

The 'High Hopes' News

Editor Virginia Hays 961-4670

Winter/Spring Issue - 2010

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Mission Statement

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation is dedicated to the support and preservation of parks, sports facilities and athletic programs in the greater Yakima area.

Honorary Directors

Chuck "Bobo" Brayton Joe Donahue Hazel Leland (d) Mel Lewis Connie Little Tom Parry Bill Pearl Pete Rademacher Stan Renecker Jerry Ryan Mel Stottlemyre Sr. Willie Turner Judge John Nicholson (d)

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(*signifies charter member)

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Chuck Hinkley Treasurer

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*Carol Finney

Sam Karr

*Daryl Parker

*Jerry Ward

Mel Stottlemyre, New York Yankee Legendary Pitcher, Honorary Chairman for 2010 High Hopes Golf Scramble

By Eric Carlson

This year's High Hopes Golf Scramble will be held at the Apple Tree Resort in Yakima on Saturday, June 12, 2010. The High Hopes Golf Scramble will again be an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Friday night festivities are still in the planning stage but will be held at the Clarion Hotel.

Mel Stottlemyre will be the 2010 honorary chairman. Mel was an Honored Guest at the inaugural event and has participated in the tournament each year. Daryl and Sherrie Parker will be our honored guests. Nothing could be more fitting than Daryl, who joined with others sharing his father's commitment to parks and youth sports to form the foundation, to honor us.

The golf schedule is: team registrations from 6:30-7:30 a.m., the annual putting contest from 6:30-7:45 a.m. Mel Stottlemyre (prize awarded), and call to the carts at 7:45 a.m. Team



pictures will be taken will be available for pickup during the post-golf luncheon and awards ceremony. Extra tickets will be available for family members and friends who wish to attend the luncheon.

Entry fee includes the following: green fee, all-you-can-hit range balls, a shared

golf cart, raffle tickets, lunch, and gift prizes. We will again hold several special contests, including longest drive, closest to the pin, and driver accuracy. A 50/50 raffle and the popular putting strings will be available -- and more.



Entry form is on page 11

A summary of the registration and financial documents of the PARKER YOUTH & SPORTS FOUNDATION is available by calling the Office of the Secretary of State (Washington State) at 1-800-332-4483 or by visiting their website: http://www.secstate.wa.gov/charities/.

Letter from the President



It's my pleasure to share with all former Yakima Valley Community College baseball players that Ken Wilson, new baseball coach at YVCC, is establishing high expectations and a strong philosophical and instructional foundation that will result in great success for the YVCC baseball team. Part of Ken's

approach has been to highlight and emphasize the legacy of success and domination that former YVCC ballplayers and coaches Bill Faller and Bobo Brayton achieved. This emphasis has given this year's team perspective and some significant performance goals to pursue.

Parker Foundation is excited about the coaching staff's efforts and organization — and the athletes' early response to the coaches' approaches and leadership. The enthusiasm surrounding the program has prompted several Parker Board and Foundation members to offer the program some support. For instance, in mid-February, Dick Smith, one of our founding members, arranged for Al Endriss to come and speak to the baseball team. Al is a Hall of Fame high school and collegiate baseball and football coach from California.

Al's presentation was excellent and greatly appreciated by the coaches and players. A video of Al's address was made and is worth viewing by coaches and players of any sport. Those of you who are coaches yourselves would enjoy viewing the video. The content is substantial, insightful, and motivating.

Ken Wilson and Al Endriss will be here this June and playing in the Parker Foundation golf tournament. All Parker Partners and supporters will really enjoy meeting them. I encourage you to attend the tournament and get to know these two really fine gentlemen, as well as the rest of the YVCC baseball staff.

Special thanks to Dick Smith for providing support to YVCC baseball through the Parker Foundation.

See you all at the golf tournament.

Bob Alexander, Foundation president

Message From the Office

By Jerry Ward



Jerry Ward holding down the office.

Advice . . . if you wish to take up cross-country skiing, it's probably best to start with a small country. Summarily, we have way too much to report, so will try to keep it short.

Hazel Leland, 'one of a kind': The college and sports community of Yakima was saddened this past February with the passing of Hazel Leland, a true sports legend in the Valley and longtime instructor at YVCC. Hazel was an honorary Foundation director and a fixture at the annual golf tournament. As we go to press, friends of Hazel's are planning a "toast to Hazel" gathering on March 30. (Picture and story to follow in next High Hopes.) Former YVCC baseball coach Chuck Brayton, was an 11-year colleague of Hazel's, and he sent a nice letter of tribute about Hazel that was published in the Yakima Herald-Republic newspaper.

Scott Wilson: We doubt you are hearing it here first, but Scott Wilson, a former Foundation director, is working as a part-time fund raiser for the Foundation. His primary focus is recruiting new Parker Partners, with many more fund-raising ideas being considered. Go get 'em, Scott . . . and Scott is another cross-country skier looking for a small country to start in!

Parker Partners Involved: It's been a whirlwind of youth activities in the Valley during the past month and such a pleasure to see our Parker Partners as integral parts of making the show take place. Over the years, we continue to be amazed at the 21 straight days that Gene Rostvold and Mel Moore devote to the three separate high school state basketball tournaments that come to Yakima each year. As tournament directors, these two guys start each Sunday morning and drive to Seattle for the seed meetings, welcome the tournament hosts at a luncheon on Monday, welcome the teams on Tuesday at the team banquet, then run the tournaments from Wednesday to Saturday night. Each tourney day begins around 7 a.m. and shuts down around 11 p.m. Partners assist at the tournaments in virtually every aspect of the "hands-on" jobs, ranging from sideline scorekeepers and clock operators, to media coverage and hospitality room hosting. A big "way to go" to Trudy Bray, Louise Adams, Virginia Hays, Carol Finney, Eric Carlson, Bill Baker, Tom Parry, Jim Scoggins, and to those we probably have missed who helped at the tournaments. Special recognition should be given to Chuck Hinckley, Gearjammer owner, who provided dozens of donuts for

the hospitality room.

Tournament Successes at YVCC: Quite a winter sports season for the Yaks, highlighted by the second straight Women's National Wrestling Championship effort! Ashley Phy, Tamika Jones, and Monique Dilliner won their second national titles in a row while Cady Chambers and Drue Partridge won their first national titles. Coaches Mike Schmitt and Tito Pimentel won the National Outstanding Coach of the Year award for the second straight year. For the first time in YVCC basketball history, both the men and women's teams advanced to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Championship semifinals. Cody Butler's women's team advanced to the championship game but lost to Walla Walla in the last minute of the contest. Coach Ray Funk's hoopsters had to settle for sixth place in the tournament as they dropped both the semifinal and third-place games.

Lest Ye Forget: We hope you enjoy the memories associated with this newsletter's list of individuals who have had donations made to the Foundation in their memory. To quote an unnamed genealogist source, "A man or a woman is never truly dead so long as a single person has some knowledge or remembrance of them. By this standard, they will be with us for many years." The PY&SF will endeavor to keep our Memorial Members in our thoughts and conversations, and as this High Hopes publication demonstrates, our Memorial Members remain a part of our historical mission.



Yakima Fastpitch

By Sam Karr

There is a resurgence happening in adult fastpitch in Yakima. This sport was huge in the 60's through the early 90's and is making a comeback in Yakima. At one time Yakima had more than 32 fastpitch teams. Maybe you played for some of those teams or just enjoyed watching the competition. Do you remember Ole's Place, Pepsi, Schlitz, Pierce Realty, Mercy Theatres, Wagner Roofing, The Highlanders, just to name a few. Over time that number dwindled to one team, under longtime sponsor JRW and Associates. Along with the

newly formed Yakima Gamblers, both will compete in this year's ASA National Tournament in Salem Oregon July 28-Aug. 1.

Fastpitch was started as a men's game well before it gathered the popularity that's shared at the girls level today. Yakima is seeing a resurgence of the sport with the help of Yakima Parks and Recreation. We will have six teams, possibly seven, this year. We also have several women who pitch and compete in our league. All games are played at Kiwanis Park at the Gateway complex on Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6:30 and 8:45. If you want to bring out the old glove, call Sam Karr at 945-0027 and he will place you on a team. Be careful; you might just get hooked on this game.

There also is a charity golf event being held to help sponsor the league at Suntides Golf course April 25. It is the third annual Yakima Fastpitch masters and features some of the old school players from an era gone by. The entry fee is \$75 and includes green fees, cart, and a meal. A few lucky folks' names will be drawn from a raffle to be held for a shot at \$100,000. Yes, you read that right -- \$100,000. Call Sam Karr at 509-945-0027 or e-mail him at sksells@msn.com for more information.

Grant Scoreboard

The Grant Committee will be seeking requests from local youth athletic organizations to finish out this year's grant allocations. The last deadline for grant requests is April 19. Requesting organizations will be scheduled for interviews with the committee on April 26. For a form and criteria for grant application, check out the Foundation's website at www.parkeryouthfoundation.com.

Requesting Organization & Representative	Purpose of Funds	Amount Granted
Yakima Valley Community College Women's Wrestling (Ray Funk)	Support the women's wrestling program.	\$2,000



Chairman Carol Finney (right) presenting a check to members of the YVCC women's wrestling team, back-to-back NCAS champions.

Parker Partner Feature

By Bill Faller

Connie Little - Parker Partner of the Month/January



Connie Little

An appreciative "thank you" is past due to Honorary Director and Parker Partner Connie Little. Connie has been an ardent and active supporter of the Foundation ever since the founding meeting in 2004. She was there with her camera at that meeting and has continued as a volunteer foundation historian. When the first Legends Reunion was held in 2006, Connie arranged to have

it filmed and shown on Yakima Community Television. Connie has participated in virtually every Foundation activity or event, giving both physical and monetary support at an exceptional level.

Connie's most recent action for the Foundation was creation and purchase of "Parker Partner Pins." With assistance from Scott Wilson and Jim Riley, Connie made her idea of a lapel pin for all the Parker Partners happen. She plans to give one to each new Foundation member. This project has been fully funded by Connie, all for the promotion and betterment of the Foundation.

In addition to all of her other activities, Connie is documenting Foundation activities as the organization's historian. She maintains a Foundation scrapbook and other archives that will provide useful and interesting records for years to come.

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation is very fortunate and thankful to have Connie Little as an honorary director and Parker Partner. She has been a passionate and important contributor to the Foundation's success from the beginning five years ago, and we look forward to her continuing participation.

Dan Burke - Parker Partner of the Month/February

Foundation congratulations go out to Parker Partner Dan Burke. The WIAA Coaches Association has honored Dan with the Umpires Service Award for 2009. He received the much-deserved award at the organization's annual meeting at SafeCo Field Feb. 20. Dan is the 11th person to be chosen for this prestigious, statewide award for baseball umpires. Another Parker Partner, and umpiring partner of Dan's, C.J. Mitchell of Richland was the first recipient of the award.

Dan grew up in Ellensburg and developed his love for baseball under the tutelage of Bill Carlon. He started

umpiring in 1963 in the Ellensburg Little League and finally retired at the end of the 2009 Legion season, 46 years later. During those years he worked games at all levels of play from Little League through collegiate Division 1, including 11 years in the PAC 10. Highlights of Dan's umpiring career include three NAIA national tournaments and a 1988 game in Spokane between the USA and Japan Olympic teams when they were touring the U.S.

In 2004, Dan retired from the Ellensburg Telephone Company, where he had worked since his high school graduation, and he and his wife, Carmella, moved to a family vacation site near Packwood. Now he finds time to hunt, fish, and golf, and, especially, to go to ball games.

Endowment Fund

By Bill Faller



Thanks to generous contributions from Daryl Parker and Stan Renecker, and other donations received around the end of the year, the Faller/Brayton endowment fund has grown to more than \$100,000. When Stan proposed the fund with an initial contribution two years ago, he suggested a five-year goal of building the fund to \$250,000. The Founda-

tion Board wants to make that happen and fund raising for the endowment will be an ongoing activity.

The fund is being managed by the Yakima Valley Community Foundation (YVCF).

Our treasurer, Chuck Hinckley, coordinates directly with John Colgan, YVCF executive director, in administration of the fund. As an endowment fund, it is managed to perpetuate forever, always maintaining a balance equal to the invested contributions.

Allocations or grants from the fund will be made annually based upon directives adopted by the Faller



PY&SF Board. Plans for the first withdrawal from the fun are being made with the anticipation that it will be made prior to the start of the 2010-11 school year.

Look for another fund-raiser appeal for the endowment. The major league all-star game could be a target date for that. Of course, you needn't wait. Contributions are most welcome and gratefully received at any time.

Roll Call

Parker Partner Renewals

One hundred seventy-two and growing, thanks to the people who have become Parker Partners.

The following people are inaugural Parker Partner members and have renewed for 2010.

Bob & Michele Alexander	Eric Johnson
Bill Baker	Dr. Linda Kaminski
Russell Banko	Sam Karr
Trudy Bray	Nancy Kendrick
Bobo & Eileen Brayton	Paul Larson
Jennifer Brayton	Jim & Nancy Leahy
Eric Carlson	Mel & Eleanor Lewis
Central Valley Bank	Connie Lewis
Bernice Clem	Larry Mattson
Don & Shirley Crook	Bob Masterman
Ellwood Crosier	Robert McCutcheon
Steve & Cheryl Dale	Mary & Hal Miller
Donald Davidson	C.J. Mitchell
Bill & Sally Douglas	John Moran & Dagmar
Laura & Joe Drovetto	Schnader
Spud & Gay Edmondson	Virginia Norman
Dick Elliott	Scott Parker
Bill & Nancy Faller	Manny & Mary Jo Perez
Carol Finney	Ken Pleasant
Tim Foutz	Lou & Bonnie Prediletto
Al Galen	Paul & Holli Radke
Parker Garland	Harry Rainford
Tom & Karen Garrison	Glenn Rasmussen
Jay Gilbertson	Stan Renecker
Cheryl Hahn	Renae Roberson
Fred Halverson	Hap Robinson
Ron & Hideko Hamamoto	Jerry Ryan
Gary & Ruth Hansen	Jim Scoggins
Harley & Linda Hansen	Melba Strand
Virginia Hays	Gary Sybouts
Tom & Mary Herche	Liggett Taylor
Chuck Hinkley	Roxanne Trees
Tom Hinman	Chris & Jan Turner
Phil & Pam Hinrichs	Eileen Walen
Ralph Holbrook	Jeff Ward
Mary Holder-Marsh &	
Gerry Marsh	Jerry & Lynn Ward
Bari & Trina Johnson	Betty Yaden

New Parker Partners

Welcome aboard to the new Parker Partners joining the Foundation's mission this year. We appreciate your support.

Memorials

Thank you if you have chosen to remember special people in your life via a memorial contribution to the Foundation - gone but not forgotten.

In memory of Tommy	In memory of Art Ellis,	
Thompson, YVCC	Eisenhower educator and	
Baseball:	football coach:	
Bill Faller	Carol Finney	

MEMORIALS, continued on next page

Memorials, from previous page

In memory of Irma In memory of Hazel Scott Ward. mother of Leland, YVCC/Davis HS Jerry Ward and YVCC physical educator & coach: basketball fan: Bill & Nancy Faller Calvary Baptist Church Carol Finney (Alton, Illinois) Virginia Hays Eric Carlson Daryl & Sherrie Parker Ellwood & Arla Crosier Jerry & Lynn Ward Bill & Nancy Faller Carol Finney Virginia Hays Leonard & Sandra Jacobs Daryl & Sherrie Parker Jim Scoggins Gene Scott Family Jeff Ward Jerry & Lynn Ward

General Donations

Thank you to the people listed below for providing support to fund the grant allocations. Every dollar helps – helps kids and the Valley.

1	
Russell Banko	Tom Hinman
Jack Bloxom	Phil & Pam Hinrichs
Bill & Marla Borton	Mel & Eleanor Lewis
Jennifer Brayton	James Hamm
Mike Carnahan	Ken Marble
Bill & Sally Douglas	Robert McCulloch
Dick Elliott	Hal & Mary Miller
James Hamm	David Whiteside
Harley & Linda Hansen	Jerry Wilson
Mike Havnaer	Bob Winters

Faller/Brayton Endowment

The endowment continues to grow through the generosity of the people listed below. The endowment is now over \$102,000.

The Campbell Group (Stan Renecker)
Bill Faller
Virginia Faller
Daryl & Sherrie Parker
Stan & Laurie Renecker

Joe Donahue Scholarship

The Joe Donahue Scholarship is now guaranteed to support a YVCC student for the next two years because of their end-of-the-year contributions. Thank you.

Daryl & Sherrie Parker Ellwood & Arla Crosier Bill Faller Virginia Faller Stan & Laurie Renecker

YVCC Baseball

Thank you to the gentlemen listed, who have provided financial support to YVCC baseball.

Bill Faller Phil Hinrichs Dick Smith

Parks and Playfields

Thank you for remembering the kids in the Valley who depend upon the parks and fields to have a place to play.

Tim Foutz Kathi Mercy Eileen Walen

Honorary Directors - Update

By Bill Faller

Chuck "Bobo" Brayton: Bobo and Eileen are enjoying life in their new home outside of Pullman and are making plans for some fishing. He recently had an electrical system installed in his back, so now he has to make sure to keep his batteries charged.

It's too soon to tell, but the effect on his back miseries has been positive, and they have our golf tournament on their June agenda.

Connie Little: Connie has put her longtime east Yakima residence up for sale and is considering a move to a west Yakima location with her daughter, Ranae. Connie continues to serve as our Foundation historian and stays active with community television and other "pet" projects.

Pete Rademacher: Pete is progressing with recovery from hip surgery and is looking forward to getting out on the golf course when the Ohio weather warms. He is still leery of long plane rides, but he hopes to come out to visit family members and be here for the High Hopes Scramble in June.

Jerry Ryan: A recent fall and hip injury (no breaks) made Jerry think it might be time to make a move to a retirement home. He has done that and is in the Ponderosa Retirement Center, Room 328. Jerry has been retired from the Yakima schools for more than 20 years and has been a regular volunteer at various high school athletic events and tournaments all of those years. He was a sponsor of the Chelan High School teams in the state basketball tournaments for a number of years, and this year the Chelan teams presented him with an autographed ball in appreciation. Come June, Jerry hopes to be able to attend his grandson Marcus's graduation from Stanford.

Mel Stottlemyre: Mel and wife, Jean, spent the spring training weeks in Tucson helping son Mel Jr. with the Arizona Diamondback pitchers. Mel Jr., one-time pitching coach for the Yakima Bears, became the Diamondbacks pitching coach last summer and is starting his first full season with the parent club. Mel and Jean returned to their home in Sammamish with the start of the major league season, and Mel says we can count on his being here for the golf tournament.

Gone - Never Forgotten Because of Memorial Gifting

Parker Youth and Sports Foundation is fortunate to have known individuals who made a difference for kids when they chose the Yakima Valley to raise *a family and pursue a career*. When we lose special people, they are never forgotten because the memorial giving in their name keeps them in our thoughts and prayers – they are a part of our legacy.

Those wishing to send a donation in memory of someone should, if appropriate, also include a family name or address for the receiving organization to acknowledge the family of the person so honored by your gift.

In this section, we want to remember a few special people.

Don Dillon was a life-long Valley resident. He was born in Toppenish but graduated from Ellensburg High School in 1941. He worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad as a signal operator when he met and married his wife, **Lois Doornink**. Don and his sons (and a grandson) have supported the Foundation's High Hopes Scramble each year since its inception.

Bob Everson, head football coach at YVCC from 1969-73 before moving on to the UW as an assistant football coach.

Clayton Frazier, long-time Yakima district football, wrestling and track coach who led Eisenhower's 1964 football team to the mythical state championship. He was noted for the lively, wide range in discussions in his biology classes..

Gary George spent his life in service to others – others meaning youth. He served the Washington State American Legion Baseball, the Yakima Valley Sports Commission and Visitors & Convention Bureau, Downtown Rotary Club, the Osteopathic Foundation, Salvation Army, and YMCA over a 30- year span.

Don and Nellie Holder were quite a pair – supporters of youth sports and each other. Marrying as high school sweethearts, they came to Yakima in 1938. Nellie would support Don as he coached track and field at Eisenhower High School after developing a successful program at Franklin Junior High. He was Clayton's assistant on the 1964 Ike football team. The track at Ike bears his name. Nellie also worked in the Yakima Valley College library and was an avid knitter.

Don & Joyce Bedlington – looking for memories about Don & Joyce. Do you have any to share?

Nita Crosier arrived in Wapato with her husband in 1948 to grow peaches and apricots and provide eight local stores with fresh eggs. They also raised three daughters and son Ellwood, a well-known basketball

coach. Losing track of the grandchildren count at 100 when she died, Nita was an enthusiastic supporter of kids.

Chuck Dorich, Selah football coach who was well-known by the community and was a fun guy to be

around.



COACH HAZEL LELAND

Hazel Leland, Davis High School and Yakima Junior College (YVCC) educator and coach, golfer and bowler with championships, passed away Feb. 23, 2010, after a long battle with pleurisy. Hazel supported the Foundation by serving as an honored guest, sponsoring the driving range, and hosting the Joe Donahue Scholarship Putting Contest at the annual High Hopes Scramble. For more about Hazel, check out the spring 2008 PYSF newsletter.

Swede Lindquist, started out at Yakima High School social studies teacher before moving to the new Eisenhower High School as its first baseball coach. Eventually becoming Yakima School District athletic director, he continues to be a part of the Foundation as his daughter Mary Herche sponsors a hole at the High Hopes Scramble.

Royal Little was a resident of Yakima for almost 60 years. He was a supervisor for the Washington State Department of Transportation. Royal has indirectly supported the Foundation and historical causes of the city through the work of his wife Connie -- preserving pieces for our next generations.

Jack Louman, outstanding fastpitch player who contributed to several state wining teams also coached Little League teams.

Barbara McKenna, the spitfire of the YVCC physical education staff, taught health, aerobics, and anything else that needed covering in the curriculum.

Wayne and Biz Purdom, longtime Selah residents who spent their lives in sports. Having met at Montana State University, where Wayne was All-Conference in football. Moving back to the Valley, where Wayne would coach wrestling and football at YVCC. After retirement, he continued coaching at CWU, East Valley, and Grandview, finishing at Selah High School in 2008. Biz devoted 33 years to the Selah School District and a lifetime to Wayne and their sons. Kids around the Valley have truly been blessed by these two.

Keith Rostvold moved to Yakima after a distinguished administrative career in the Spokane public school system. Yakima Valley Community College became the beneficiary of Keith's time and support. Keith always

was in attendance at basketball games; YVCC was a benefactor of Keith's talents for selling boxes of Yakima-grown apples to everyone and anyone. The Foundation was able to make its first major donation in 2007 - \$7,500 to the Downtown Rotary Parks project in part because the Foundation was designated as a memorial for Keith and his wife Ada Rae.

Lee Paggett could be found on the sideline of the Southeast Center Grid Kids program coaching some of the top talent over the years. He joined the staff at YVCC in 1989 as an assistant football coach. He then served as the dorm recreation coordinator, then was assigned as the equipment and intramural manager – a man who would do any job that supported young people.

Don Peterson, longtime social studies teacher at Davis High School. Don could be found in the stands at all basketball games. A hearty supporter of his team with a deep voice, Don had a way of conversing with the officials.

Glen Sherar, YVCC tennis coach and father of outstanding talented tennis player Mary, Glen turned his love of tennis and young people into a career. Glen began a lengthy career at YJC, arriving in 1935 as tennis (until 1977) and basketball (until 1964) coach. When the gymnasium was built in 1957, then-Athletic Director Sherar would see an addition built, the physical education program started and grow to nine instructors, an intramural program of over 1,000 students and directing eight intercollegiate athletic programs (football, cross-country, basketball, wrestling, baseball, tennis, track and golf).

Judge Walter Stauffacher, a lifelong Yakima Valley resident, spent many years working on the water rights adjudication case while serving as a Superior Court Judge for Yakima Country. Judge Stauffacher also presided over naturalization ceremonies welcoming new citizens to the United States.

Bob and Beverly Thomson – Bob was well-known around the building at Franklin Junior High. Bob coached football for many years. He enjoyed hunting and other outdoor activities.

Max Vincent, a man who enjoyed baseball and supported Yakima Youth Baseball programs. Max enjoyed following his grandson, who is turning out to be a triple threat – football, basketball, and baseball -- for Archbishop Murphy.

Dave Yaden was a mainstay at Franklin Junior High School, teaching physical education and coaching for 26 years, with another five years at Lewis & Clark. Always involved in programs that benefitted children, Dave was the director of summer park progrms for the City of Yakima; Larson Park was one of the many Yakima parks benefitting the youth of the city.

Historical Section

Editor's Note: This article is part five of a series. The article features the history of Yakima Junior College (known today as Yakima Valley Community College) and the land it was to be built upon in 1948 along with the Larson Gallery. The purpose of the series is to connect the A. E. Larson-Rose Parker Larson legacy of giving to the Yakima Valley, and, in particular, to YVCC. Information for the article was gathered from research by Connie Little, Larson Gallery and newspaper clippings.

<u>1928 - Meeting Yakima's Post-Secondary Needs</u> Creates Yakima Junior College

Thirty-three years after Yakima's first high school class graduated, Supt. A. C. Davis thought a junior college was needed, "... designed to meet the educational needs of the youth and adults of the Yakima Valley." It would be an institution that would be affordable for two years of college-level work at home and allow students to decide whether to pursue an additional two years' work toward a baccalaureate degree elsewhere.



Coach Herman Hopf (L) and team, circa 1932-35. (Courtesy of Yakima Valley Museum Memories.)

Returning from the annual American Association of School Administrators meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Davis included visits to junior colleges across the country, including several in California. With community support and under the direction of M.A. Peacock as chairman of the chamber of commerce committee, Yakima became the third community in Washington to have a junior college, following in the footsteps of Centralia and Skagit Valley junior colleges. Connected to the Yakima School District School Board of Directors, it would not operate under a separate board of trustees until 1930-31. Finding a building was a major hurdle until the first high school in Yakima, Columbia School, was renovated. In the fall of 1928 YVJC opened under the leadership of Dean Elizabeth Prior with 105 students, eight teachers and a \$14,000

budget. Dean Prior would guide the junior college until retiring in 1946.



Columbia School, 112 N. 4th Avenue-between B & C Streets. (Courtesy of Yakima Valley Museum Memories.)

After numerous fluctuations in enrollment, finances, structure in leadership and three extensions where construction had been expected to have started, it wouldn't be until 1949 that the junior college would find a new home – South 16th Avenue and Lenox (now Nob Hill Boulevard) – thanks to the foresight of Rose Larson and her son Shirley Parker. They had purchased 40 acres, giving the north 20 acres to the City of Yakima as a public park to be named after her late husband, A. E. Larson. The park would follow other construction on a portion of the 40 acres before it would be dedicated Aug. 1, 1947, with a monument with a bronze plaque dedicated to the memory of Mr. Larson. Tennis courts would be added shortly after the dedication.



(Courtesy of Yakima Valley Museum Memories.)

In 1937, Parker constructed a modern ballpark and athletic field (stadium) with grandstands on the east ten acres of the 40-acre tract. The 4,400-seat stadium was funded at a cost of \$50,000. The field was host to a professional baseball team called The Pippins, providing Yakima residents with a professional team for 23 years. Yakima also was able to host high school football games in the stadium. After fire destroyed the original grandstand, the facility was rebuilt in its current location, where YJC and the American Legion program would play until 1967, when the college tore out the

facility to erect a health science building. The building was never to be completed on the site. In 1973, the Parker Field/Stan Fox Stadium complex would be constructed to be home to the American Legion program. Yakima would eventually host three American Legion World Series (1954, 1978, and 2001).

In 1937, Mr. Parker also deeded to YVJC the west 10 acres of the south 20 acres, the site to eventually become the location of the college's first buildings in 1949. The ballpark and athletic field were deeded to the City of Yakima by Mr. Parker, but he would have unrestricted use for a 20 years. In 1944, the college owned the 40 acres outright through the family's generosity.



Not finished with giving, in 1940 Mrs. Larson and Mr. Parker wanted to turn over to the college a trust fund, about \$100,000 that Mr. Larson had left the City of Yakima for creation and maintenance of a museum. The funds had been declined by the city following Mrs. Larson's death as too impractical to accept under the stipulation of creating a museum. Following intervention, negotiations, and legislative action with state and federal beneficiary laws, funds the college eventually would receive in December 1941 would be \$120,900.48.

Larson Art Gallery and Museum Finds Life at Last

With land, a \$200,000 college building fund and 40 acres, the college offered for public subscription by the people of Yakima a first-mortgage \$300,000 bond issue, as well as financial assistance from other community members. Building started after awarding contracts on Sept. 12, 1948. The new campus opened in September 1949 with 22 modern classrooms and laboratories, a music wing, administrative suite, and the Larson Museum.

A vision that would be a "miniature Maryhill Museum" was realized in September 1949 when the Larson Art Gallery and Museum (name later changed to Larson Gallery) opened on the grounds of the new YVJC campus. With a mission to educate through awareness of the arts of diverse groups, the gallery focuses on

different interest groups.

In 1955 an independent guild was created, whose primary responsibility was to promote art exhibitions and serve as a liaison with the community and college. Promotion of the gallery would occur through classes, workshops, lectures, sales, and exhibits of the graphic arts and crafts – many tied to social events in which the community could participate.



Larson Gallery sponsors three major juried exhibitions a year designed to provide local, regional and national artists the opportunity to compete for prize money while learning





how to professionally exhibit their work. The major exhibitions are:

Central Washington Artists Exhibition, open to all artists living in this area and juried by two artists from outside the region.

Art to Wear exhibit, open to artists from the Northwest.

National Photography Juried Exhibit, open to all artists and juried by Northwest artists with a national or international reputation.

The gallery has been guided by Director Cheryl Hahn for the past six years and continues to honor its original mission. Under her direction and with her staff's capable talents, as the gallery survives economic fluctuations has



Sherrie and Daryl Parker enjoyed staying in Daryl's mother's bedroom at their former home on W. Yakima Avenue during the 60th Celebration of Larson Gallery.

become the oldest art gallery in the city. Larson Gallery celebrated its 60th anniversary; a celebration that was held October 10 at Rosedell, the original home of A.E. and Rose Larson. Those attending were encouraged to wear period pieces. Special guests were Daryl and Sherrie Parker; Daryl is Rose's grandson.

The gallery continues to support the work of local and regional artists. January-February featured Women Artists: Where We Are Now and is showing A Retrospective – Charles A. Smith's Journey: Painting from Within. Smith is a local artist, having graduated from Davis High School and Central Washington University in the late 1950s.

Closing

Without the Larson and Parker philanthropic spirit, Yakima would be without buildings of historical nature and a legacy of supporting the arts. And Yakima Valley Community College would not have found a home when it did. Through the Parker Youth and Sports Foundation, Shirley Parker's son Daryl continues the family's legacy of giving.

60th Celebration Snapshots











Fifth Annual High Hopes Golf Scramble

Apple Tree Golf Resort

8806 Occidental Road Yakima, WA

Saturday, June 12, 2010 8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

For more information, contact chairman Eric Carlson, 509-728-1703

Sponsorship Opportunities: Diamond	Bronze Sponsor\$ 1,000 Includes 1/2 hole Team Sponsor\$ 500 Includes 4 golfers	
Gold Sponsor\$ 2,500 Includes 4 golfers and hole	Tee AND Green Sponsor\$ 250	
Silver Sponsor\$ 1,500 Includes 4 golfers and 1/2 hole	1/2 Hole Sponsor\$ 125 Tee, green or driving range	
Team Name:	Golfers' Names Handicaps	
Capt. Phone #:		
Indicate Polo Sizes (Hanes Brand):		
Mens:MLXL2XL3XL		
Ladies:MLXL2XL	Sponsorship Level	
Team Registration @ \$500	Total Cost:	
Individual Registration @ \$125	Credit Card #	
Additional Luncheon Ticket @ \$15		
	Exp	



YES! I want to support parks, youth activities and sports with a donation to the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation.

Youth	•		
General Fou The Joe Dona Faller/Brayte In Memory	Individual Membership and Induction Scholarship Fund on Endowment of Amount \$	@ \$25 per year	Youth Sports Programs Scholarship History of Area Sports
High Hopes F Pride & Pinst Brayton/Falle Golf hat w/Pa Souvenir golf 2008 golf tou	Print(s) @ \$160 each fo	ok by Mel Stottlemyre @ \$ 1,000 each \$5 each each	_
Credit Card # SignatureName	Check enclosed Bill	Business	ept: Visa Master Card Exp// V-CODE State Zip
	Sports Foundation is a 50 Phone: 509-469-933	6 E-Mail: info@parkeryo Web site: www.parke	k you for your tax-deductible donation. outhfoundation.com cryouthfoundation.com or cryouthandsportsfoundation.org
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