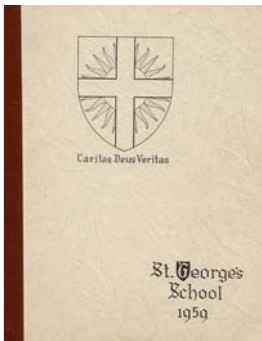


Golden Memories

The first graduates return and remember their old school

Six of the nine members of the Class of 1959 gathered on campus June 5 to celebrate their 50th Reunion and watch the Class of 2009 cross Graduation Bridge. First they shared a lunch in Davenport House served by Alumni Board members, then they received a guided tour of the campus. For some it was their first time back in a half century, while others have visited and even worked at the school.

After marching in behind the bagpipers to open Graduation, they enjoyed the warm day's ceremony from under a special Alumni Tent. Then it was time for a class photo and dinner in the Upper School with all of the other reunion classes and visiting alumni. It was an enjoyable evening of reconnecting with friends and sharing memories, some of which are captured on these pages.



With Miss Marian Pettis (lower left) as their advisor, the entire Class of 1959 served as the Annual Staff to create the first yearbook. From left front are Mary Ann Childers (feature writer), Lynne Canwell (art editor), Dale Kilpatrick (layout), Linda Chapman (editor), Hannah Cobb (publicity), and in the back row Paul Holman (feature writer), Tom Thompson (publicity), and Bruce Cool (photographer). Kay Hamblen also took photos, which may explain why she's not in the picture.

Stable Curriculum

A barn was renovated over the course of several years to provide classrooms, with the cattle stalls gradually converted into a library and the open space floored to become a gym. Bruce Cool, who grew up on a farm in Oroville, calls it “the most beautiful barn you ever saw.” Davenport House – simply known as “The Big House” – was open to students who could come and go as they wished. Classes were held in the house, including a health class in one of the upstairs bedrooms, and religious services took place in the living room until a chapel was built in 1957.

Ghosts in the Mansion

Bruce Cool remembers that he and Danny Roberts lived at Davenport House in the fall of 1955. “To the best of my knowledge the Board of Directors didn’t know and Cannon Smith never told them that there were boarding students during the first few months, because on Board of Directors night we were away at the movies.”

Dragonettes

“My best memory as a student was participating in the Dragonettes, a girls’ ensemble,” says Hannah (Cobb) Hubbard. She and Dale, Kay, Karen Christiansen and Janet Majer were led by Mr. McTavish. “He was also the organist at St. John’s Cathedral and my piano teacher,” says Hannah, who remembers taking a music appreciation class from him.

Great Teachers

Alexander Lehman, one of the first teachers who then took on head of school duties in 1956-57, is mentioned by several early graduates as a favorite teacher. “He prodded us in English Literature,” remembers Dale (Kilpatrick) O’Key, and Kay (Hamblen) Rafferty says “I enjoyed becoming friends with him.” Robert Farley (Math and Science) came for the 50th reunion and was well remembered for his classes and for directing the first drama production, *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Miss Marian Pettis (English and History) “was the most demanding teacher, but certainly prepared me for college,” says Hannah (Cobb) Hubbard. Kay agrees, saying “I am grateful for good French, Latin, math – all of which made my college life easier to start.”



Members of the Class of 1959 at Graduation included from left Dale O’Key, Mary Ann Kinkead, Bruce Cool, Hannah Hubbard, Linda Chapman, and Kay Rafferty

No Boys Allowed

A gazebo located at the bottom of Graduation Lawn had comfortable seats and plenty of windows. “It was the girls’ territory,” says Dale (Kilpatrick) O’Key, “and no boys were allowed inside it.” A similar gazebo still stands next to the paved bridge over the stream – perhaps that’s where it ended up.

Going Green

“The last week of school, one of the boys put dye markers in the little creek, turning it chartreuse green,” says Dale (Kilpatrick) O’Key. “No one has told yet who did it.”

Horsing Around

“One thing I loved, of course, was having a horse at school,” says Kay (Hamblen) Rafferty. “I loved it when the horse threw Mrs. Wahlin, because I thought she was pretty bossy and a little strange.” Dale (Kilpatrick) O’Key remembers riding way back on the trails above campus in the afternoons after school. Mary Ann (Childers) Kinkead kept her own horse at the school, while one of the teachers who ran a summer camp furnished the other horses.

Freedom and Friends

In the beginning there were no boundaries except for the academic requirements, says Dale (Kilpatrick) O’Key. “We had real freedom to completely be ourselves, and we didn’t realize that other kids were coming out of school without this freedom. Each of us became a unique person, independent and true to ourselves.” At first the students socialized all over Spokane and went to other high school’s games, since Saint George’s didn’t have an athletic program. “Later we became more inwardly focused as a self-contained group,” she says. “It created a fantastic connection between classmates. We all have grown over the years, but our friendships – particularly the nucleus of the group of nine – have not diminished.”

On the Web

See more photos from the Class of 1959’s Reunion activities at www.sgs.org/news_and_photos