

Taft, California
Greetings from Pete Gianopulos, Class of 1942
The Taft Newsletter

**Taft Service Clubs sponsor banquet for Wildcats -- San Joaquin
Valley champions for 1930.**

Saturday, January 10, 1931, Daily Midway Driller

Taft will honor Wildcats at banquet

Civic clubs join hands to reward champions

Capacity crowd expected to attend feat at Women's Club

(NOTE: The Women's Club was located at 629 North Street -- now a church.)

Banquet starts at six o'clock

**Taft High Wildcat football team, coaches, and school officials will be
guests.**

Complimenting the Taft High Wildcats, champions of the San Joaquin Valley, the service clubs of Taft are sponsoring a banquet tonight at six o'clock in the Women's Improvement Club at 629 North Street, which is to be attended by 300 West Side Citizens. Members of the champion squad, the lightweight team, coaches and others will be honored guests of the evening. Mayor Clarence Williams will be the toast master and will introduce a number of guests, after which short talks will be made. Herman Spindt, principal of Bakersfield High School who is to be in attendance and will make a short talk. The principal address of the evening will be given by Tom Lieb, coach of Loyola University. Coach Lieb was formerly assistant coach to Knute Rockne, the famed coach of the far-famed Notre Dame football team and is one of the best known football men in Southern California.

The plan for the banquet for the Taft High squad was first inaugurated by the Taft Exchange Club following which cooperation of all clubs of the city was secured. Responsible for the event tonight are members of the following committees: Beacher Rintoul, West Side Business Men's Club, chairman; J.A. Macually, Rotary Club, secretary-treasurer; Martin Orloff, Exchange Club; Marion Faulkner, 20-30 Club; Louis Dopyera, Kiwanis Club.

The banquet is to be prepared by Mrs. Helen Ritenour with Miss Mildred Baer in charge of serving. (NOTE: Ritenour worked as a cook in the Taft High Cafeteria and Baer was a classroom cooking teacher and in charge of the high school cafeteria.)

Forty members of Taft High football will receive honors.

Members of the Taft High Wildcats to be guests of honor at the banquet tonight include William Parker, Archie Brown, Miller Vaughn, Ellis Moore, James McCormick, Stanley Lockwood, Jack Trotter, Millburn Hogue, Robert Stanley, Robert Perrine, Claude Lyle, Ralph O'Dell, Carl Stone, Joe Erlewine, Ray Hatch, Bob Morrison, Russell Letlow, Walter Tidrow, Hubert Snyder, Earl Fredburg, John Scheufler, Ed Hyde, Ralph York, Edgar Jones, Charles Kanode, Hugh Gribben, Thomas Kelley, Monty Reedy, Frank Kaufman, Lester Brown, John Goodell, Carol Quick, Jack Pond, Phil Kirkpatrick, George McKinnie, Alvin Bailey, Ray Foust, Chalmer Walker, David Wharton, Jack Campbell.

The 1930 Lightweight team will also attend the banquet. The team members are Keaser Hale, Carl Schroder, John Baker, Harold Reed, Warren Newkirk, Lee DeVail, Clifford Perrine, Paul Galloway, Ellis Snyder, Ed Bostick, Bill Specht, Kenneth Boucher, LeRoy Yates, Dick Schertz, Mark Bloss, Tharen Scott, Bobbie Snyder, Lee Wagner, Dodridge Brown, Ernest Beauchamp, Marshall Lott and J. W. Burns.

Coaching officials who will be honored guests, include, Les Kienholz, director of athletics (and Taft Junior College football coach); Ed Sewell, coach of the lightweights; Vern Mullen, assistant coach of the heavyweights; Gene Johnston, coach of the lightweights; Vincent Helma, assistant coach of the lightweights and Frank Gilmore, student manager.

(NOTE: Back in those days there was no designation by Division. Small schools played large schools and any school without regard to the size of the school. The only name that I recognize

who is still with us is Ed Bostick of Bakersfield who I interviewed several years ago for my TV program called, "Taft Heritage." I know that Ed went on to play for the Taft Junior College football team for Coach Les Kienholz. He regularly attends the annual Christmas luncheon that is held for former Taft High graduates. Russell Letlow, considered the top tackle in the valley, went on to play for the University of San Francisco and was inducted into their Hall of Fame. After college he went on to play for the Green Bay Packers for several years and was inducted into their Hall of Fame. Monty Reedy successfully played quarterback for the University of California, Berkeley for their Golden Bear's football team, After graduation he returned to Taft High, served as a coach of baseball and football, a P.E. teacher and a counselor, Dean of Boys and as Vice Principal.)

Readers Responses

From Milt Stark, Class of 1950, from Anaheim, California

Hi Pete,

That a great effort by the Wildcats!! Not only did the football players make all Wildcats proud by winning the Division IV CIF Central Section championship but, as you so aptly described, the total school effort was incredible - from the skydivers to the fireworks to the professionally beautified Martin Memorial Stadium. Could there be a better place to watch a high school football game in the whole area? I think not. The stadium crew also won a Valley Championship! I think the person primarily responsible for this is the son of an old friend of mine, Don Jameson, with whom I played football on the 1955 championship Taft College Cougar team. Jamie, who married Charlie Hanna's (Class of '52) sister, is deceased. I'm sure you know all of the responsible parties, and I think they deserve some special acclaim. In agreement with me are all of my companions at the game, Taft High grads all - Charlie and Vera Kooken and the Poteete brothers, Dennis and Philip. In looking over the Wildcat roster, I see a number of juniors and sophomores who made significant contributions this season; so I predict Taft High will make a valiant bid in defending its Valley Championship in 2008.

Milt Stark '50

From Dick Johnson, Class of 1954, from Kansas City, a retired pharmacist

hi Pete, that 1946 Valley Championship between Taft and Edison was coached by my dad, Dean Johnson. In fact I was in 6th grade (Vina Bramham's class) at the time and dad wrote a note asking permission for me to leave Lincoln School to travel with the team to Fresno. Edison Tech Hi located in Fresno metro, game was played at Radcliff Stadium, where Cal State Univ Fresno Bulldogs still play today! I remember Bob Bogle catching a pass behind Edison's defensive backs over his head without breaking stride for the tying touchdown.

Thx, Pete, for the great memories. Dick Johnson

From Hugh Silcox, Class of 1949. Pete: For some reason, I was unable to print out your last Email. It often happens with pictures. I also couldn't download the files you sent (I got a message that the file was too large.) Like you, I remember that Rooter's train to Fresno. We should have won that game. Since we were co-champions that year, our class at its 50th reunion were wondering why it isn't posted on the gym wall. Hugh Silcox Class of '49.

From Betty (LeValley) Fletscher, Class of 1945, from San Jose, California

Pete: Today, Dec 4, is my 59th Wedding Anniversary. Sadly, I must tell you that my husband, Joe, passed away September 23rd. My memories are vivid, and I try to keep sadness at bay. Our daughter and three sons and their spouses are nearby, and we are our own support group.

It's wonderful to know how deeply family love runs, and I feel more than blessed! 11 grandchildren are the award of our long marriage, and the Grand Prize is our great grandson born October 4. We hope that Grandpa may have somehow met this little guy .

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Betty LeValley Fletscher

From Cliff Thompson, Class of 1970, of Taft, California

Maybe its me but you have a 1970 TAFT high school graduate. council member -Mayor- council member running for fourth district supervisor.

Cliff Thompson, Class of 1970

(NOTE: Our own Clifford Thompson of Taft from the class of 1970 has, indeed, started his campaign to run for the seat on the county board of supervisors from the 4th District.)

From Richard Brasher from Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Pete, My wife and I spent November moving to a new residence. The house was constructed about 10 years ago, and compared to what we're used to, it has all the modern conveniences. Also, it's on a quiet cull-de-sac in a relatively crime-free and upscale neighborhood called "The Lakes." It also has a heated pool and spa and is 100% desert landscaped. I gave my lawnmower away.

Our new address is: 3224 Crystal Pool Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89117. We also changed our phone number to: 702-562-8592.

Your Friend, Richard Brasher

From Larry Fields, Class of 1977, a practicing attorney from Bakersfield, California. His wife Lois Henry writes a column on page one of the "Local " section of *The Bakersfield Californian*.

I attended that game and agree completely with Pete. The photo doesn't do justice to the field as a whole.

Larry Fields

From Wayne Henry, Class of 1964

Pete thanks for the great picture, What made it even better is we won. Great year Wildcats.

Wayne (64)

From Ann Coker of Taft

Thanks. I'll download it. (The picture of Martin Memorial Stadium was sent by e-mail on 12-7-07.).

From John Kohal, Class of 1945 of Grover Beach, California

Hi Pete: Sure enjoy your newsletters. I wonder if Dora Epply was the daughter of (Dutch Epply) of maricopa.I remember him from my Maricopa days. I remember one story about him that was really a keeper.Gordon Holmes used to tease dutch and then run. One day Gordon bumped Dutches car and the bumpers locked up.Dutch then walked back and reached in and slapped Gordon silly. Dont know if it is true but it makes a real good story. John Kohal (class of 1945)