors ahead of us, and they'd only been on campus for half a year, having double-sessioned with Magnolia half the year before. No freshmen to terrorize. No senior class to terrorize us. Richard Marino's band program took over what would have been the senior multi-purpose room, and never gave it up. And remember, this school was designed for only three classes. It would be a long time before freshmen would aimlessly roam these hallowed halls.

My mother and I met with Mr. Gerald Balsler, head counselor (he was cool though, he had two daughters in the Class of '65 — and they were in the Band!). Since I'd done well in science in junior high, it was decided that would be my concentration — so of course I wasn't scheduled for any science courses that first year. I've always thought that if I'd met with sophomore counselor Luther Olson, things might have been different. I'd meet him soon.

I had some trouble with French I at Ball, and so took the course again at Loara. Just as well, as Miss Elizabeth Weed ... was more attractive than the gentleman who taught it at Ball. Miss Weed, a former cheerleader, was born in Mexico, and taught both French and Spanish.

I must have passed the class, as I found myself in French II the next year with Madame Ray. Somehow in her class I became André. I didn't look like an André. I can still hear it ringing in my ears (along with the Tinnitus), "French, level 2, copyright 1962, Harcourt, Brace and World, Incorporated."

I found out just last year that Madame Ray (who taught at Loara for 20 years, and seems as young as ever) was a WWII French war bride, who graduated from Cal State Fullerton in 1964. If I'd known that, I would certainly have taken Français more seriously.

Not much to say about my sophomore year, other than we were in geometry when the announcement came that President Kennedy had died. One of those defining moments in life you'll never forget — Oh, and I got dumped into Adaptive PE (have you ever actually climbed the rope to the top?), hated that, and so became a student manager for Lute Olson's legendary Orange League champion basketball team.

Yes, finally met Lute Olson, our sophomore counselor. I must have had some time on my hands, as I had a camera that my father had given me. Leaked light like a sieve (he got it fixed), but took excellent pictures. I started taking photos of the basketball games, and when we went to CIF, the Saxon Shield published a huge photo I took of the opening jump against Yucaipa.

It was wonderful to see that photo on the sports page, but so strange that Lute Olson — a former NBA player, who would go on to become one of the greatest college coaches of all time — would award his three managers varsity letters. But who was I to argue with the future great one? I also had a photo from baseball (you guessed it, I became a student manager for the baseball team under Gene Lambdin) published ... and all this without actually being on the Shield staff. I decided I'd better sign up for journalism. I had a lot to learn.

Junior year. Here I am as I looked when I walked



The opening tip off from a CIF basketball game between Loara and Yucaipa.

in the door of Mrs. McPhillips' journalism class, (aka The Saxon Shield), all gung ho and ready for anything.

I had a great example of leadership in Steve Milner, the Sports Editor. He showed me the ropes (and not the door). Here he is (on the right) with his partner in crime, John Cahill ... a strange method of mentoring.

My favorite story was headlined as "Dennis Eats His Wheaties." Not my fault that our great lineman Dennis Delfs divulged that he eats Wheaties. And I didn't write that headline. I got to take the photo ... and write the story.

Right now I want to put to rest any idea that we were relegated to the Quonset in 1964-65. That would come next.

Senior year. Steve Milner handed off the reins of power to me. Sports Editor. Steve had graduated and gone on to newspaper and broadcasting greatness. It pays to actually know what you're doing.

Halfway through the year Mrs. McPhillips decided I'd been spending too much time behind a camera, and in the dark room, and made my best friend, Don Goudie, Sports Editor. Not a bad idea. Don did a great job, and I spent even more time in the darkroom. I felt like I was turning into a mole.

So what did I do that Senior year? I have no idea. On the day they had students take over administrator and instructor duties, I was made Athletic Director. Sat at Don Davis' desk. Should have fired the entire staff.

I photographed the alumna (that means "girls") cheerleaders coming back for Homecoming (the very first one), as they decorated the varsity locker room (wish those guys had cleaned up in there). Photographed Patti Williams being crowned the first Homecoming Queen. Was out at the courts when our varsity tennis team won Loara's first CIF title. I guess I should have taken some pictures.

Early in 2012, I spearheaded the creation and mounting of a bronze plaque commemorating the tennis team's triumph over San Marino to take CIF in 1966. I figured it was about time to get something up on those courts that was older than the mid-nineties. Principal Pam Maahs Krey ('67) gave this her blessing. Thanks also to Don Goudie and Diana Berry Errington for their support in this effort.

So what's happening now? John Marshall has produced this great 50th Anniversary Edition of the Saxon Shield. Anthony Mastrangelo has done some spearheading of his own, as we're establishing the first ever Loara Saxons Alumni Association, Inc. I hope you'll all join.

It's been great being a part of the Shield, 47 years ago ... and today.



The mostly complete Senior Circle, circa 1968, without the still unfinished Sammy Saxon statue. Crews had troubles keeping the corner bricks to stay in place.

CIRCLE from page 3

Memorial Senior Circle, Father... teach us to be kind," to Principal O.G. Thomason.

Construction, by L.B. Penhall, continued off and on for several years.

Plans were made to replace the fountain at the center of the Senior Circle with a statue of a

Saxon.

The class of 1969 proclaimed that they would finish the Senior Circle.

Included was a promise to future Seniors of a place of their own.

Late in the 1960s a statue, built under the leadership of Metalshop instructor Ronald Tracy, with help from Loara's Art Department head, Wilber Ahlvers, was finally added.



Sammy Saxon takes his place of honor in the Senior Circle during a formal dedication ceremony.

Loara's Tale of Two (Yes, Two) Alma Maters

We've all been there at the end of a football game, and the band strikes up the familiar tune of Loara's Alma Mater. We've waved our fingers in salute to our gridiron warriors, and proclaim Loara is a "School We Cherish."

But how many of you knew that the song played today was not Loara's original Alma Mater? (*Editor: I certainly didn't.*) Well, we've gone into the Saxon Shield archives for a pair of stories about the Alma Mater — first, the original, then the new one. Enjoy!

Show Our Loyalty — Stand

The patriotic song which was played at the conclusion of our last football game, was your Alma Mater. The Alma Mater will be played at the conclusion of every football game by our school band.

Mr. Marino, the director of the band, has furnished us with the Alma Mater. Mr. Marino really deserves thanks which each of us can give him by standing while the Alma Mater is being played.

So at our next football game remember to remain in your

place and stand to pay tribute to your own high school!

Following are the words to the song:

All hail Loara, All hail they fair name,

Thy loyal sons and daughters will always sing thy fame.

Thy colors I'll cherish, In fond memory.

I'll sing thy praise and glory Wherever I may be. I'll sing thy praise and glory wherever I may be.

Source: The Saxon Shield, October 1962, Volume I, Issue 1.

Loara's Latest

Loara's latest decision to be made is on the Saxon Alma Mater. It will be brought up and voted on by the entire student body. The words to the second one proposed are:

Hail Loara school we cherish, Built by Saxons loyal and true.

She provides a firm foundation, Which will last our whole lives through.

May her memories always

linger, May tradition live long too. Red and Gold will live forever, Loara, we'll honor you.

Do you think it is right to change the Alma Mater in the middle of the year? The decision will soon be yours.

Source: The Saxon Shield, November 5, 1964, Volume III, Issue IV, by writer Lee Guccione

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The meaning of "Loara" is very important to the many students who have attended Loara High School... "Home of the Saxons." The name is often mispronounced and in the 1960's was often confused with Lowell High School located in Whitier. There are many unsubstantiated versions of the derivation of Loara:

- "Lost child"...an Indian word in the Gabrielino dialect which was used to call out for missing children in the tall mustard grass that grew on the land of the present day Loara High School. If a child rode off on an uncontrollable horse, "Loara-Loara" would go up for "lost child-lost child."

- Named after Laura Conrad whose father owned and operated the California Brewery of Anaheim.
- The Spanish language verb "loar" which means to praise, eulogize or approve. The word loara is a conjugation of the verb loar which is pronounced loh-AHR.

- Loara represents "Lower Artesia."

- Loara is an anagram for Loftus Oil and Refining Associates.

- Los Angeles Railway Company.

- Contraction of the names Lola and Clara to Loara similar to Kate and Ella forming Katella. Lola was the daughter of John Duckworth, who was first Post Master of the West End or Loara area in 1901.

So what is the real derivation of "Loara"? E. R. Mercereau came to Santa Ana, Calif., in 1897, and bought land near where present day Broadway and Loara Streets meet. He built a store in that area and was one of the first to realize the need of supplying a county store (grocery) for those that lived out on the country roads. The area became known as West Anaheim which was past the original boundary of West Street. Through the influence of Mercereau, the name of West Anaheim or Anaheim Junction, which was a continual source of misunderstanding in the shipping of goods, was changed to Loara in 1899. He also aided in securing a post office for the place.

Mercereau was very proud of his Pilgrim stock (9th descendent of the Alden Family). It is believed that when he needed a new name for the West Anaheim area he chose the first name of Loara Standish, the daughter of the famous Mayflower Captain Myles Standish. Loara Standish, in 1653, made a very famous sampler which is the earliest know American-made sampler and the earliest know sampler with a verse around in (Duxbury, Maine.)

*Loara Standish is my name
Lord guide my heart that I may do
thy will*

*Also fill my hands with such
convenient skill*

*As may conduce to virtue void of
shame
and I will give the glory to thy
name*

According to the former Anaheim Union High School District Superintendent, Paul Cook, it became the custom to name the new high schools in the Anaheim District after the nearest elementary school district, which was Loara (established in 1904). Loara High School opened on Nov. 1, 1962.

You now know that Loara High School was named after Loara Standish, daughter of the famous Miles Standish. It is interesting to note that Loara is often pronounced Lo-are-ah or Lo-air-ah. The curator at the Pilgrim Hall Museum where Loara Standish's sampler is housed, call it the Loara (pronounced like the name Lora) sampler.

—Dr. John Dahlem, former principal, Loara High School, courtesy Loara High School blog

History Weighed Down Class of 68

Political pressures of era offset by touch of humor

By Cary Adler

Class of 1968

The year 1968, according to many historians, was one of the most turbulent, divisive, influential and important years in our country's history. Often described as a knife's edge, the real threat of some sort of revolution seemed very real.

The assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr and Bobby Kennedy. The whole world watching the Democratic Convention in Chicago. The civil rights movement in the South while Northern cities burned and rioters looted. The music of the late 60's was dominated by the sound of the Doors, the Stones, the Beatles, Janis and Gracey and Dylan ... growling, impatient, loud, strident and fiercely anti-war.

The war in Vietnam, broadcast seven nights a week on our TV, black and white jungle images flashing across the screen complete with GI's our age, carrying rifles and grenades and engaging in firefights; ubiquitous cigarettes dangling as they crept through tropical foliage. And always, always, always, as if reporting on some monstrous sporting event, Walter or David or Chet announcing the day's count. Twenty-seven Americans killed, 135 North Vietnamese soldiers killed in battle. On and on and on, seemingly forever.

And yet to us, the graduating class of 1968, it was a year dominated by the usual senior year concerns. Which college will I be attending in the fall? Who is going with whom to the senior prom? The teams playing before full houses at La Palma and our home gym and our baseball field; are we going to CIF? How can I fill up my car when gas is over a quarter a gallon and I only make \$1.25 an hour? Will I pass my finals; will I have enough credits to graduate?

And grades and scholarships and awards and competing against some of the smartest people you have ever met and AP classes and a band that sends fear thru other schools when they hear LOARA is competing!

And the feeling of pride every time you hear the 1812 Overture, because you have heard them practice non-stop for the whole year as they march around the neighborhoods near the school. And the school itself a jewel, only a few years old, a source of pride for Saxons and envy among older and poorer schools.

And in the background, as a subtext to ev-

erything, friends, brothers, neighbors, cousins being drafted or enlisting and fed into a funnel that dumped them off in Southeast Asia. And the boys of 1968 fearing or hoping or plotting how to avoid or get into the war. And the girls of 1968 watching helplessly as their sweet-hearts and classmates and brothers were pulled from their lives, and suddenly put into uniform. And everyone's parents watching with trepidation and dread as graduation day drew near, making their sons eligible to be drafted.

The tension in the school occasionally boiled over as pro- and anti-war debates, formal and informal both, grew loud and ugly. The John Birch society appeared on campus, angering the anti-war kids. Name calling and the possibility of violence seemed to be a daily occurrence

Mr. Thomasson, our principal, must have seen and sensed and heard the desperation and tension and fear running rampant on campus, especially among his seniors. And he did everything in his power to alleviate these feelings, to help us thru these times of excitement and misery, of looking forward and simultaneously fearing the future.

Two of his ideas I remember most clearly, and most fondly. The first, Honors Privilege, allowed seniors on the Honor Roll to leave any class, any time, with no explanation and with the teacher powerless to stop it. Merely produce your card, signed by Mr. T himself, and walk out without a word necessary.

I only used my card with one teacher, and it was always with great delight that I would stand, make a big show of pulling my card from my wallet and watching Mr. Parque turn purple in apoplectic anger. And every time I did it, he would yell at me to come back, that I had no right to do that, that he was calling the office. And as I would head to the Senior circle to enjoy the sun and wait for next period to start, I would be greeted with ironic applause from other senior class escapees; the louder Parque got each time, the louder the welcoming applause seemed to be.

And finally, somehow convinced that it was a good idea to continue to empower us, he turned over the morning announcements to a group of students. Led by Ben Rodilitz and Steve Haber, a cadre of sardonic, sarcastic and downright funny students, calling themselves ICPCL, proceeded to amaze and amuse us every morning. Replacing the staid announcements, this group (pronounced ick pickle) proceeded to make a mockery of every boring announcement ever made over a school intercom. Sometimes in Spanish or in pig Latin, the loud speaker would produce a bewildering number of official items that no one could understand.

The crowning achievement in my mind

for the folks who identified with the phrase I Couldn't Possibly Care Less was our schedule for finals just before the end of the year.

If you took "Good Morning, Vietnam" and mixed in a little "Saturday Night Live," you would have the flavor of how they did things. And being five years or more before SNL, there was indeed a gap between their sarcastic pronouncements and the students' grasp of what they were hearing. And since so much of the humor involved word play and puns, this silence was usually followed by groans and much head shaking.

But their crowning achievement, one I still remember vividly, took place just before our finals a week or so prior to graduation. We knew that there would be exams for each period, stretched out over several days, but no one knew exactly how it was set up. At the end of the announcements Ben told everyone he was about to give out the official schedule. Students everywhere sat upright, pen in hand. Scholarships, college admissions, class rankings, the draft — they were all tied into this week. Our last chance to increase a GPA or gain financial aid.

We sat and started writing as Ben began to read off the schedule.

The finals, he intoned in his best Cronkite voice, "will be — periods 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Not necessarily in that order ..."

Students who had faithfully written down this list looked stunned. The most earnest among them appeared on the verge of tears. And as Ben signed off, you could hear the whole ICPCCL group burst into giggles over the loud-speaker. A glance here, a startled look there, and soon every student in my home room was laughing. We could hear laughter coming from other adjoining rooms, and in that moment all the tension and frustration and fears and potential disasters seemed to suddenly dissipate, and it was like we all could finally breathe again.

I have so many memories of Loara and our senior year, but I will never forget how a group of 17- and 18-year-olds with the blessing of a senior citizen principal, helped us through some very trying times.

It's 44 long years since that day, and those kids are now eligible to collect Social Security. And yet we get together online and in person, meeting for casual dinners monthly, reunions and parties every few years. And the Class of 1968, raised in an era of chaos and uncertainty and assassinations and wars and the threat of nuclear destruction, still survives and enjoys each others company. And, as we old flower children used to say, we keep on trucking ... and what a long, strange, glorious, magnificent trip its been.

Class of 81 Was Comfortably Numb Group

Big changes came as ninth graders were added to mix

By Karl Schorr

Class of 1981

Look at any chart of national SAT scores over time and you'll notice a long, multi-decade decline through the 60's and 70's, followed by an abrupt low-point, and then a steady, refreshing rise to the present day.

Squint at the chart and you'll see that abrupt low-point came in 1980, precisely the year that we, Loara's Class of '81, sat down and took our SATs.

Bogus. Totally bogus.

Personally I blame disco. I mean, a bunch of goofballs in spandex and three-piece suits jumping around to empty-headed drivel? What was the point? That DJ who blew up the disco records was right. Anyone even halfway cool knew that real music was about torn jeans, trippy guitar solos, wheels in the sky, and stairways to heaven.

Anyway, what the Class of '81 may have lacked in academics, we certainly made up in coolness. After all, we were the first seniors



El Taco on Euclid was a popular stop for lunch for LHS students.

in Loara's history to have not two, but three classes beneath us at school. Ninth-graders were at Loara for the first time, and boy were they small!

Seniors were at the top of the longest food chain in the school's history, but we were always there to help our underclassmen with the really important stuff, like how to wear your pants so the bottoms just ticked the ground (but didn't drag).

Guys had it down to a science, since the alternative, hems too high that showed a part of your socks, was like a death sentence. The girls seemed obsessed with wrenching down their Dittos or Chemin de Firs to maximum snugness. They can't have been com-

fortable, and I never once stared longer than was polite. I swear.

Loara's campus was open then: no fences, and no controlled entry or exit. So people could come and go as they pleased. Fortunately, that included us, and it wasn't uncommon to hop in a friend's Pinto or Gremlin and head over to Togo's or El Taco for lunch. Mexi-Casa was way up on Manchester — a little far, unless you were one of the lucky kids who were done with school after third period.

In that case, you had plenty of time for lunch, cruising or record shopping at Licorice Pizza. And right next door was Miller's Outpost, where you could search for that perfect pair of ground-ticking jeans or cords.

Christopher Cross's "Sailing" was the theme of our Homecoming. It was a boring song then, and it's a boring song now. But Homecoming at least gave people a chance to dress up and elect a queen (Christie Dubach).

Afterwards everyone split up into various local keggers, and some even went ice-blocking at Hillcrest Park. I learned all of this second hand, of course, since I spent the entire evening playing Dungeons and Dragons. Part of the next day, too.

Looking back, it's a bit pathetic, but I still say it beats Christopher Cross.

Breezeways ... lockers ... Pee Chees ... Boom Boom ... the Milk Skit ... feathered hair ... the band marching up and down Cerritos in the morning ... Glover Stadium ... sneaking into the pool at night ... driver's ed (on real streets!) ... Anybody make out the lyrics to "My Sharona"? ... And hey! Who put that cow up on the roof?

Beyond the intersection of Euclid and Cerritos, the world had other plans for us.

Turns out life isn't all pep assemblies and El Taco runs. But for a short time it was, and even if we didn't ace our SATs, we had a helluva good time.

Oh, and disco still sucks.

Chamber Singers Program Proved to be Worthy Venture From Start

By Anthony Mastrangelo
Class of 1965

It was June, 1963, and Loara would complete its first year of existence with but a single class of sophomores staged to grow and advance similar to the evolving community it was a part of. As with any new school many voids existed in the beginning and a need to establish a true vocal department was soon recognized and acted upon.

Fortunately for Loara and its student body, a talented instructor by the name of Edwin Grace was solicited to become a member of the staff and head this venture. One of the ideas quickly brought forth was the creation of a group unique in style, talent, and envisioned to number not more than ten in size.

At the beginning of the '63-'64, school year this class was simply designated "Advanced Choral Ensemble." Even during this period there were not only the usual challenges expected creating the group, but in some cases unforeseen reservations needing to be overcome.

While the district and school administrators were in favor of having a first rate choral group, just as we still see today, concern existed over dedicating a full class hour to such a small number of students. A topic heartily engaged by Mr. Grace with an eventual resolution resulting in a total of 15 students competing for a place in the group.

In early 1964, the group decided it should have its own individualized name. By February, the process was completed and the group would soon have the new title of "The Chamber Singers" as officially announced by Mr. Grace in that month's issue of the Saxon Shield.



Photo courtesy Anthony Mastrangelo

Members of the 1963-64 Chamber Singers were, standing from left: Edwin Grace, Director & Founder; Donna Phelps, Anthony Mastrangelo, Dorothy Joseph, James Donart, Karen Smith, Jerry Mangham, Mary Lightsey, Pat Knox and Wendy Hallonquist, accompanist. Seated, from left are: Donna Earl, Arlan Ellis, Alexandra (Sandy) Wampler, Jerry Thomas, Jeanne Grimes, Carl Bailey, Denise Walp.

Selection of this name involved a long and thoughtful process so as to not only be different, but also consistent with the formation and style of musical presentation.

The practice of performing both sitting and standing behind a specially designed half-moon table with six candles held by two sterling silver candelabras was in itself unheard of and surpassed only by the group's performing configuration providing dichotomy between each voice rendering an idiomatic sound not often heard.

There is really only one word to accurately describe the recognition Loara obtained and The Chamber Singers achieved in its first year of

existence — phenomenal. While the usual school performances took place, a greater demand for the group's presence quickly occurred to the extent that invitations had to be declined.

Members of this group were honored in entertaining people from every walk of life throughout the area, with performances at locations such as the Hollywood Biltmore to local nursing homes. The Chamber Singers did this proudly in honor of their school, with every presentation receiving the same degree of intensity and dedication for those present.

In the 1965 Seaxe, copy under the group's picture noted 13 mem-

bers were seniors and, as life dictates, would be moving on. More importantly, it is also noted how each of these individuals gave an intricate part of themselves in the hope a mere high school chorale group might thrive throughout the lifetime of Loara; an objective most assuredly achieved.

There certainly have been many changes to The Chamber Singers during its successive generations. Still what this group represents to the heritage of Loara will always remain undisputed and transcend throughout decades of both a great history and future yet to be written by those following in the footsteps of these founding members.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE 50 YEARS MAKES

It might not seem that long ago, but let's look at some of what was going on in 1962, the year Loara High School opened its doors.

PRICES

Cost of a new home: \$18,200.00
Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.04
Cost of a gallon of regular gas: \$0.31
Cost of a dozen eggs: \$0.54
Cost of a gallon of Milk: \$0.49

POP CULTURE

- Release of first Beatles recording: the single "Love Me Do"
- Andy Warhol's famous painting of a can of soup
- Beverly Hillbillies, the Dick Van Dyke Show on TV
- Johnny Carson begins as presenter for The Tonight Show
- West Side Story, Spartacus, El Cid, Lawrence of Arabia and To Kill a Mockingbird are big in movie theaters
- Popular musical acts include: The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Chubby Checker, Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Neil Sedaka, Roy Orbison and Shirley Bassey

DISNEYLAND

In April of 1962, Disneyland hosted its first-ever "Spring Fling" for teenagers to come to the park to enjoy music and dancing. Prizes were given away, including a grand prize of a 1962 MG Midget. Park entry for the event was \$4 for advance tickets and only \$4.40 on the day of the event.

Also opening at the park that year was the Swiss Family Robinson Tree House (which closed in 1999). The Jungle Cruise got a herd of elephants added in a new scene for the ride. And not long after (June 1963), the Enchanted Tiki Room first opened its doors.

During the winter season, a Passport admission — which included entry and all the rides, was \$4.50 for adults and teens and \$3.50 for children ages 3-11. The park was closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

For the summer, however, online documents show that Disneyland was moving to the ride tickets, with a 10-pack going for \$3.75 for adults and a 15-pack for \$4.75 (price included admission).

IN THE NEWS

- The big news in 1962 was the Cuban Missile Crisis, as the Soviet Union began work to install long- and medium-range missiles in Cuba, sparking fears of war during the height of the Cold War.
- It was a big year for discount shoppers, as the first Wal-Mart opened its doors in Bentonville, Ark., and the first K-Mart began its blue-light specials in Garden City, Mich.
- Marilyn Monroe is found dead of an apparent overdose on Aug. 5.
- John Glenn becomes the first American to orbit the Earth as part of Friendship 7.
- Jamaica is granted its independence from the United Kingdom, while Algeria gains independence from France.
- There was rioting at the University of Mississippi when black student James Meredith tried to enroll at the school. Federal troops and marshals are called in to take control of the situation.
- Notable births: Jodie Foster, Evander Holyfield, Joan Cusack and Demi Moore.

— Compiled from Internet reports

'Just Try It' Turned Into Long Career

By Keith A. Jones
Class of 1967

I found a dozen Saxon Shields, circa 1965-67, in a box in my closet this morning. I was a junior when I joined Mrs. McPhillips' newspaper class in the fall of 1965 in a Quonset hut near the shop classes. I took her beginning journalism class as a sophomore, but it was all a big mistake. Loara was trying out a computerized scheduling system. I had signed up for creative writing but instead ended up in journalism.

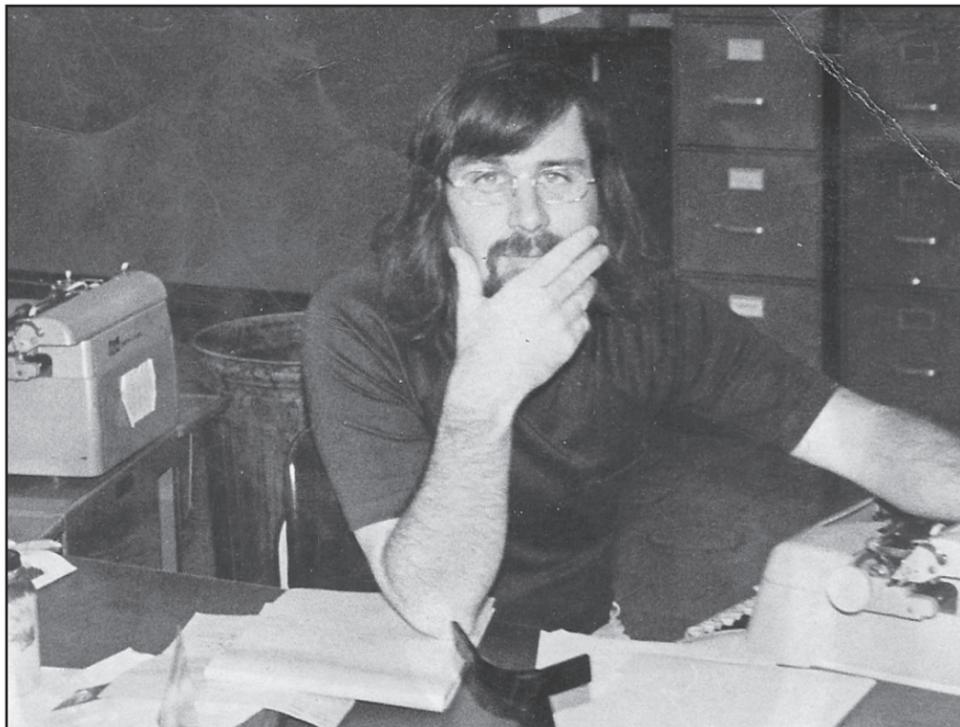
Mrs. McPhillips told me to just give it a try for a semester to see if I liked it. Now after 44 years as a newspaper guy, I guess it worked out okay.

My first editing job was the senior edition of the Shield in June 1966. Linda Seifert and I were listed as co-editors. I didn't know it at the time, but Mrs. McPhillips was using it as a tryout for who would be editor the next year. Linda got the job, so you can bet that I messed

up somewhere. So I spent my senior year as assistant features editor under Lee Guccione, which wasn't so bad.

Besides Craig Turner, I don't know of any others from that class who went into newspapers. Craig had a nice long career at the Los Angeles Times. I got a job at The Register. Mrs. McPhillips showed up at The Fresno Bee one afternoon in the late 1980s. She said she was visiting her former students who stayed in journalism. She had seen Craig at The Times. I was news editor at the time.

I've never been to any high school reunions.



I never went to a prom. My whole time in high school seemed to revolve around the Shield and cross country. I wasn't very good at cross country. After graduation, a bunch of us continued on at Cypress College. So I guess my high school was extended a couple more years. Steve Funk, Craig, Linda, George Behnke, Cathy Purpura and I kept it going. But after that, we all just kind of drifted apart, going our own ways.

That's the nice thing about Facebook: Ken Hecker, Don Goudie and Larry Gates linked

up with me a couple years ago. I got to meet Don for a drink at a bar in San Francisco. Larry and I had dinner at a diner in Fresno's Tower District. We all have families now. We're a lot older and have less hair (except for Don).

Computers have gotten a whole lot better than the one at Loara in 1964,

Keith Jones continues to live in Fresno with his wife Sue. They have a grown daughter, nine stray cats and a white and brown terrier named Beans.

High School Place for Reinvention

By **Sylvia Kwan**
Class of 1981

I confess I haven't thought a lot about my time at Loara since the Spring of 1981. I think it's more a function of having a poor memory than of having experiences I'd rather forget.

Reflecting on it now, I'd say my years at Loara were a near-perfect combination of learning, enjoyment, awkwardness, and angst — if there is such a thing. Despite the self-consciousness and peer pressure, I had one helluva of time. I even learned a few things along the way that I've carried with me these 30-odd years.

I learned to run and actually enjoy being physically active.

This sounds trivial, but as an obese child and overweight teen, exercise wasn't at the top of my list. A friend in the class of '80 threatened to de-friend me if I didn't join the cross country team with her, so that was my auspicious start at running. Little did I know

how much I would grow to enjoy it, learning about discipline and commitment along the way. I remember running up and down freeway ramps (the only hills in the OC), training with Coach Hurlbert during the hot summer months, and the colorful good luck locker posters from the cheerleaders on race days. I still have my letter jacket. And thirty years later, I'm still running. I'd like to think it all started my sophomore year.

I learned how to write and communicate clearly.

I remember getting my first paper back. It was covered in red, with lots of comments in the margins, like "unclear," "please explain," "confusing," "rewrite." It was a humbling and painful learning process, but by the time I finished my senior year, I had Douglas-Christensen honed writing skills that have proved their value over the years.

I learned about reinvention (though I didn't know it at the time).

At my core, I admit I'm a nerd. I love analytical puzzles and math problems and yes,

I will mentally add up the groceries in my cart so I can get as close to the \$25 required to use my \$5 off coupon. It's not so much about the money as it is about enjoying the mental challenge.

When I entered Loara as a sophomore, I didn't have much going for me besides being pretty good at math. What I learned was that I didn't need to change who I was fundamentally — but I could expand on it. I joined the cross country and track teams, participated in various clubs, worked on the Saxon Shield, tried out for graduation speaker, worked the lunch line, and made friends outside my initial small social circle. I felt I left Loara a more empathic and well-rounded senior — so much better prepared for college and the working world.

Recently, I completed an art project where we gathered clothes and fabrics that held meaning to us — pieces like family heirlooms, your grandmother's apron, your first concert T-shirt — and reworked these pieces into a new, modern piece of clothing, in this

case, a scarf. All these fabric pieces are like different parts of our selves. Reworking and reinventing them in new ways can be invigorating and inspiring, opening up new paths and adventures that we might not have imagined before.

Reinvention isn't a 180-degree overhaul. It isn't trying to be someone you're not. To me, it's something new and different created from that which already exists. It's taking all the things that fundamentally make you who you are and weaving in new experiences (good and otherwise), which over time, results in different.

Last year, I attended our 30th reunion. What I loved best about seeing everyone was not needing to explain who I was or what I was about, because everyone from 1981 already knew. It was a freeing and oddly comforting moment. Yet I, along with everyone else, had changed. Like seniors at Loara looking back at our time there, we were the same, yet different.

In a word, reinvented.



Photos by Bill Norris

The times may have changed, but the spirit stays the same, as members of the dance team (above) salute during the Alma Mater after the Homecoming victory over Santa Ana last October. Below, class of 1990 grads Mike DesRoches, left, and Brian Ritchie salute the team as well.

Spirit Started Early, Continues On Today

By **Tymra Leonard**
Class of 1976

My memories of Loara start when I was 5 or 6 as my dad taught at Loara from 1963-69. I watched the senior circle be built and then, when it was finished, played that I was a Saxon princess living in the area. I even remember the brief life of the fountain.

I was at the football game when Loara won CIF. I remember one game that year, somewhere in LA or North, anyway, and the drive was so foggy we couldn't see the road and when we got to the game we couldn't see the players on the field.

I knew the words to the alma mater early, Tommy Thompson himself taught them to me. I bled Red and Gold and still do. Did I mention that at this time we lived in the Magnolia High School attendance area and I fully expected to have to go to school there.

We moved in 1974.



I am a proud member of the class of '76. I enjoyed seeing the page from Dr. Dahlem's history about SPIRIT week in 1974. I do believe I got a carrot gram once but not the first year.

I missed out seeing Larry (Fine) of the Three Stooges, but a friend of mine did. I went to the all-night film fest, though it cured me of ever wanting to see the Stooges again.

My friends and I gathered in the library in the mornings. Mrs. Menkin, the library assistant, was the mother of one of us. We'd help each other with homework, catch up on the latest from each other, discussed our love lives; several of us dated each other (yes the group was coed), and coped with being teenagers.

I remember Boom Boom fondly. The pictures on the site do not

do "her" justice. "She" was a magnificent Valkyrie. The homecoming assembly was always the most crowded pep assembly of the season. Even sophomores seemed to know to get there early.

When Boom Boom came out striding with those breasts sticking out miles above the chest, the drum major stick pumping away, I just about died laughing. I was very glad to see that Dr. Dahlem had not left Boom Boom out of the history of Loara because "She" played a big part of the spirit Loara has.

Loara's spirit lives on in me today. I still remember the words to the alma mater and fight song. My children seem amazed by that. Hey when you learn them young they stay forever. Or maybe they are just so true "Hail Loara school we cherish built by Saxons loyal and true she provides a firm foundation which will last our whole life through!!!!"

GO SAXONS

HISTORIC FIRSTS AT LOARA HIGH SCHOOL

First touchdown... John Wheaton plowed over from the five-yard line to score... our second... Larry Lawrence rolled out to his right and flipped a short pass to Ken Griggs in the end zone... and our third... Larry Lawrence and end Mike Lind combined their talents for a 61-yard touchdown pass play... **Final Score** — Loara 21, Bloomington 0

First Victory Dance, Friday, Oct. 6, 1962

First Spring Concert, Friday, May 24, 1963

First Elections, Nov. 8, 1962. — **Bob Adler, President**

First Queen and King — Cathy Arnold and Mike Meadows

First win for the Band — 1st place in the Covina Christmas Parade, Nov. 29, 1962

First Loara Basketball win — Loara 45, John Glenn 21.

First day on campus, Nov. 1, 1962

First Loara CIF Basketball Game — Flintridge 67, Loara 49 — First CIF basket made by **John Armstrong**

First Track men in CIF competition — Jim Noon, Steve Ditmar, and Brent Romney

First Baseball win — Loara 21, John Glenn 3. Larry Lawrence was the pitcher

First no-hitter — Scott Duncan against Sierra Vista

First Foreign Exchange Student — Marie Louise Vaessens

First Saxon Top Ten Songs: 1. Big Girls Don't Cry; 2. Bustin' Surfboards; 3. He's a Rebel; 4. Lonely Bull; 5. Telstar; 6. Gina; 7. Limbo Rock; 8. Return to Sender; 9. Cinnamon Cinder

First CIF Football Game — Nov. 27, 1964

First Junior-Senior Prom, May 21, 1965

First (and last) annual Mouse Race held in Mr. Parake's room

First Play — Big Quack, Feb. 1, 1964

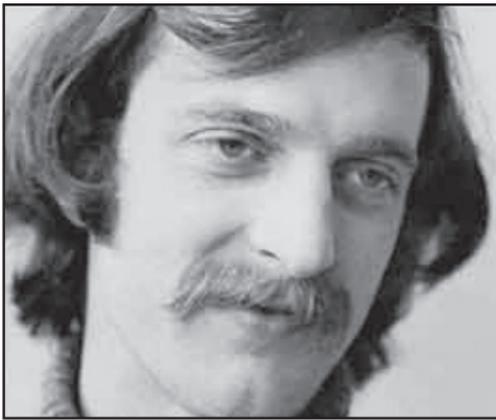
And last, but not least — First Graduation Exercises, Class of '65, June 17, La Palma Stadium, 8 o'clock

— Reprinted from The Saxon Shield, May 1965, Special Senior Edition, Volume III, Issue 15

OLYMPIC GLORY



TIM BUCKLEY (1965), top left, and **JEFF BUCKLEY** (1984), top right, were father-and-son graduates from Loara who both found fame in music. Tim was known for his work as in folk music, and collaborated with fellow Saxons **JIM FIELDER** (1965), bottom left, and **LARRY BECKETT** (1965), bottom right. Jeff Buckley is probably best known for his rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," which has been cited by Rolling Stone magazine as one of the 500 greatest songs of all-time. Tim Buckley died of a drug overdose in 1975 at the age of 28. Jeff died in 1997 of an accidental drowning at the age of 30. Fielder was the bass player for Tim Buckley's early work with a band named The Bohemians. He later found greater success as the bass player for Blood, Sweat and Tears. Beckett was the drummer for The Bohemians, but was the lead writing collaborator with Tim Buckley in the early years.



Loara has had two athletes represent the United States in the Summer Olympic Games. **DANA SCHOENFIELD** (1971), left, was a swimmer who raced in the 200-meter breaststroke. She narrowly missed the Olympics in 1968, but did qualify in 1972 in Munich, winning the silver medal. **LAUREN LAPPIN** (2002) went to the Olympics twice with the United States softball team. She was an alternate on the gold-medal winning team in 2004 (meaning she was there, but did not play, and did not earn a medal). At Beijing 2008, she was a part of the United States' silver-medal winning effort, in the final Olympic softball tournament.



Save Ferris

Hot on the heels of No Doubt's big break out, another Orange County ska band started getting play on local radios, as Save Ferris hit the scene. The band, best known for their cover of "Come On, Eileen," featured four Loara grads: Guitarist and songwriter **BRIAN MASHBURN** (1993), saxophone player **ERIC ZAMORA** (1995), bass player **BILL UECHI** (1993) and trumpeter **JOSE CASTEL-LANOS** (1995). Mashburn, Uechi and Zamora went on to help form the ska band Starpool with former No Doubt member Alan Meade.

Ever hear the saying that everyone has a good book in them? Well, **SYLVIA DAY** (1992) has had more than one. Day is a best-selling and award-winning author, focusing her efforts on the romance/erotic fiction format, creating the Crossfire series, which has six million English language copies in print, and has been licensed for printing in 38 territories. She also writes books under the nom de plume S.J. Day and Livia Dare. Her book, *Bared to You*, was one of the top-selling books of 2012, ranking fourth on Amazon's rankings (print and Kindle), fifth on iTunes and seventh on Bookscan's rankings for adult fiction.



SylviaDay.com

Gwen Stefani may have hit it big after leaving Loara, but she wasn't the first to reach pop diva stardom. That title would fall on **STACEY LYNN SWAIN** (1976), better known to music fans as **STACEY Q**. Her career took off in 1986 as her first major label single "Two of Hearts" hit No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts. The success led to a string of small acting roles in shows such as "The Facts of Life" (George Clooney's character left the show to become a roadie for her fictional character, Cinnamon) and "Full House" (as herself). She has remained active in the years since, including a 2010 release titled "Color Me Cinnamon."



LastFM.com



John Van Houten

The legend of the Loara band is known far and wide, and the number of musicians to have played for the Saxons numbers into the thousands. But **JOHN VAN HOUTEN** (1976) has made a pretty good career of it. The orchestral tuba player has played on recordings with artists such as Burt Bacharach, Elvis Costello, Carly Simon and Alice Cooper. His music also has been featured in movie soundtracks, TV shows and video games. Besides playing, he has been conductor and arranger for many projects and teaches at colleges across Southern California.

What high school doesn't have its share of drama? Well, for **LINDA EMOND** (1977), drama became a full-time gig. Emond has won numerous awards for her work on stage, and earned two Tony Award nominations along the way. Besides her work on stage, she has a long list of roles on television — she's played numerous roles in the "Law & Order" franchise, as well as recurring appearances on "Gossip Girl," "The Good Wife" and, most recently, "Elementary." Her film credits include "Stop-Loss," "Julie and Julia" and the upcoming Spike Lee film "Oldboy."



IMDB/Linda Emond



One of the greatest distance runners in Southern California history, **RALPH SERNA** (1975) won back-to-back CIF-SS cross country championships, beating the likes of Steve Scott of Upland, who is considered one of the best mile runners in U.S. history. His two-mile time of 8 minutes, 46.0 seconds is still the fifth fastest in state history (sixth when converted to 3200 meters). As a junior, he ran the 5000 meters in 14:16.2, the state's top time for a junior all-time (and fifth in state history). After a strong career at UC Irvine, he qualified for the 1984 Olympic Trials for the marathon, but was forced to withdraw due to injury. He went on to work designing shoes for companies such as Reebok and Mizuno, and collects track and field memorabilia.



No Doubt/Facebook

JUST A GIRL ... AND HER BROTHER

When it comes to big-time Loara High School graduates, they don't get any bigger than **GWEN STEFANI** (1987).

Let's see, what has she done since leaving Loara behind?

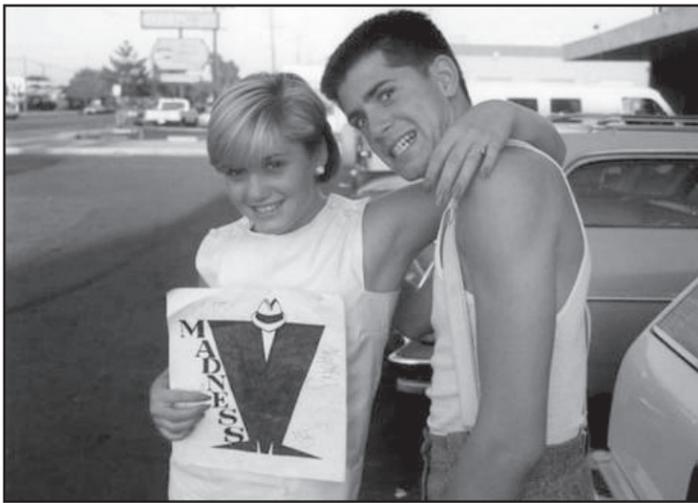
Well, there's the massive success she found as the lead singer of the ska-reggae-rock band No Doubt (founded by her brother — more on him later).

From there, she went on to find success as a solo artist, releasing two albums, and collaborating on a Grammy Award winning duet with Eve. No Doubt has won two Grammys as well.

She appeared in the Oscar-nominated film "The Aviator," portraying Hollywood glam star Jean Harlow.

Her marriage to Bush frontman Gavin Rossdale — they have two children — has become regular gossip magazine fodder.

Oh, and she created her



NoDoubt.com

own clothing line named L.A.M.B. (Love. Angel. Music. Baby.)

So, not much, really.

The Stefani's story has been told many times through the years. Baby sister Gwen hung around while older brother **ERIC STEFANI** (1985) started

the band No Doubt with friends. He eventually relented and allowed her to become a part of the band.

Eric eventually left the band to pursue his own career in animation. And he's been no slouch at that, either.

He got his start drawing



Facebook photo

cartoons that were featured in the Saxon Shield, and eventually moved on to animation.

Early on, he worked on new incarnations of "Beany and Cecil" and "Mighty Mouse." He also worked on opening title sequences for movies, before joining the staff of "The Simpsons" for a time.

More recently, he has returned to music, working on solo projects.

TITANS OF INDUSTRY



Augie's Quest

If you've ever ridden a LifeCycle at the gym, then you have **AUGIE NIETO** (1976) to thank. He is credited with inventing the exercise bike, along with founding Lifefitness, the company that oversees the exercise equipment. His new fight, however, is against ALS — better known as Lou Gerhig's Disease. His struggle has spawned the website, www.augiesquest.org, and was featured in a song titled "Augie Nieto," written and performed by Five for Fighting's John Ondrasik.



SBNOnline.com

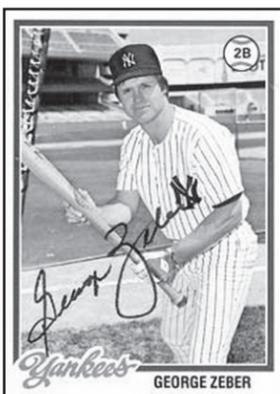
One of Loara's earliest graduates has made a lifetime of working in retail, eventually founding his own successful brand. **ALAN GLADSTONE** (1965) founded Anna's Linens in 1987. He has been the CEO of the company, named after his mother, ever since. The company has more than 300 stores in 19 states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.

MAKING IT TO THE BIG LEAGUES



Topps

MIKE ADAMS (1966) was drafted out of Loara by the Chicago White Sox, but spent a year at Fullerton College instead. The year paid off, as the Detroit Tigers took him as the second overall pick in the 1967 January draft. He ended up playing 100 games over five seasons for the Minnesota Twins, Chicago Cubs and Oakland Athletics.



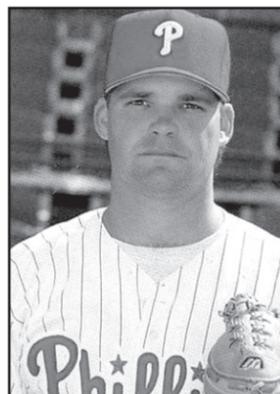
Topps

GEORGE ZEBER (1968) had a long road to the big leagues. He was drafted out of Loara by the New York Yankees, and spent two seasons in the minors before being called to military service. He returned to the diamond in 1972, working his way up the ladder. He finally made the big club in 1977 as a back-up second baseman, winning a World Series ring.



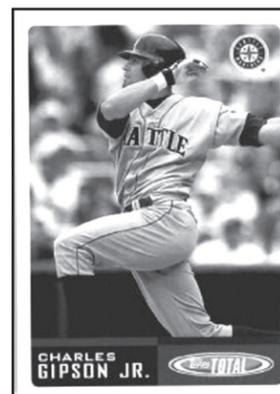
LA Rams

KEVIN MCCLAIN (1972) is the only documented Saxon to make it to the National Football League. A linebacker, he was a first-round pick and played four years for the Los Angeles Rams, and a couple of seasons in the short-lived United States Football League, before retiring and becoming a coach for the USFL's Houston Gamblers.



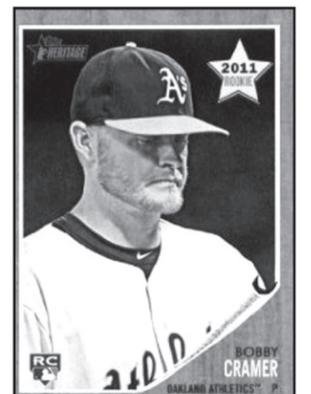
Baseball-Birthdays.com

JEFF PATTERSON (1987) was a pitcher and outfielder during his time at Loara, but made it to the show in 1995 as a pitcher for the New York Yankees — for three games. He pitched 3.1 innings, striking out three during his stint in the majors. But that wasn't the end of his baseball career, as he's now the Yankees' West Coast scouting supervisor.



Topps

CHARLES GIPSON (1991) played in the big leagues for eight seasons, five with the Seattle Mariners and one each with the New York Yankees, Tampa Bay Rays and Houston Astros. He played in two postseasons with the Mariners. His stats show one interesting note: He is one of seven players to play 100 games, and have more games played than at-bats.



Topps

BOBBY CRAMER (1997) was one of the feel-good stories to crop up near the end of the 2010 Major League Baseball season. After being out of baseball for two years, he returned, pitching in the independent and Mexican leagues before getting a chance with Oakland, including a start at Angel Stadium. He was released in 2011.

a complete*



GUIDE TO LOARA HISTORY

By Paul Chylinski | Class of 1982

SCHOOL COLORS AND MASCOT

Cardinal red, gold and white were chosen as the school colors, and the Saxon became the mascot (the prototype was drawn by a Hollywood artist, Leon Harris, in 1944 for Thomason's YMCA groups, the Saxons).

GENERAL "FIRSTS"

Bob Adler was the first student body president who headed a government that was able to get the school well established early in the year, although the first semester was on a different campus.

Making up the first group of cheer and song leaders with Kay Malucky as adviser were cheerleaders Lynn Sneddon (head), Cindy Huff, Barb Tenhagen and Ellen Manheimer. Song leaders were Linda Barker (head), Lynn Hachten, Glenda Michael, Michelle Parker and Jackie Carmichael.

The first king and queen of the school were Mike Meadows and Cathy Arnold, who reigned over the Winter Wonderland Dance. Another event that first year was the Faculty All Stars pitted against the Harlem Clowns.

By the second year, clubs were beginning to make a difference in campus life. One of the first and most active was the Girls' League, which scheduled events, such as a winter and spring formal dance, a fashion show, a mother-daughter banquet and a spring picnic. For projects, the girls collected and sent clothing to the Albert Sitton Home and bought a movie screen and microphone for the school.

The Red Tie Club is a football award group. Athletes dress in slacks and either red or gold blazers on the day of a game. The wearing of the red tie is a mark of pride by those who have earned the right.

Under the direction of Eugene Mitch, the drama students presented a successful evening at Anaheim Auditorium with the play THE BIG QUACK.

President of the Junior Class that second year was Mike Pence, later

In the years I have been teaching United States History, I have always included a day in which we learn about the History of Loara High School. History of a school has just as much to do with the traditions and spirit of the school as does the members of the faculty, staff and student body for that particular year.

When Loara received the Distinction as a California Distinguished School in 1996, the interviewers that came onto our campus were asking things like "How do you do what you do?", "What is the magic?", "Why didn't you apply sooner?" and wished that we could "bottle up the magic" of the school and share it with others. We know that Loara is a special place and always will be (Once a Saxon, Always a Saxon), but all of us know that it's the history of the school, the people that have graced its halls since 1962 and that makes it the way it is.

There are many people that are part of the traditions and it continues through today, and hopefully beyond. For years I have been borrowing

An Introduction

John Dahlem's The meaning of Loara written in 1982 and Louis Booth's writing of Loara in One to Twenty Eight, A History of the Anaheim Union High School District (1980) to teach my classes. When Dr. John Dahlem returned to Loara High School as the principal in 1996, I felt compelled to update this journey, the events, and the History of Loara. Included in this History is a compilation of all the facts, meaning, and things that I could scurry up with the help of all the faculty, staff, retirees and graduates of Loara. As a graduate of Loara in 1982 and a teacher since 1988 it's the least I could do to let "her memory always linger" and make "her traditions live long, too."

I would also like to thank Mrs. Ruth Wilkoff for believing in me when I was a student and unknowingly encouraging me to become a teacher. Also a big thank you to the faculty and staff that made me feel welcomed in the early 80's as a student and that same staff (with minor alterations) welcoming me back in 1987 as a teacher.

— Paul Chylinski

to be a teacher and coach at his alma mater. One of his sports assignments was to be the first male coach of the girls basketball team (1976-78). Other firsts are listed under their particular headings.

NEWSPAPER AND YEARBOOK

Journalism began with Dorothy McPhillips as adviser. The first yearbook appeared the spring of 1964 with no special name. The school newspaper was mimeographed until the third year when the SAXON SHIELD was edited by Debi Murdoch. The second yearbook bore the title SEAXE (named for the Saxon weapon that appears on the Loara crest), edited by Sue Hull.

By 1968-69, Doris Lowman was the adviser, and for the first time the newspaper was rated All-American by the National Scholastic Press Association. That same year, the Loara writers won sweepstakes at the annual County-on-the-Spot Writing Contest. Mrs. Lowman left Loara after that year, and Mike Roe took over the newspaper for several years.

Various teachers advised the annual staff until Keni Robinson

Christensen was put in charge of the journalism department in 1975-76. Linda Esping took over the Saxon Shield to many accolades and accomplishments. Her paper has been recognized by the Orange County Register.

DRAMA

Replacing Eugene Mitch as drama coach in the fall of 1964 was William Bottolfson, who held that position until the fall of 1977, when drama, as a class, was discontinued on the Loara master schedule.

During his 13 years as drama coach, Bottolfson had many fine thespians, among whom was Darren Kelly, star of ARMS AND THE MAN with Cathy White. Kelly's versatility included playing the starring role in the music-drama production of MUSIC MAN. Later, Kelly played in the television series ALL MY CHILDREN.

Drama was put back on the master schedule in 1997 and drama teacher David Seagraves has brought most of the traditions back to the Loara auditorium. Major productions have included Romeo and Juliet, 12 Angry Women and others. The first major musical during the 1998-99 school year was West Side Story, which marked a comeback for the Loara Drama department. In 2000, David Seagraves won the award for Outstanding Theatre Arts Teacher in Orange County.

SPEECH

Speech at Loara attained competition excellence under the

coaching of William Grier, who had a top forensic squad in 1969. In February of that year, his speech team went to the Southwestern Forensic Championship Tournament in Arizona, where it won sweepstakes in the Spring Varsity Meet, and Chris Love won first over 80 other contestants in Dramatic Interpretation. Grier left Loara at the end of that year.

Although Speech was continued with tournaments, coached by Omer Tomlinson, the fashion of such contest was waning. When Tomlinson left the faculty in 1976, no replacement was hired, and speech was discontinued from the curriculum.

BAND FAMILY

During the first year of the school, Richard Marino established the Saxon Band for 35 members. He had, in addition, an orchestra of 15 members. By the second year, he had 116 musicians in new uniforms of black and white with 14 inch white shakos. The first drum majorette was Margery Jo Black. The first big win for the Marching Saxons

was in the Santa Ana Christmas parade with three trophies: first in their division, sweepstakes for the best band in the entire parade, and first place for Rick Hodge, the military drum major. Between January and April, Marino converted his marchers into a concert band.

For 1966-67, Loara Band was named "Show Band of the Western States." Then the fall of 1968, Hall Hurwitz led the group to Sweepstakes in the All-Western Band Review, the State Championship, where competition was with 70 bands.

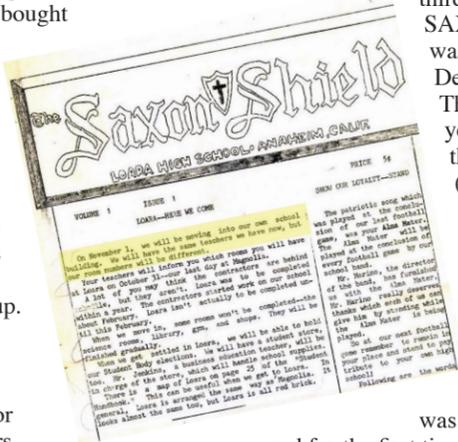
George Beyer, newly graduated from Cal State Fullerton, was hired to assist Marino in 1973. Loara's band had the largest number of musicians in the District. The 1972-73 group had numbered 320 (240 band, 64 drill team, and 16 banners.)

The long list of impressive wins for the Saxon Band was highlighted with the prestigious honors of 1977-78: Sweepstakes at All-Western Band Review, Arcadia Review, Santa Monica Review, Tournament of Champions at Chaffey, La Mesa Western States Tournament of Champions.

Many fine musicians from Loara have made successful careers in music. Karen Tkaczky was named the most outstanding trumpet player in Southern California, and Dana Sundene was named top oboe player in Southern California honor groups. Numerous musicians are in the professional field, while some are band directors in Southern California: Gary Eakens, Gary Hoffman and Mark Lower.

William Schoreder, an alumnus of Loara, took over the helm of the band from Marino, and had numerous successes with the bands as well. Under his direction, Loara began staging its own band review near the Loara campus. In 1995-96, with the encouragement of the Senior Class President Teri Clemens, and Activities Director Paul Chylinski (also an alumnus of Loara), this review has become tied in with the Homecoming festivities and the King and Queen candidates are the only non-band

Continued Next Page



* Well, Mostly Complete

HISTORY

from previous page

participants in the review. The Loara Fall Festival, rides and food, is one of the largest community events held in recent years from Loara.

Two groups of girls on campus add much color and spirit to the band. They're the Valkyrie Drill Team and the Courtiers, flag and banner girls.

Hess started the drill team in the fall of 1963 with 40 girls, who gave their first performance at the Anaheim Halloween Parade. By spring 1964, the girls presented the first in the long series of "Spring Shows." Jean Tomarelli organized the Courtiers in 1970 to march with the drill team and band as pageantry escorts.

In the 90s the teams have evolved into more of a competition squad. The Drill team is now known as the Dance team and competes throughout Southern California. The Courtiers go by several names throughout the school year, Flags, Color guard and Winter Guard. They have gone to Nationals frequently in the late 90s and received a second place title in 1999 while performing to "Amazing Grace" sung by LeAnn Rimes.

Our Drum Squad has also broken away at times and done court shows and has been slowly moving up the National rankings as a squad to be reckoned with. They placed first in the world in Dayton Ohio in 2000. Quite a feat in their division.

CHORAL DEPARTMENT

The vocal section of the music department was first directed by Edwin Grace, who had a mixed chorus and a girls' glee club the first year. The Chamber Singers were organized the second year. In November, the Acapella Choir sponsored a "Hootenanny" to make money for choir robes. Preston Wolff succeeded Grace in 1964. Many memorable performances marked his 14 years at Loara. In 1971, the group won the first Carol Fest in Newport Beach and received \$600 in prize money. They repeated the award the next year.

Saxon singers have sung for executives of Radio KNOB at their Christmas party. While there, the public relations man from Columbia Pictures invited the Chamber Singers to perform for the premiere of the movie OLIVER, when it opened in Hollywood. Accepting his offer, the Saxons sang in front of the theater as the stars arrived for the show.

Each spring the Chamber Singers have had a tour to Salt Lake City. One year, they sang for the Tabernacle Choir and got a spontaneous standing ovation from that famous group.

In July 1977, Wolff took his singers to England and Wales, where they sang in many places; the most exciting was in Abarsita, Wales. There, they were met by the Lord Mayor, who in turn presented them to the townsfolk, before their performance. Another thrill on this tour was singing in the new Coventry Cathedral and in the Great Barr Methodist Church in Birmingham, England.

Many talented singers, trained by Wolff, have had professional careers. Karen Stein was active in a children's theater in the East before going to France to sing in Paris nightclubs. Becky Alcone has sung dramatic soprano roles in Los Angeles. Bruce Bouchard was

graduated from UC Irvine with a combined major in music, drama, and dance. He has played minor roles in New York. Bruce Bales is a vocal director in Orange County.

With Wolff on a leave of absence for 1977-81, Stan Hill from Ball Junior High School filled the roll of maestro, carrying on the excellence that has been the pride of the school. Stan left Loara to become the conductor of the San Francisco All Gay Men's Choir and has had numerous accolades for his program.

Brian Beavers was Director from 1982-84 in which time the choir won the Park Newport and received a medal in the Johnny Mann competitions. During his tenure, the Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof and Once Upon a Mattress were produced.

Ken Tuttle, and then Paul Raheb, brought back the traditions of musicals to Loara. With Tracy Taylor (Drama teacher at the time), Raheb started off small with an original composition, then in 1996, produced Guys and Dolls to a raving crowd in the Saxon auditorium. In 1997, Loara hired a Drama teacher, David Seagraves to continue this tradition and build a Drama Department like Loara's hey days. In 1998, Raheb left Loara and Sean McKee took over the helm of the Saxon choral department.

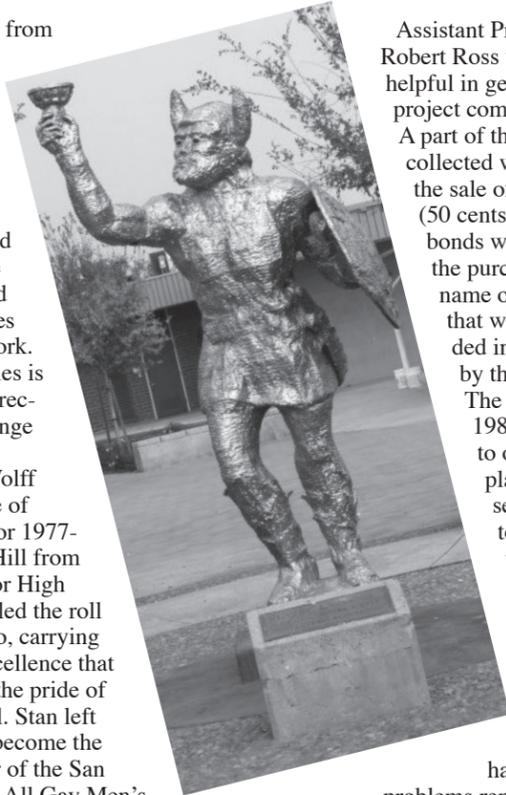
LANDMARKS

A landmark on the campus is the Senior Circle with its Saxon statue. The first plans for this area were made by Senior

Class President Larry Lawrence at an assembly in October 1964. The following January, the students collected 4,500 bottles which they sold to get \$150 toward their project.

The next summer, the blacktop was torn up in the central patio and work began on the circle with most of the brickwork being finished at that time. The tragic death of Larry Lawrence that summer as he was vacationing in Italy came as he was trying to rescue two young girls from drowning. This prompted the Student Cabinet to call an emergency meeting, at which the circle was named the Larry Lawrence Memorial Circle.

The completion of this project was set for spring 1966 with a Saxon statue. Art student Artie Perez designed such a figure and set to work on it, but he graduated in 1966 with the work incomplete. At this time, art teacher Bill Ahlvers and Ron Tracy became involved in the project. Tracy presented two different designs for the statue, one realistic and one not. The realistic one was chosen, and he began his work. In the meantime, Pete Van Houton, who was to become Student body President for 1968-69, set some money making schemes during his sophomore year in an effort to get the project finished. Gifts from graduating classes paid for three walkways, the brick pillars joined by chains and shade trees between the palms, these were dedicated March 17, 1969.



Assistant Principal Robert Ross was also helpful in getting the project completed. A part of the money collected was through the sale of shares (50 cents each) and bonds which put the purchaser's name on a scroll that was embedded in a plaque by the circle. The Class of 1980 was to open the plaque and send a letter to each of the names on the scroll.

Like most statues, Sammy Saxon has had his problems remaining in

his proper environment, as vandals like to pay him a visit and leave Sammy in such a poor condition that he has to take a vacation in the shop for repairs.

ATHLETICS

Basketball

Loara basketball tipped off in 1962-63 with immediate success finishing 12-4. Head coach Paul Scheer's team finished second place in the Orange League. The first league championship came in 1963-64, when Coach Luther (Lute) Olson's (legendary University of Arizona basketball coach) basketball team took the title. The Orange League championship was won on Brent Romney's tie-breaking shot. For 1965-66 Virgil Webb coached another group of hoopsters to the Irvine League Title. Top players in the 60's include Dave Boyles (67-69), Tom Reddington (65-67) and Denny Nicholas (67-69).

The 1970's best team was coached by Tom Boight. The 1972-73 Saxons finished 20-7, the winningest team in school history at the time of this writing. Top players off that squad include Steve Peterson, Jeff Jones and Kevin Flynn.

While in the Empire League the hoopsters have had some tough challenges. In the eighties some key players were Paul Ackers 80-82, Dave Lappin 81-83, Wade Clester 83-86.

The 90's got off to a fast start with the Saxon's exploding for 15 wins in the 89-90 season. 1990-91 saw coach Ed Prange take over and the Saxons qualified for the playoffs for the first time in 13 seasons. The team featured All-American Tes Whitlock who averaged more than 33 points a game. Whitlock set a county record that year by scoring 68 points against Saddleback High School.

Playoff years were also obtained in 1994 and 1996. Loara won its first Empire League Championship in 33 years in the 1997-98 season tied with Kattella and won outright in 1999. Herbert Gracia was named MVP for the league and for the County for his playing, rebounds and shooting.

For the girls, the Empire League Title in basketball came the spring of 1978, when Mike Pence took his second year team to the playoffs. There the girls lost to Long Beach Poly. Saxon star was Cheryl

Peterson. Tracy Titus (91) set a county record by scoring 61 of her team's 78 points (including all 19 of Loara's fourth quarter points) in a victory over Los Alamitos.

Wrestling

Saxon wrestlers won the Sunset League Title in 1974 and 1976, repeating in the Empire League in 1977, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84. Coach John Dahlem (1970-84) established a Hall of Fame for Loara wrestlers in 1971, after contacting former Loara wrestling coaches Luis Ruiz (1965-67 and 1969), and Tom Dorosky (1968-70). Highest achievements by Loara wrestlers have been the two State Championships won by Bruce Terry (98 pound class) in 1978 and 1979. His honors included First Team All-American, Big A Empire Wrestler of the Decade, and First Team All-California Century Wrestling Team. In Loara's History for state ranking, Mike Engle (130 pounds) was second in the State 1976, Cain Waldron was 3rd in the state, Craig Bogard was 6th in the state 1982, Chris White 5th in the State.

In a 14-year period, Loara wrestlers had 233 wins, 36 losses, and two ties, as well as ten league championships. They placed second in the entire CIF in 1979, first in 1983, second in 1984 and first in 1985.

Since then Loara has gone through many coaching changes with alumni such as Mark Lake and John Gallo taking the helm. It wasn't until 1995 that Loara recaptured the league title and sent wrestlers to state. Under Coach Ted Stefel, the Saxons also took 5th in CIF with Anthony Pham and Richard Meza taking individual firsts. Although Pham did not place in state, Meza took 5th in 1995.

In 1997, Larry Hadley took over the program and has been working on a successful program, winning the Empire League Championship in 1997, 1998, 1999 and winning two CIF Championships (Team and Individual) in 1999.

Football

Head Football Coach since the school opened was Herb Hill, who posted a then Orange County record 191 wins before retiring after the 1989-90 school year (His record was eclipsed in 1991 by Santa Ana's Dick Hill, no relation).

He led the Saxon teams to Irvine League championships in 1964, '65, '67, '68, and '69;

Empire League titles in 1976, '77, and '79.

Highlight of football on this campus was the winning of the CIF (AAA) Championship in 1968 and the CIF-Southern Conference in 1979.

Outstanding among the players for Loara have been Fred Feetham (All-CIF Back 1966), Steve Lehmer (All-CIF Tackle 1966), Steve Longo

(All Orange County Co-Player of the Year with Rick Senteno of Los Alamitos), Kevin McLain (All-County 1970, All-American at Colorado State in 1974, and a member of the Los Angeles Rams 1976-79), Bob Caffrey, quarter-

back, was Empire League Player of the Year (1979). He scored 32 touchdown passes, the third best single season total in CIF history.

"Tommy" Thomason, the first principal of Loara, tells a story about the early years of football at Loara. One morning he received a telephone call from La Quinta High School, whose principal wanted to see Thomason right away on the La Quinta campus.

Suspecting that something had been done by Loara students, Thomason took one of his administrators with him and hurried to the other campus. There he found to his disgust that someone had painted "Loara Saxons" with spray paint on many of the walls, and a homemade flag was flying. The vandals had also burned our school's name into the grass of the La Quinta football field.

Back at Loara, Thomason called in persons that he thought might give him clues as to who had done the trick. He had decided that he had to find out who had done it and mete out justifiable punishment to forestall future activities of this sort. It was not long before he knew that eight of the first string football players had done the deed. Thomason called in the players and suspended them from being in the La Quinta game that was to be played that week.

Thomason was besieged with pressure from the athletic department and parents of the suspended players.

Around 11 p.m., Thomason received a call from a parent that asked him to come to the patron's house. When Thomason arrived, he found a house full of parents who tried to persuade him into letting the boys play the game. But he did not relent. Much to his pleasure, Loara, with much of its team second-string, won the game by a large score, which underlined Thomason's faith in what was morally right.

After Hill's retirement, he was replaced by long-time assistant, and 1966 graduate John DeFries.

When DeFries retired after the 2007 season, he was replaced by another former Saxon, DeFries' offensive coordinator Dean Lappin. Lappin (1972).

In 1996, Dean's son, Archie carried on the Lappin name, by besting some of his father's records as the team's quarterback. Archie Lappin threw for 2,420 yards and 19 touchdowns while leading the Saxons to the quarterfinals of the CIF-SS playoffs that season.

Baseball

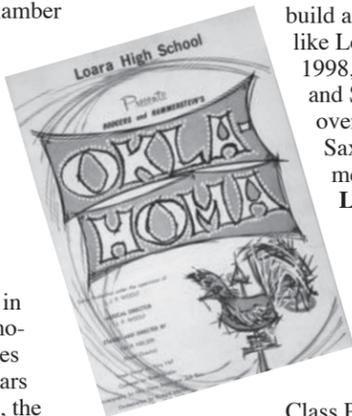
Long a stronghold in baseball, Loara's teams were, until 1979-80, coached by Floyd Chandler. His boys won league titles in 1965, 1968 and '69 in the Irvine League; in 1972 in the Sunset League; 1976 and 1977 in the Empire League. For the spring of 1979, Chandler coached his last team at Loara, and it was the first year in seven that his boys had not gone to the CIF Playoffs. Scott Pickler picked up the ball and brought back many successes for Loara.

Mike Adams (1966) was a star baseball player for the Saxons and MVP his junior and senior year. Son of Chicago Cubs infielder Bobby Adams, Mike made the big leagues in 1972 with the Minnesota Twins.

In 1983, the team won the CIF Championship ... by far the biggest accomplishment of the Scrappin' Saxon Baseball Club!

Ron Leon, who graduated in

Continued Next Page



HISTORY

from previous page

1980, was Orange County player of the year and all-CIF first team. He played for the 1980 California All-State baseball team and also played three years of professional baseball in the St. Louis Cardinals organization.

And in one of the most improbable runs in Scroppin' Saxons history, the 1989 team started the season 0-4 (committing 13 errors in one game), and came back to win the Empire League championship over an El Dorado team that went on to win CIF.

Other players that went on to play minor and major league baseball were George Zeber, Jeff Patterson, Carlos Castillo, Charles Gipson, Aaron France, Bob Caffrey and John Fishel.

Track & Cross Country

William "Bill" Cochrane served as Loara track coach from 1963-75. During his 13 seasons, he had 82 wins and 39 losses, which included four league titles and six District titles. Cross country runners won the Irvine League in 1964, while the track teams of 1965, 1968, and 1969 did the same.

The next league championship was the major division win in the Sunset League in 1974 in Cross Country under David Hurlburt. Place winners in State Meets were Steve Lehmer (1966), third in discus; Dennis Walp, fifth in pole vault; Steve Baxter (1971), fourth in the long jump; Ralph Serna was one of the school's outstanding long distance runners: 1973 CIF Individual Cross Country (two miles in the rain) 9:41.6; 1974 CIF Individual Cross Country 10:03 and fifth in the mile in track; 1975 second in the State for the Two Mile and with the best time in the nation in the Mile, 4:07.0. Serna had a scholarship to UC Irvine, where he was NCAA Division 2 Cross Country Champion in both his freshman and sophomore years.

Dan Ripley (1971) held the world indoor pole vault record from January 1975 until February 1978 at 18 feet, 3 3/4 inches and again from January 1979 to February 1980 at 18 feet, 5 3/4 inches.

With Hurlburt coaching cross country, Loara's team was league champs for 1978-79. Stars were Mike Serna, Rick Obrigawitch, Ken Bishop, Matt Simpson, Scott Burch, Tracy Lowe and Bob Lewis.

Tennis

Tennis, coached by Bill Baca, was in the winning columns of the Irvine League in 1964 and 1965, as well as the Crestview League in 1966. Bob Metz directed the racket boys when they won the Irvine League in 1967 and 1969. Sam Crilly was the coach for 1970, another league championship year.

The big title came in 1966, winning CIF. Players, such as Mike Cereseto, that year, had four straight wins in singles; Dick Harding and Dennis Kelly with three wins each; and Scott Nagle with two in the CIF matches.

The tennis team won 15 straight Irvine League matches during this season. Even the junior varsity had a 55-match winning streak, when it started its 1967 season.

Cameran Lindee (93) won three Empire League singles titles for the Saxons, compiling a dual meet record of 223-2 in four years.

Tennis has been a popular

girls sport. The 1975-76 team, coached by Alex Wampler, won the Anaheim City League Championship. The next year her girls were Empire League Champions. Co-Champions with Cypress in 1978-79 put Loara as the first place team to represent the league in the CIF Playoffs. That year the coach was Lisa Nuckolls.

For 1977-78, Chris Walker and Marian Lopez represented the league in the individuals at the CIF. In 1978-80, Karen Connolly and Patty Bretsky were League representatives in the doubles at the CIF, while Lisa Curtis was representative in the singles.

Swimming

The opening of the swimming pool in 1974 gave Loara another exciting dimension in athletics. The water polo teams, coached

by Jackie

Husband (Loara's first woman to coach an all-male sport and probably the first in Orange County) directed her swimmers to Co-League Championship with Los Alamitos in 1977. That year Bernie Glasser was named Dr. Pepper Player of the Year and the League's Most Valuable Player, and Mrs. Husband was named Coach of the Year.

While at Loara, Charleen Shinoda became the school's most outstanding swimmer, when she was named to the All-American Swimmer list. Others representing Loara at the CIF individuals were Brian Blacketer, Kelly Cooley and Laura Neff.

Badminton

Badminton has long been popular with guys and girls alike. Monica Ortiz was the CIF-SS Singles Champion in 1974. In 1979, she was All-American for Arizona State.

The first year for co-educational badminton at Loara was 1979-80, when the team was league champions, with Monica Ortiz as coach. Outstanding in girls' singles was Chris Walker, while Jay Park was for the boys. Chris was defeated

only once in three years of league play.

The two represented the league in the CIF Playoffs in singles and mixed doubles. They advanced to the quarterfinals in mixed doubles, Chris went to the quarter finals, while Jay lost in the first round of the individual competition.

Under the coaching of Diane Sweeny, the Badminton team took the CIF-SS finals away from Magnolia in a dramatic turn of events. Sweeny was also chosen league and CIF-SS Coach of the Year.

Other Sports

Although popular at the time, some sports have not lasted the test of time at Loara or in the County (citing budget cuts or popularity). From the first year of the school, Kay Malucky had been head of the girls' physical education and athletic department. She coached the 1974 archery team to a city league championship and a second place in 1975. Robin Dubach was the League individual contestant on the balance beam in gymnastics

in 1976-77.

Athlete of the Year

Many high awards have been won by girl athletes at Loara. From 1962 until the fall of 1975, when girls entered CIF competition, Loara had one of the finest GAA organizations in the Anaheim district. The year that the school was required to enter the girls in the CIF, 200 girls were in the GAA program.

Of the many girls who have been outstanding in athletics at Loara, the major winners for Athlete of the year have been the following: Sheri Connolly, Athlete of the Year (1975-76); Cheryl Peterson, Athlete of the Year (1976-77 and 1977-78), also an outstanding basketball player for three years (1976-79), in volleyball (1977-78), and field hockey (1976-77), and is in the CIF Record Book for holding three records since 1977; Chris Walker, Athlete of the Year (1978-79 and 1979-80), earned a varsity letter in each of three sports for three years (the only girl and possible the only Saxon ever to achieve this honor). She was outstanding in badminton (1978-80), basketball (1977-78), tennis (1977-80), and high point winner of the school for 1978-79.

Loree Topjian was Saxonette of the Year (1977-78) and outstanding softball player (1978-79). Melody Beyler was Saxonette of the Year 1979-80.

Charles Gipson won the male Athlete of the Year Award (1990-91); the same time Tracy Titus won the same for the girls. He played 3 sports for all four years; football, basketball and baseball. He won the first "Hill Award" for football under Coach DeFries

Sara Schantz excelled in swimming for 1975-76, tennis 1976-78 and was a high point winner for her school in both 1977 and 1978. Maggie Crowe was the school's best softball player (1976-78). Robyn Dubach was the school best gymnast (1975-78).

Of the Loara girls who have achieved distinction as

athletes after leaving Loara, probably the highest award was won by Dana Schoenfeld, when she captured the Olympic Silver Medal in the butterfly at Munich Swimming Meet in 1972.

Luanne Van Hunnik was Loara's Most Valuable Player in archery in 1977 then went to Cypress College, where she excelled for two years. Following which she attended Cal State Fullerton, where she was named to the All-American Archery Team (fall of 1979). And she was in the qualifying trials for the Olympic team.

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Mock Trial
Since it began at Loara in 1981-82, Loara has had a winning tradition with the Mock Trial Competition. Headed up by Richard Barron, the team has placed in the top 10 most of its history.

The first year they captured a fourth place standing. The greatest success came in 1990 when the team, with Barron and attorney coach Fred Delessio, won the county championship and went to Sacramento to compete in the state

competition.

From 1991-93 Bob Blanton continued the competitive tradition and then in 1994 the team, under the directorship of Paul Chylinski — a member of the first Loara Mock Trial Team, turned Loara teacher — and the lawyer coach Marc Zimmerman, the team placed third in the county out of 50 schools. More notably at the awards banquet put on by the Constitutional Rights Foundation (the competition coordinators), Gloria Terry was recognized for her outstanding speeches and orations, this award is the only individual trophy given by the organization to a participant, and for third place team to capture, was a true accomplishment.

In 1995, Richard Barron took the team back for one year, after Chylinski passed the reigns when he took over ASB, and brought them to a second place finish.

KIWANIS BOWL

Kiwanis has always been a strong part of Loara High School, the greatest success came in 1990 when the Trivia Buffs won the Cal-Neva Competition and was ranked nationally.

The team, coached by Linda Esping, traveled to Rice University to compete. Seeing as it was their first national competition, the team was unaware of what faced them but still placed high in the rankings. More notably, the team shared many firsts on their trip such as, first air flight, first time ice skating, first time out of the city, let alone the state.

CELEBRITY ALUMNI

While we spotlighted a few of the school's famous alums on other pages, there have been many other alumni who have made special marks in their life's work.

• Nancy Carlberg (66) was a researcher for Alex Haley and Norman Lear and their TAT Television Productions. She traveled to interesting places in quest for information for the writings that Haley published.

• Darren Kelly (69), who played Harold Hill in Loara's production of The Music Man, pursued an acting career, and could be found in the 70s on the day-time soap opera, "All My Children." Later he was also seen in an episode of "MASH".

• David Diggs (70) received distinction when "Billboard" rated him one of the top three New Jazz Artists in 1985.

• Dan Ripley (71) held the world indoor pole vault record several



times during 1976-77.

• Stephen Potter (75), another Music Man cast member, has had roles in nearly a dozen movies and several television series, including a supporting role in an episode of "The X-Files".

• Robin Tosawi-Marshall (80) has been a casting director and Native American consultant on many film and television projects.

• George Bennett was elected as Captain of his water polo team at West Point in 1980, the first plebe ever nominated for that honor. He was also

named the Academy's Most Valuable Player, again as the first plebe for that honor.

• Leonard Rumery (Ph.D. in musicology) is a professor of music and choral director at the University of Illinois.

• Tom Norminton was student body president at UCLA and is now an attorney in West Los Angeles.

• Larry Emond became the Student Body President at San Diego State.

• Karen Washburn (77), Senior Class Vice President, and lead in the that year's play is now the radio personality 'Karen Kelly,' last working in Ohio.

• Douglas Pipes is a film music composer whose best known work to date is the 2006 soundtrack to "Monster House."

• Gregg Wood found his voice as a major radio personality, currently he and his radio partner have formed Woody and Wilcox show in Charlotte, N.C. after a few stints in Southern California, Alaska, Georgia and Utah.

• Dyana "Pudge" Ornales (04), holds many national and regional boxing titles in her weight class including the U.S. Jr. Olympic Champion for 1999/2000, National Jr. Golden Gloves Champion for 2000/2001, Golden Gloves District Champion and U.S. Women's District Champion for 2002. She also received the Sports Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Orange County in 2002. The Sports Award is presented to the most noted Orange County Sports figure.

ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Loara won the outstanding activities program of the year award in 1994 under the direction of Alden Esping and ASB President David Dorosky. Alden Esping also won the state, region and national award for the outstanding activities director of the year.

Paul Chylinski won the Outstanding Activities Director for Orange County, San Bernardino, and Riverside through an organization called CADA (Calif. Assoc. of Directors of Activities) in 2000. Loara ASB was recognized as an Outstanding Activities Program in California from the same group.

The number of activities directors at Loara are far less than most schools in the district. Many studies show the turn over for activities directors is the greatest in most areas. The following served as activities directors: L.D. Weaver, Mike Pence, Joe Smith, Jerry Halpin, Alden Esping and Paul Chylinski.



the big C rides again



Bought for \$400, Loara's first student car on campus is still rolling along today

By **Steve Milner**

Class of 1965

It was the morning of the first day of school, September of 1962. Fog hung over the athletic field and the unfinished Loara campus.

As I stood at the corner of Euclid and Cerritos, waiting for the bus to take me to split-session at Magnolia High, I heard the honk of a booming horn and saw the driver of a massive white Chrysler waving to me.

It was Tony Mastrangelo, asking if I was headed to Magnolia. I answered yes and he offered me a ride in what he called "The Big C."

And it was big. A stunning white 1957 Chrysler Windsor that looked like it had just rolled off the assembly line.

That's how I met Tony and the Big C, the first Loara student with both a driver's license and car. It would be the first car to park in the student lot when the new campus opened months later.

Tony worked at his family's Richfield station at Euclid and Katella and it was there he first saw The Big C. A regular customer offered to sell it to Tony for a mere \$400. Amazingly, he agreed to accept \$100 down and monthly payments, something that would never happen today.

Miraculously, Tony and The Big C are still together. They live in Prescott, Ariz., or Tony says he would have driven it back to Loara for the Open House.

It's still in pristine original condition, with only the head liner and carpet having been replaced over the years. And a coat of paint.

Just 122,000 mile on the odometer.

And just another Loara love story — this one, with a happy ending.



Photos Courtesy Tony Mastrangelo

Tony Mastrangelo's 1957 Chrysler Windsor — known as "The Big C" — was the first student owned car to park on the Loara campus in 1962. Mastrangelo is believed to be the first student with a driver's license, as well. At top is a picture of "The Big C" from circa 1962. Above, is the same car at Mastrangelo's home today.

Early Saxons Watched World Change Around Them

By **Rodger Pfingston**

Class of 1966

Attending Loara High School was a rewarding challenge. I was a member of the school's second graduating class. New school, new feelings, some new friends, and many new teachers. Other things were new, too, but these seemed most important.

Society changed rapidly during those years. It probably started in the '50s, but the changes that happened before going to Loara did not affect me much. Or at least, I did not know when they did. We all had family, school, sports, music and art, and life. We lived more slowly, yet just as fully as today. The digital age had not started. Advertising was just beginning to find itself. Cars used a more advanced technology than previously. Style was being introduced into everything. Television and movies became more entertaining and dramatic. And music had taken a whole new direction.

During the school year of 1963-64 we lost a president, saw the release of unbelievable movies, experienced the rise of the Beatles, and observed a change in sports. President Kennedy was shot Nov. 22, 1963. His death hit our student body really hard. Cleopatra was a major source of both criticism and acclaim, due to a new type

of acting and more realism in the script. Barbra Streisand and The Beach Boys began to appear on television. The Beatles released I Want to Hold Your Hand. The song was number one many weeks. The group also released She Loves You and Can't Buy Me Love. Willie Mays and Elston Howard were voted most valuable players. And on March 9, 1964, the first Ford Mustang was produced.

For Sophomores, the year was one of adjusting to a new campus, new classes and mostly new teachers. For Juniors — no Seniors yet — there was an attitude of helping the newer students, being on the same campus for the entire year, and developing the school: School position in Anaheim's growing list, sports presence, creative class, academic rank, Senior Circle, yearbook, clubs ... all of it. Teachers and staff helped, too. It was a team effort, lots of work, and shorter deadlines than ever. Too, everyone had to get used to the rapidly changing political scene. It was a crazy year.

I remember the Thrifty Drug store with its malt shop on the southwest corner of Katella Avenue and Euclid Street. The theater and shops on Brookhurst Street and Ball Road. And the market on Ball and Euclid. They provided lots of stuff for our family. Orange groves began disappearing on Brookhurst, Ball and Euclid, and

shops and homes took their place. It was a great time to be part of Anaheim's growth. Even a major country-western music hall existed in Anaheim, but it moved to Nashville before I graduated. Can you name it?

The 1964-65 school year was just as packed with events. I was able to gain honors in business, French, math and music that year. Entertainment became more important to the American public than it had been in all previous years. The Supremes premiered the song Stop In the Name of Love. The Beatles released the album A Hard Days Night, and the songs I Feel Fine and She's a Woman. The Rolling Stones, an already well-known group, begin to appear on television. Fiddler on the Roof became a hit in New York. St. Louis became the first National League baseball team since 1923 to score runs in every game. Mary Poppins debuted just before school started for the year. Goldfinger and The Sound of Music were released before we got out for the summer of 1965.

The Vietnam War was heating up, too. And by the time we started school in 1964, our country was very engaged. Combat Units were deployed in 1965 and both enlistment and draft numbers had increased by then. Of course, our society had reached new plateaus of learning, so we tried many things: love, drugs, religion,

money, social displays, etc. War was not novel to us. Our parents had been through World War II. But world economics and politics were new. We had many balladeers and poets who were against all fighting. Our planet began to take a very different path than it had at previous times. And that year was both frightening and fulfilling for many of us.

My final year at Loara, 1965-66, was amazing and taxing. The Dodgers won the National League Baseball Pennant and the World Series. The Beatles released Yesterday. The song became an immediate hit. Simon and Garfunkel issued Sounds of Silence. Thunderball and Doctor Zhivago premiered in the United States. The United States military presence grew in many parts of the world. This meant the need for more military personnel, more highly trained leaders, and more world strategy. Talk of entering the service became a daily routine. And graduation got closer.

The Loara sports teams, band and choirs received awards. Our language clubs were special. Our school put on the Sound of Music at the Anaheim Greek Theater and several of the 20th Century Fox movie team attended it. Loara also excelled in math, science, history and English literature. Our student body grew together through all its challenges. Yes, there were trials

for us. Larry Lawrence died during the summer of 1965, so we arrived back at school and immediately dealt with death. The Vietnam War was still growing, too, so fighting became a long-term topic for many.

Disneyland also played a big part in Loara's life. Walt Disney opened the park in 1955 and died late in 1966. But the park continued to grow. In 1958, Disneyland started nighttime fireworks — the park had grown enough to warrant them. I used to watch the skies from my back yard. Most nights were fantastic! The park used local talent and laborers. Many from Loara worked in some capacity at Disneyland. Awards and gifts were given, the Disneyland performance team visited local sites, and trends set by Disney staff were followed all over the world.

I stopped to consider all that I had learned during my years at Loara High School and realized that the most amazing thing accomplished was that I was ready to be an adult. The goal of preparing for life had been met.

Most students had to go to college, get a job, and support ourselves more than we had before high school. I was one. And I did all that. Many other events took place, too, during and after the Loara years. Moments I was part of. Occasions I was not. But, I will always remember the foundation I received from Loara High School.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The information on the following two pages comes from Paul Chylinski's blog at <http://loarahighschool.blogspot.com/> and Facebook



Photo by Paul Chylinski

Loara students check out the many clubs that are available on campus for the 2012-13 school year during September's Join-A-Club week.

Saxons Contend for Title Glory

Loara athletic teams have gone on historic runs during the school's 50th year

The 2012-13 school year will be remembered as the year Loara celebrated its 50th anniversary.

But it might also be remembered for the Saxons' accomplishments on the field of play.

The Saxons have posted sporting accomplishments not seen at the school in some time.

Starting in the fall, the girls volleyball team went on a perfect run to the CIF-Southern Section Division 4AA semifinals. In the semifinal, the Saxons were handed their only loss of the year by Hemet, which went on to win its third straight CIF-SS championship. Loara's final record on the season was 22-1-1.

In the winter sports season, it wasn't a dominant regular season performance that shot the Saxons' boys soccer team to stardom. In fact, Loara eked into the CIF-Southern Section playoffs as a wild card team, meaning they had to win an extra game just to get into the main draw in Division 2.

But from there, Loara went on a roll, including beating Simi Valley 1-0 in the semifinals at home. But, in the championship game, the Saxons could not overcome the home field advantage of Warren High School, falling in the school's first soccer title game, 3-1.

And now, in the spring, the Scrampin' Saxons baseball team is on the verge of doing something that hasn't been done in 24 years — win a league title.

It was 1989 the last time Loara topped a league in baseball, a season that saw the Saxons top eventual CIF-SS champion El Dorado for the Empire League title.

Now coached by graduate David Lappin, the Saxons are atop the Golden West League standings as of this writing, on track to clinch a league title.

A first league championship would be the icing on the cake for Lappin for the 2012-13 school year.

Last October, the team's long-time coach — a 1983 graduate — was honored by the CIF-Southern Section with its ninth annual Jim Staunton "Champions for Character" award.

The award was created to "honor the student-athletes, coaches, administrators and member schools who represent excellent sportsmanship and outstanding character."

Lappin's brother Dean remains the school's football coach — only the third in the school's history — while his sister Georgia is the school's records clerk.

Clubs Keep Students Engaged

These days, Loara's Student Body has plenty of options to remain active in campus life.

Throughout history people have wanted to belong — belong to something bigger than themselves.

There are many studies that show kids involved in school are more likely to succeed and become better participants in our society. A group of friends of mine, that I respect highly, began an organization called "The Alliance for Student Activities" and they have gathered data and had a discussion to create what I think is the core of all education.

They have discovered that without students being actively involved they are more likely to drop out of school and society. Their "Let x = Student Activities" is beginning to revitalize what I do for a living and direct me on a path to create a school where everyone on the campus is involved in something.

"Involvement together ... the Key to Success."

— An inspirational message from Alden Esping in Loara's ASB room

September was

join a club week, and Loara has plenty to join.

Each year a group decides to start a new club because they feel they aren't being represented or they just want to belong to something that is more "them."

We have seen clubs like a "sofa society" in which kids just hung out in a classroom, on a sofa everyday and talked. We have clubs like the Socrates Cafe in which very similarly they sit in a classroom and talk everyday. In looking at where we started to where we are, kids have many options to be a part of the bigger Saxon experience.

Organizations like band, choir and cheer become organizations that have long standing so they are no longer considered clubs. Cheerleading is being considered a sport as well. Yearbook and Leadership (Student Congress)

Loara's Clubs — Then and Now

In the 1963 yearbook the clubs and organizations were:

1. Student Cabinet
2. Student Congress
3. Spanish Club
4. Honor Society
5. Girls Athletics Association
6. Boys League
7. Debate Club
8. Science Club
9. Drama Club
10. Lettermans Club
11. Electronics Club
12. Future Business Leaders of America
13. Coin Club
14. French Club
15. Homemaking Club
16. Annual Staff
17. Newspaper Staff
18. Marching Band
19. Orchestra
20. Chess Club
21. The Chandelors
22. Mixed Chorus
23. Girls Glee Club

For the 2012-13 school year, the landscape looks quite different, our clubs include:

1. Academic Decathlon
2. Anaheim Acheives
3. American Heart Association
4. Auto Club
5. Best Buddies
6. Bible Club
7. Black Student Union
8. Book Club
9. Bridges
10. California Scholarship Federation
11. Campus Crusaders
12. Club 34
13. DECA
14. Education Academy
15. Fashion Club
16. French Club
17. Freshman Senate
18. Friday Night Live
19. Garden Club
20. Gay Straight Alliance
21. International Club
22. Halo Halo (Philippino Club)
23. HOSA (Health Occupation Student Association)
24. Japanese Club
25. Junior Senate
26. K Pop Club
27. Key Club
28. Leos Club
29. Make A Wish Club
30. Loara Media Arts Club
31. MeCha
32. Music Speaks
33. National Honor Society
34. Nexus (Saxon Shield)
35. PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership)
36. Ping Pong Club
37. Polynesian Club
38. Recycling Revolution
39. Red Zone
40. Salsa and Swing
41. Senior Senate
42. Sophomore Senate
43. Student Store
44. Thespians
45. World Cultures / TOK
46. Upward Bound
47. Vietnamese Club
48. Yearbook



Kendra Lappin, the school's Interclub Commissioner, gets some help as preparations started for Join-A-Club Week in September.

becomes a class and not a club.

No matter what the club, the important thing

is involvement. Something that connects them to our campus so they can have a significant amount of experiences to become rich humans in our global experience.

Since I can remember, I have heard the saying "Once a Saxon, Always a Saxon" and it has rang true (many other schools have now taken the saying as their own, but I know better ... it all started at Loara). We also have another saying painted on the wall in the ASB Room that reads "Involvement Together ... the Key to Success — Alden Esping," this has been our mantra since I have taken the helm of activities.

Alumni take note, your school is in good hands and in fact maybe just a little better, but it wouldn't have been so without the ground work you have all laid. We are standing on your shoulders trying to enrich the Loara experience.

Students Take Top Automotive Honors

While much of the national focus on education is in the classroom, a group of students have also been preparing for a career outside of high school.

A team of Loara students won their third consecutive national championship as part of the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow competition at the Specialty Equipment Market Association show in Las Vegas last November.

The event pits teams of high schoolers in a competition that simulates a tear down of a drag racing engine. Teams must first disassemble the engine, then

reassemble the engine. Each team competes in four rounds, with the fastest average time winnings.

Loara's Team Motive Gear won with an average time of 21:24. A second team representing the North Orange County ROP (also featuring students from Loara) finished fifth at 25:35.

Besides learning a trade, each team member at the event earned scholarship money from three automotive technical colleges. The winning team received \$10,000 from each school, down to \$5,000 per team member for those teams finishing sixth through 13th.



Loara High School's Team Motive Gear, the winner of the "Showdown at SEMA" competition in Las Vegas. From left are: Aileen Melendez, Josh Coman, Andrew Romero, Chris Shamtiz, Steven Brown and Coach Russ Baccerala. Not pictured is team alternate Robert Loera.



The live anchors read the daily announcements during a broadcast of "Saxon TV News." The morning announcements became a daily video production this school year thanks to the ASB and Broadcast Media Production class. Below is the live editing crew.

SAXONS ON THE AIR

Morning announcements join the digital age thanks to Broadcast Media classes

By Paul Chylinski

Class of 1982

For the last 50 years our morning announcements have gone through some changes but none so big as it was Sept. 26, 2012, at 8:54 a.m. It was the first time the morning announcements were done as a live video broadcast.

The Broadcast Media Production Class led by Danny Klatzker (class of 1990) has been working tirelessly for many years to make this a reality, and this year using ASB and others as anchors, his classes have finally gone live. In an email to the staff on September 25, 2012, Klatzker said:

"Tomorrow my Broadcast Media Production class and ASB are going to do the daily announcements live via a video feed and over the PA system. They have worked very hard over the last few weeks to put together a working television studio and coordinating with ASB to bring you our first Saxon TV news broadcast."

As we begin the next 50 years it seems only fitting to make some big changes in how we do things.

In the years past we have been using the telecom system built into the school all those many years ago. As I wasn't at Loara until



1979, I can't be sure what all the Principals read on the bulletin, but I do know that Tommy Thomason would read key Saxon news of the day. I also know that Tom Kenally in the early 80s didn't get on the announcements much, but in the late 80's Dr. Jerry Glenn used to have tidbits he read over the all call. In the early 90's, Dr. Barry Escoc used to have his word of the day. Dr. John Dahlem in the 90's would do facts and alliterations like have a Marvelous Monday and Pam Krey in the 00's always ended with "smile often."

But now in the 2010's we have gone mobile. Mr. John Briquet, our newest principal, will be the first principal seen on video dis-

cussing hot topics of the day, and key educational and testing ideas. However his first broadcast was just an introduction of himself and the goals this coming school year.

Along with the Principals, I know that Alden Esping and myself have been on those announcements nearly every single day, helping ASB learn how to use their voices, project and make those announcements short, sweet and to the point.

As they are incorporated into the school day they do not take away from the academic minutes of a class. By the early 90's I found a song by Oscar Brown Jr. called the "Friday song" we can not find it on iTunes and the likes, so my dad

had to listen to a local jazz station on Friday and record the morning show to get it so we can play it every Friday since.

How are video announcements set up? Just like real news, we have our anchors, our beat reporters and closing remarks by yours truly. When the school was modernized starting in 2006, the classrooms, for the most part, were equipped with a cable feed. Most teachers have the cable feed running into their classrooms, they just turn to channel 24 for the news. If there isn't a video feed then they will only hear the announcements as read for the video over the loud speakers.

I'm proud to be a part of this process and these kids are to be commended for all their hard work. It is great to be a part of sweeping, positive change that is happening on Loara's campus.

What makes up the morning announcements? Here's a typical show rundown:

1. Opening
2. Greeting
3. Pledge
4. Bulletin
5. Sports
6. Clubs
7. Other bulletin
8. Video Interviews
9. Joke of the Day
10. Birthdays
11. Closing

TODAY from page 1

gate Gonzalez Supermarkets are the top private employers in the city. Anaheim is a tourist and convention destination with over 18 million visitors annually. Anaheim is the second largest city in Orange County with a population of 348,467. The population of Anaheim is 52.4% Hispanic, 29.6% White, 13.4% Asian, 2.6% Black, and 1.9% as more than one race or other race. The city of Anaheim is largely middle class with a median household income of \$59,644 and a median home value of \$576,300 (Anaheim at a Glance 2009).

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment Trends

In 2008-09, Loara's enrollment reached 2761 students (number does not include special day class students as they are considered district students). This was an increase of almost 200 students from the previous year, primarily due to the elimination of the retention program at the junior high. Since then, enrollment has remained relatively stable around 2700 students.

Student Enrollment by Grade Level

Grade level enrollment data indicates that there is generally a decrease in the size of a class as the grade level increases. For example, in 2008-09, the 9th grade class was 781 students, whereas, in 2009-10, the 10th grade was 717 students.

Student Enrollment by Gender

Gender enrollment data indicates that the percentage of males to female students is consistently close to 50-50.

Student Enrollment by Ethnicity

Loara's mixed ethnicity continues to be a source of cultural exchange. Currently, 73.4% of the student body is Hispanic/Latino, 10.8% is White, 8.7% is Asian, with 7.1% representing other ethnicities.

The past six years have brought changes in student ethnicity in significant subgroups. The percentage of Hispanic/Latino students has increased by 12%, while the percentage of white students has decreased by 11% (this is a 50% decrease in the white population).

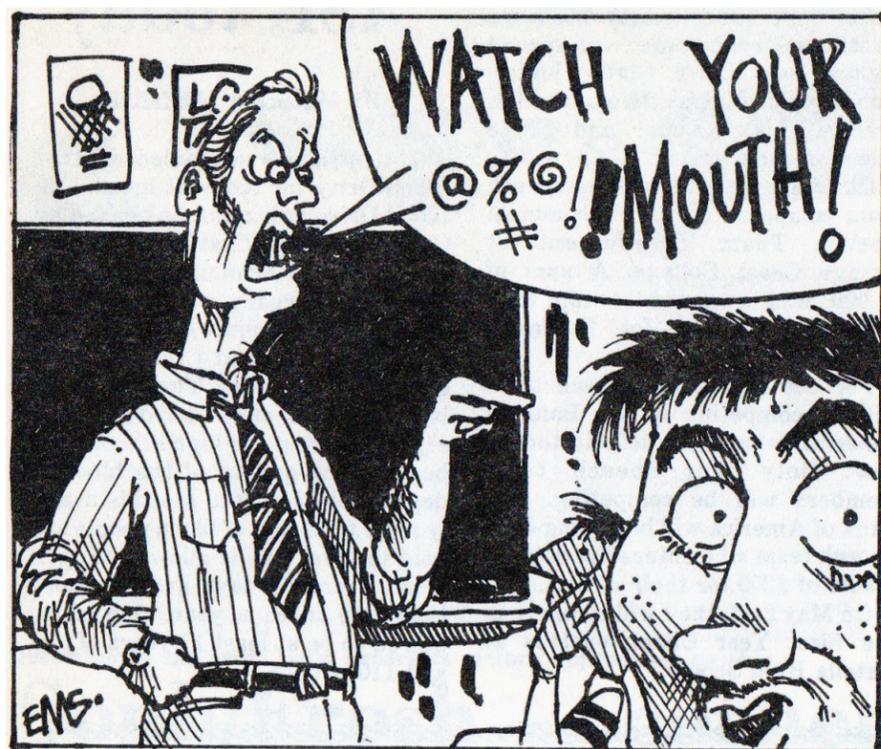
Student Enrollment by Primary Language

Student enrollment by primary language indicates a steady increase in the percent of Spanish and Vietnamese-speaking students and a decrease in the percent of English speaking students. Data are based on number of EL and FEP students enrolled by primary language.

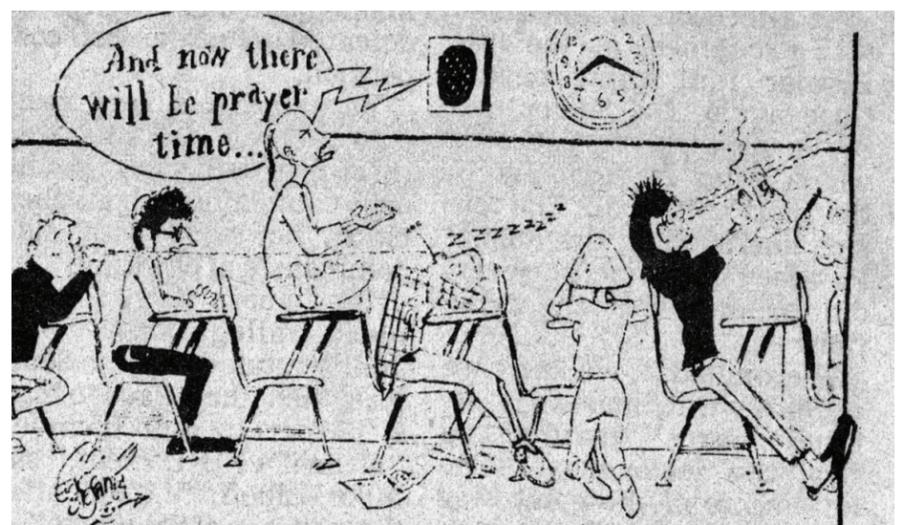
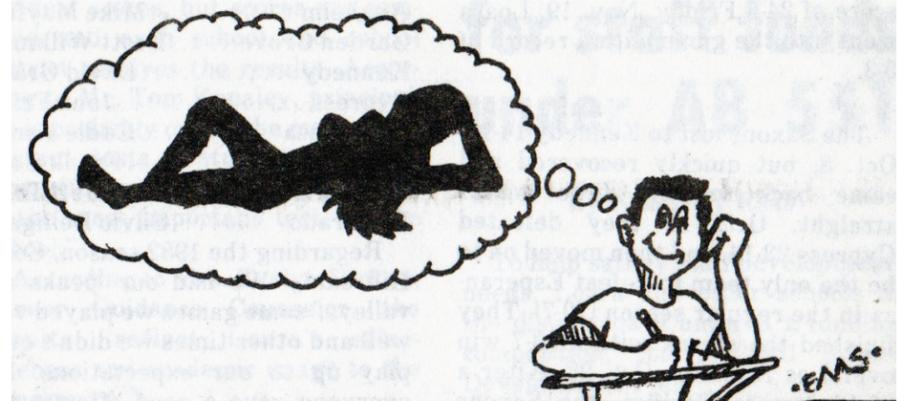
The More Things Change ...

We looked back and found a bunch of cartoons from Eric Stefani's years on the Saxon Shield, showing that the students and times may change, but life in high school is always the same

Teacher Relations ...



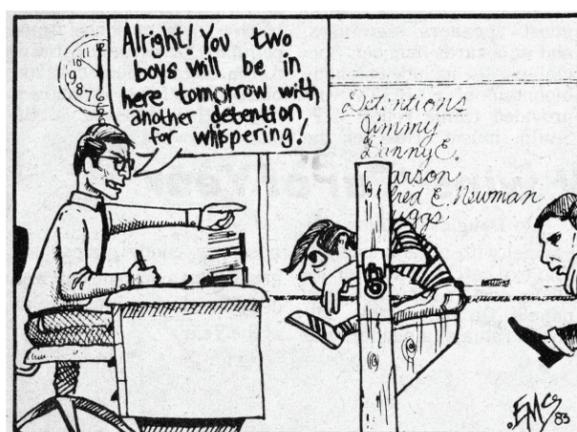
Making it through the day ...



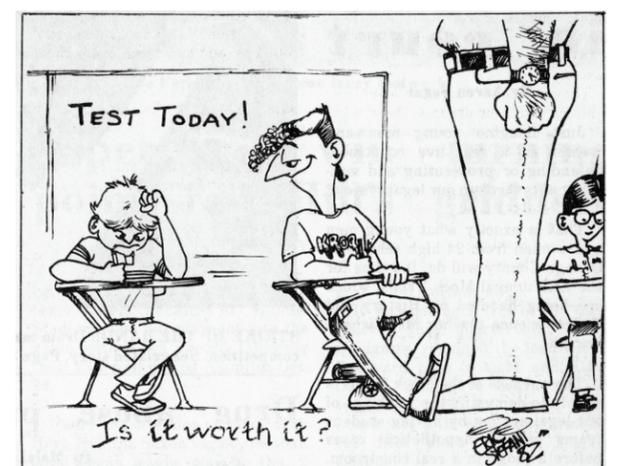
Grades ...



Detention ...



Classroom behavior ...



Saxon Shield

Celebrating 50 Years of Loara High School

This special edition of the Loara High School newspaper was produced by alumni to honor the school on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. It was produced with contributions from alumni, and not affiliated with the school.

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