

**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
- Hazel Leland
- Mel Lewis
- Connie Little
- Tom Parry
- Bill Pearl
- Pete Rademacher
- Jerry Ryan
- Mel Stottlemire Sr.
- Judge John Nicholson (d)

**Executive Committee**

(\*signifies charter member)

- LeAnn Leahy,  
Executive Director
- Steve Dale, President
- Bob Alexander, 1st Vice President
- Rich Austin, 2nd Vice President
- \*Nancy Kendrick, Secretary
- Chuck Hinkley, Treasurer
- \*Bill Faller
- \*Carol Finney
- \*Daryl Parker
- \*Scott Wilson

**Directors**

- \*Bill Baker
- \*Jamie Carmody
- Mike Bastinelli
- Eric Carlson
- \*Don Crook
- \*Ellwood Crosier
- \*Joe Donahue
- \*Spud Edmondson
- Gary George
- Virginia Hays
- \*Nancy Leahy
- Greg Luring
- Kathi Mercy
- \*Mel Moore
- \*Glenn Rasmussen
- Bob Romero
- Gene Rostvold
- \*Jim Scoggins
- James Parks
- \*Richard A. Smith
- \*Jerry Ward

**Golden Era for Women's Softball from 1949 to mid '60's**

First in a series on women's softball by Jerry Ward

It was 25 years before the advent of Title 9 that women softball players in the Yakima area created their own opportunities to participate in organized sports, starting with a state softball championship in 1950. The young women who played in this era are in or nearing their golden years, and the Parker Foundation is working to collect and share their stories, pictures, and memories.

Our intent in this issue is to drop a few names and invite your participation in filling in the gaps with other names, dates, and memories of such teams as the Apple Queens, Reesman's Dairy Maids, Webb Cats, Yakima Applets, Stealers, and Sunshiners.



Carol Finney (left), played second base for the Webb Cats from 1964-67, reminisces with Betty Baker, instrumental in the evolution of women's softball in the valley.

(More on page 2, column 2)



**Front Row:** Mary Blanchard, Betty Owens, Dot Dobie, Jane Lombard, Donna Lasha, Beverly McMillen, Jo Moore. **Back Row:** Coach Royce Baker, Betty Baker, Jackie Miller, Betty Armstrong, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Bud Hopkins

## Message from the Executive Director

I want to thank all our members for all the warm wishes over the holiday season. It was nice to hear back from so many of you. I hope all is great in 2008!

I want our members to know that we kicked off a fund-raising event for the Southeast Yakima Community Center. Parker Youth and Sports Foundation is continuing to collect new and used sports items to donate to the Center. So if you happen to be doing any early spring cleaning and run across a basketball, soccer ball, baseball, etc., please keep us in mind.

Just another reminder: our annual golf tournament is just around the corner. Save the date! May 17, 2008. Take care!

Sincerely,  
LeAnn Leahy

## President's Message

We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.



The Executive Board and committees continue to meet on a regular basis to facilitate the business of the Foundation.

1. The Foundation is pleased to announce a treasurer has been selected to fill the position for the year: Chuck Hinkley, president of the corporation for Gearjammer Truck Plaza.
2. The Grant Committee is actively seeking applications. One possibility is connecting with the

Yakima Parks and Recreation Department.

3. The Long-Term Planning Committee has been pursuing a strategy to ensure the Foundation supports similar needs.
4. Work on the by-laws continues.
5. The Joe Donahue Scholarship recipient, Chelsey Nil, has turned out to be a person with lots of personality. A great pick!
6. The Golf Committee has been meeting monthly since September. The Friday night, May 15, Legend's Reunion and Saturday, May 16, third annual High Hopes Golf Scramble are going to be great events.
7. The Foundation is looking at ways for people with the same goals to become active in our mission.

Please join us in May for our third annual golf fund-raiser. Best for the New Year!

Steven E. Dale, President

## Who Are We Missing and Where Are They Now?

As we hope to develop the saga of women's softball in the 1950' and 60's, it would be interesting to connect the past with the present. Below are rosters of a few of the teams. If you have information to share about anyone of them, the contact information is at the end of the column.

### 1953 Apple Queens

Betty Baker, Player Manager

Jane Barker	Dorothy Beauchene	Dot Dobie
Mary Blanchard	Sue LaCabe	Ren Miller
Joanne Moore	Doris Nelson	Betty Owens
Sally Shaw	Patty Reaksecker	Olive Wilbur

### 1961 Webb Cats (Outgrowth of Reesman's Dairy Maids of 1960)

Mel King, Manager	Betty Baker	
Doris Nelson	Cathey Webb	Shirley Dobie
Bette Story	Elaine Thomas	Mary Taylor
Molly Lindsey	Gretchen Bower	Mary Reed
Donna Holcomb	Carol Jacobs	Barbara Gavin
Jackie Miller, Assist. Coach		

### 1964 Webb Cats (Team picture on file)

Mel King, Coach	Molly Lindsey	Kathy Sterns
Gretchen Bower	Cathy Benedetto	Maggie Bean
Kathy Langston	Cathey Webb	Betty Story
Carol Finney	Wanda McCargar	Mary Taylor
Marylin Ritchie	JoAnn Hopfinger	
Sharon Elofson Zahler		

### 1968 Webb Cats (Team picture on file)

Dorothy Purser, Manager		
Molly Lindsey	Maggie Bean	Billie Harris
Sharon Elofson	Mary Taylor	Cathey Webb
Sue Peterson	Diane Sillable	Connie Catron
JoAnn Hopfinger	Peg Thomas Stansfield	

### 1969 Webb Cats

Roland Raab, Coach		
Maggie Bean	Nancy Plantz	Dot Dobie
Mary Taylor	Wanda McCargar	Billie Harris
Connie Catron	Janean Hill	Peggy Thomas
Rhonda Campbell	Julie Hoff	Molly Lindsey
Cathy Benedetto	Sue Peterson	
JoAnn Hopfinger	Robbi Raab, bat boy	

## FOUNDATION HISTORY COMMITTEE SEEKS YOUR HELP

Please contact us if you have addresses of former players and coaches, pictures, rosters, newspaper articles, as well as corrections to any information we have published.

CONTACT:

Foundation Office: 509-469-9336

e-mail: [leann@parkeryouthfoundation.com](mailto:leann@parkeryouthfoundation.com)

History Committee:

Jerry Ward, [kywywash@aol.com](mailto:kywywash@aol.com)

Scott Wilson, 966-6666

## High Hopes Golf Scramble Update

High Hopes Golf Scramble tournament registration forms will be mailed out around the middle of February. The tournament fee remains at \$125, with a great player package. Forms will be mailed to all of last year's participants. The tournament will be preceded by several fun contests, and the award dinner will conclude the evening.



The Legends Reunion on Friday, May 15, will provide plenty of opportunity to get local legends' autographs, reminiscences from honored guests, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction.

Contact the Foundation office for more information.

## Meet the New Honorary Directors



**Tom Parry** — Tom Parry was born and raised in Seattle. He attended Queen Anne High School until 1940, when World War II interrupted his education. He was a lineman, playing guard and tackle. Entering Washington State University in 1941, but leaving to serve in the Navy from January 1943 to 1946, Tom again played on the line while earning a bachelor of education and physical education. His play earned

him a selection to the college Shrine East-West game his senior year in San Francisco. He would later return to college to earn a fifth year and master of advanced teaching.

Tom's teaching and coaching career started in 1949 at Langley High School on Whidbey Island, where his football team achieved a 7-1 record. Tom moved on to Clarkston High School in 1950, then to Wenatchee Valley College in 1957. He moved up to the four-year ranks at the University of Montana in 1957 as the line coach; he then held the same coaching position at Washington State University in 1959-60. Returning to Wenatchee Valley College in 1961, he led the Knights until Central Washington University hired him as head coach in 1966. Tom remained with the Wildcats until retiring in 1986. Jerry Ward, Yakima Valley Community College athletic director, talked Tom out of retirement in 1989 to lead the Indians' football program.

Tom's 1984 Central Washington University Wildcat football team finished third in the NAIA playoffs. The team was honored in 1984 at Qwest Field. Tom was inducted into the Washington State High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1990. He has been a speaker at numerous banquets and coaching clinics, most recently speaking to elementary students about the importance of reading.

Tom was blessed in marriage for 33 years to Mary Jane Breier, queen of the Lewiston Roundup. She was the outstanding female student for the University of Idaho, earning a degree in political science. She was the daughter of an Idaho state senator. Their five children include Tom, Mary Catherine, Ann Marie, Byron, and Kathleen.



**Bill Pearl** (edited from a story originally developed by Nancy Leahy)

Bill Pearl is a man who broke barriers all his life and, at the age of 76, continues to live the body-building and fitness style. He is called a "world premier physique star" and is the most well-known of vegetarian body builders.

Bill was born on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation near Prineville, Oregon; his family settled in Yakima, where his father owned a restaurant. The entire family worked long hours, and from an early age Bill had an intense desire to be strong and well-built. He began training at the age of 10 by lifting cans of vegetables.

He earned the titles of Mr. Oceanside, Mr. Southern California, Mr. California, Mr. America, and Mr. Universe, all in one year. He won the Mr. Universe title five times and developed gyms, health clubs, and fitness businesses.

He is the author of more than 27 books on body-building and fitness. He has coached more major physique/fitness contest winners than anyone else in history.

Bill and his wife, Judy, live in Medford, Oregon. Last year he served as the PY&SF High Hopes Golf Scramble tournament honorary chairman.



**Jerry Ryan** — Jerry Ryan was born on the Ryan cattle ranch north of Lake Chelan in 1923. He was a cowboy, riding bareback from age 5 to 12, then adding a saddle for the next six years. He graduated from Chelan High School and worked as a forest ranger before he went into the Navy's aviation program in 1942. He was on active reserve status for 16 years.

After World War II, he went to Washington State University and Eastern Washington State to become a teacher. Coming to Yakima in 1950, Jerry began his teaching career in the elementary grades before moving to Washington Junior High School, heading the physical education department for 17 years. He also coached baseball and basketball and served as the athletic director for 17 years. He then spent four years at Davis High School before retiring in 1980. Jerry also was a fastpitch umpire for many years, serving as the head umpire at several state tournaments in the 1950s-60s.

Jerry and his wife, Dee, were married for 51 years, raising two sons and a daughter. With retirement, Jerry and Dee traveled from coast to coast and border to border in an RV.

Jerry has served the Yakima community in several organizations. He served First Presbyterian Church by mowing the lawn at Ghormley Meadow for 10 years, heading the "taxi" service for 25 years and ushering at the church for many years. He has served the Yakima Monday Morning Quarterbacks as banker for the past 20 years.





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

I wish to contribute: (Make checks payable to Parker Youth & Sports Foundation)

- \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1,000     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my gift to support:

- The Joe Donahue Scholarship Fund
- General Foundation     Parks & Playfields     Youth Sports Programs
- History and Heritage of Area Sports     Scholarship Fund (other than Joe Donahue Fund)
- In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ High Hopes Print(s) @ \$160 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I am interested in participating in the 2008 High Hopes Golf Tournament

**Payment Method: Check enclosed    Bill my credit card: We accept: Visa Master Card**

Credit Card # 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Exp. \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ 

--	--	--

  
**V-CODE**

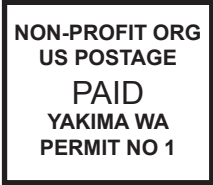
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: H \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) Foundation  
Thank you for your tax-deductible donation.

Contact information    LeAnn Leahy: 509-469-9336    E-Mail: [leann@parkeryouthfoundation.com](mailto:leann@parkeryouthfoundation.com)  
Fax: 509-469-9481    Web site: [www.parkeryouthfoundation.com](http://www.parkeryouthfoundation.com)

Parker Youth & Sports Foundation  
P.O. Box 1311  
Yakima, Washington 98907

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



POSTAL CUSTOMER

*Happy Valentines!*