

**April 2008**

**Underclassman Deserves a Nod from the Class of 68!**

Thanks go to **Pete Chinn** for connecting us with fellow loyal RHS Panther, author and historian, **Henry Sakaida, Class of 1970**. His collection of classic photos, memorabilia, and stories, stories, and more stories about the Class of 68 have been exchanged the last couple of days when **Henry** met with **Marsha Stone** to hand over the treasure trove from his collection. The MEMORY LANE page will display postings, a few at a time, so check back frequently! Small world—Henry and Marsha have lived a few blocks away from each other for the last twenty years and did not know it! (**Marsha** states: An Internet Google search of HENRY SAKAIDA will give you an idea, and be impressed; I am, of all that he has accomplished!)

Snip-its of the email exchange between Marsha and Henry will be included in the following post, as Henry's memories of the Class of 68 are too precious not to share with all of you. Class of 68—BE PROUD—because we had a very positive influence on one underclassman not too shy to share his thoughts with us. Thanks, Henry, and congratulations to you on your illustrious career as a **writer and historian**. You will be remembered as one of the Rosemead High School great student success stories.

**Henry** writes,

"I have treasures! The photos mean a lot to your classmates, so spread them around! I will have to look in the attic and elsewhere for more."

"I spent about an hour looking at your rhs68 website and thought, 'Great! They must have hired some pro to put it together!' I wish your classmates would post more THEN photos!"

"I did not officially work for the **Pantherama Staff in 68** when I was a sophomore, but **Mike Wigton** was prepping me. I got in the following year as a junior and I was sports editor in my senior year. In my yearbook days, we had NO computers...just pens, rulers, a sizing wheel...stone age tech...yes, we had dino technology...with those proportion wheels, making paper 'donuts' and using the windows, etc! Yearbook staff really came in handy for me in later years. It really turned me on to writing!"

"I remember you—**Marsha Stone**--because you were one of the great student leaders at RHS...always reading your name in the Panther's Tale newspaper...**Joanne Uyeno, Candy Suttle, Colleen Smith, Mary Lou Goforth, Mattie Graham, Sue Baker, Nancy Eberly**...all just fond memory right now! I was influenced by the student leaders in the Classes of

67, 68, and 69. I got talked into running for Junior Class president against four others and won!"

"I remember the first time I met **Sue Baker**. She was a **wrestling** fan and knew who I was. I was always shy of gals back then, and I knew who she was. She said to me: 'You think you're very smart, doncha?!' But she said it with a big smile. I had no idea what she was referring to. She was a babe, and no babe had ever walked up to me and started a conversation! My self-esteem soared to Alpine heights!"

"I was a **varsity letterman** when I was a sophomore. **Hector Carrera** was a fellow wrestler and he was great...used to wear a lot of medals. In a show of one-ups-man-ship, I put not only my wrestling medals, but also my Judo medals, and a German Iron Cross! **Mike Wigton** saw me looking like a 4-star general and put a stop to that! He introduced legislation that limited the number of medals worn on a varsity jacket, and they had to have been won in your particular sport."

"I remember **Mike Wigton** running for ASB President. His theme was 'You gotta wanna...' do this and 'you gotta wanna do that.' I don't know why, but his speech stuck in my mind all these years."

"When I see **Bob Casas**, I will address him as 'Mr. President.' Then I will ask him to address me as 'Mr. President.' We were both Class Presidents."

"**Pantheresses** wore the black dinner jacket blazers which looked really cool and **SAGATHS**—the rival service club in the red jackets--I thought the **SAGATHS** were down to earth and fun, and the **PANTHERESSES** looked sharp and were classy."

"I loved Friday morning pep rallies! Our **marching band** would go down the corridors and the cheerleaders were yelling 'Pep rally!'"

"We held our **RHS Class of 70 20-year Reunion at the Queen Mary** and it was the best ever!"

"Working with groups, learning group politics and interpersonal relationships, working on challenges, and having fun," are some of Henry's lasting memories of high school.

In an Internet interview, Henry mentions **Pantherama** class: I wrote the Osprey series of books because I wanted to do it! They paid well also! But it was a lot of work! And every time I finished, I swore "Never again! Not another book!" But I'm hooked on writing. I

**NEVER write under a deadline!!! I had enough of deadlines in high school yearbook staff!** So I would start the book and when I am 99% finished, then I would sign the contract! When they ask "When are we getting the manuscript and photos?" I would respond, "When I am finished with them!!"

Thanks go to **Henry Sakaida, RHS Class of 1970, and author/historian**, for his willingness to share his thoughts, treasures, and memories of the Class of 1968. We hope that Henry will stop by the reunion to say hello, but Henry if you wear your Varsity jacket remember the rules about the medals or **Mike Wigton** may have you suspended!