

# Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

## Head Tower News

A "Boomtown Memories" newsletter

Museum: 1525 Median St., City of Shasta Lake

Museum Hours: 9-1 M/T/W and 2nd Saturday Closed on Holidays: Call 275-3995

Email: slhandhs@gmail.com / Correspondence: P.O. Box 562, City of Shasta Lake CA 96019

www.shastalakehistorical.org— FB Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society

Volume 16 issue 2 # 51

## STEP ON UP FOLKS.....

September 2020

**Re-opening on Saturday September 12th, 9-1pm with a "rummage sale" in the parking lot and the museum open to visitors! (Social distancing, sanitizing, masks available, etc.) WE WELCOME YOU!!**

Our newest addition, a restored "Platform" Scale. It's signed, "Step on Up Folks" - "You can weigh yourself but please let one of us help you to prevent a weight being dropped on your foot!"



Thanks  
Rick Fox.

PLATFORM SCALES were quite common in the country (still are), and used in farm/feed stores, grocery stores, hardware stores and on ranches to determine unknown weights. (I saw an old one in use when I was in a local peach orchard last month. Have you seen one lately?) The major manufacturers were Fairbanks and Howe which have been around for over 150 years.

This platform scale is a copy (around 100 years old). It has no manufacturer's name cast into the base or upper platform or stamped into the brass scale, as was the custom and is devoid of any identifying markings. Knock-off's were easy to make as patents were difficult to enforce; gray cast iron was easy to reproduce in foundries. Local foundries were common in many towns, think of an upscale blacksmith shop. Gerlinger's Steel in Redding was a local foundry.

Foundries would take pig iron, that contained from 2 to 4 percent carbon melted with varying amounts of silicon, manganese and graphite to make gray cast iron. Traces of impurities like sulfur and phosphorus could also be found in cast iron—too much of these impurities would weaken the cast iron causing it to become brittle and break. The Bass School Bell in our museum is another example of a product in cast iron.

**Brrr..ring!** Greeting us when we came to work in the office was this telephone! Mike & Donna (our antique snoopers) acquired this vintage phone utilized in Susanville for a future "communications" display. While not operable right now, we hope with a little TLC and wiring, it too will become an interactive display. One of our goals for the museum is to have hands-on exhibits. Stamped, "The Williams Telephone & Supply Co." Cleveland, Ohio, PAT in U.S.A. JAN 14, 1913 Western Electric", after conducting a little research, we found that Charles Williams was the most prolific and influential of all telegraph instrument makers in the mid 19th century. Alexander Graham



Bell had his laboratory on the top floor of the building occupied by Williams. Williams manufactured all of the Bell Telephone equipment until the spring of 1879. It is not known exactly when Williams ceased making telegraph instruments. As Williams embraced the demand for telephones, it is likely telegraph production was phased out in the mid 1870s. The entire Williams operation, physical plant and licenses were purchased by Western Electric in 1882.

Another exciting item for a future display will be the "printing press" being restored by Rick Hargrave. Unfortunately, Rick said that the printing press was in such a dilapidated state that to make it operative will be impossible, however, plans are to have a short video chronicling its operations in the newspaper industry displayed next to the printing press.



Start to Finish

From our research files at the Boomtown Museum comes this story of a small country school here in Shasta County. The lineage that provided **Bass School** its name came down a long road from early settlers of Boston, Massachusetts to early pioneers of Shasta County in far off California. **Samuel Bass** was first to arrive in Boston in 1630. There, the Bass family tree came to include such historical names as Alden and Adams. Patriot **Henry Bass** was a participant in the famous Boston Tea Party. So, *who'd-a-thunk* our little one room school house, in the Mountain Gate area, would legitimately carry the name of those early American patriots.

Fast forward two centuries, to find that over the years, several Bass descendants had moved as far west as Missouri. There **J.S.P. (John Stephen Patton) Bass** ( aka "Grampa Bass") was born. In 1844, now a widower, John left his birthplace and traveled with daughter Nancy even further west. His journey came to a halt in Hangtown, Placer County, California, where he met and married widow Lucinda Bradley.

On the road again in 1852, the Bass family moved to the Stillwater area near the California/ Oregon Trail north of Redding. A man of many trades, John Bass established the Bass Stage Station, complete with blacksmith shop, stage repair, and care and trading of horses and mules. As the family grew, John built a 14 room colonial style house, with fireplaces in every room and shutters on the windows.

In 1870, John became the first postmaster at the Stillwater Post Office and in 1880, he was elected to the California Assembly. As more

people began moving into the area, the settlement was naturally called **Bass** – soon to be followed by **Bass Mountain, Bass Hill, Bass Drive** and **Bass School** (to name a few).

The history books tell us that Bass School was organized in the Mountain Gate area in 1882 when the Stillwater District was split, creating the Union District (later Shasta Lake Union) and the Bass District. Built as a one-room school on property donated by John Bass, *the location changed at least three times.*

Old timers agree that the last location has been the site of Bass School since the early 1900s. School registers dating back to 1885 indicated an average of 26 pupils a year in all eight grades combined. Research is underway to locate the old school records to preserve this important part of history in our county. Below are pictures we discovered in our files that an unknown person donated, most likely a previous Bass School student or parent, that were taken over the years capturing and noting some changes that occurred.



Early Bass School



Bass Station Home - Pencil drawing by Mabel Frisbie



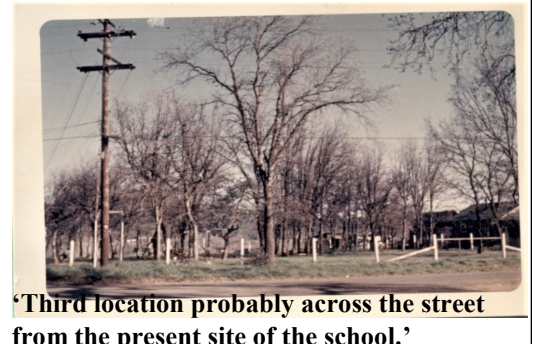
Bass Stage Station



'First Bass School was located near Copper Canyon Road and Old Oregon Trail N.'



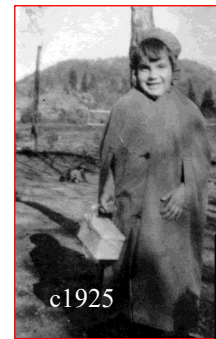
'Addition of Classroom 1956-57'



'Third location probably across the street from the present site of the school.'



Class rosters included such pioneer family names as Hardenbrook, Peterson, Fish and countless others. While what was often a 3-mile walk to school did not seem to affect attendance, the biggest reason for absenteeism or for leaving school was “need help at home”. *The late Cleora Peterson, looking then like “Little Red Riding Hood” told us, “It was two miles from my house to Bass School, by the time we got to school, we’d be soppin’ wet. We’d take our socks off, those old, long black ones, and our shoes and put them on the big fire (wood stove?) to dry, and our coats. By the time they dried, school was out and we’d have to walk home and get wet again.”*



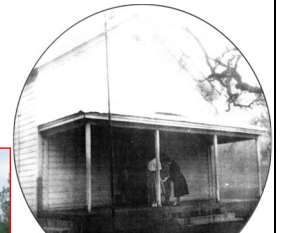
**1922 Bass School Picnic “Mothers”:  
Fish, Frost, Hoak & Petersons.**

Louise Peacock’s parents were pioneers Arthur Warren Hardenbrook and Margaret “Maggie” Hunt Hardenbrook. In 1909, Margaret started teaching at Bass School and remained there until 1924. Following in her mother’s footsteps, in an interview 1977, Louise Hardenbrook Peacock said, “I started at Bass School that is on Bass Drive. *We didn’t have hot lunches, so on snowy days, mother would make potato soup or hot chocolate for the class. That was a real treat! I have taught there, all my children have went there. I was principal there and I am back there being a trustee again.*”



Bass remained a one-room school until a 2<sup>nd</sup> building was required in the late 1930’s to accommodate the influx of the “dam kids” – children of Shasta Dam workers. The school has undergone additions and changes over the years, yet continued in many traditions, *including the “ringing of the old school bell” to start the day.*

In 1950, three school friends since the 1920’s, Cleora Peterson Smith, Carmen Rodriguez Goodman and Ella Fish Barbera met at Bass School for a reunion *and asked to “ring the school bell”.....Fast forward to 2006 and the same three would meet for the last time to recall those “good ole days” as they celebrated Carmen’s 91st birthday- a day of memories, and yes, Carmen asked and got to “ring the school bell!”*



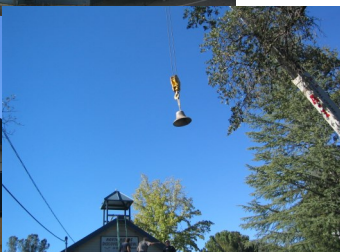
1956

The bell is one that was acquired when many area schools were demolished to make way for the waters of Shasta Dam. Though no one could be sure exactly where this particular bell originated, it was thought by some to have come from the city of Kennett. Regardless of where it originated, it was proudly adopted by Bass School. It was moved after the original building deteriorated so badly it was torn down, into the second building complete with a refurbished belfry in 1956.

It remained there until the school was closed due to low enrollment after the 2004/2005 school year and became home to Northwoods Charter School until 2016. The vacant property is now under the auspices of the Gateway Unified School District. Earl & Deb West contacted GUSD and offered to preserve the historic bell in our museum. *Thank you GUSD for the loan.*



Earl West



In October 2018, Rick VanCleave of A1 Crane offered his services. Rick and Earl removed & moved the bell. Earl built a strong platform and today the Bass School bell is proudly displayed in our museum. Once again “*ringing of the school bell*” will happen...this time for our visitors.





Sadie and good friend, Nellie Bell  
at our historical society dinner.

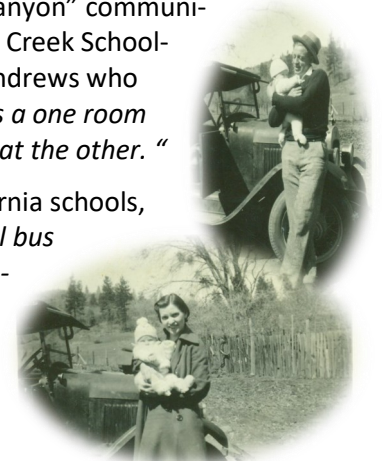
It is said that “*Many hands make light work*” – and we here at the Boomtown Museum can certainly attest to that. Countless *HANDS* came together over several years to visualize and ultimately create the museum we have today. *HANDS* took (and continue to take) many forms – formulating plans, gathering information and goods for display, mind-numbing research, back-breaking muscle work, generous donations of time, talent and riches (you get the idea) – all geared toward preserving the heritage and history of this community. To name all those responsible would be a monumental, if not impossible task (which may be the reason the word “community” was coined).

That said, we are looking back at the many *HANDS* and the name **Sadie Baker Brown** comes to mind. A largely behind-the-scenes contributor of volumes of local history, Sadie is a native of the area.



Born to Archie and Harriett Baker in 1934 in the “up-the-canyon” community of LaMoine, she began first grade in the one-room Slate Creek Schoolhouse. (School was named for the slate donated by Levi Andrews who lived on Slate Creek near LaMoine.) “*A man teacher, it was a one room school with all eight grades. Little kids at one end, big kids at the other.*”

After numerous family relocations took her to other California schools, she returned to finish her education here, *riding the school bus* from Project City to Shasta High School in Redding. “*In winter, I left in the dark and came back in the dark.*”



She worked summers at the Giant Orange for George & Adelaide Castle walking back & forth from Project City to Cascade Boulevard (where Joe’s Giant Orange is today.) Sadie graduated SHS class ‘53 and married Robert Brown of Central Valley that same summer.



After decades raising a family and maintaining a home on Keswick Dam Road, Sadie can still be found in that home with many happy memories of life in this area. “*The start was good for this young couple in a little ol’ shack in Project City.*” Sadie and the late Bob Brown were married 66 years in July 2019.

Sadie has had her *HANDS* in a myriad of Museum projects. Through the years, she conducted many interviews of local families and created shelves of binders for our resource library, documenting locales, histories and pictures. She has shared numerous items for display in the museum and has been a vital advocate for membership, donations and participation in our Boomtown Museum.

Most of our Native American collection of stories and photographs originated with Sadie, and today you will find her working on preserving the historic Baker Cemetery near Pollard Flat. Sadie and her Native American heritage made us think about “Samson” and this wonderful memory from times of old....

**SAMSON**, a Wintu native, was one of many caught between two cultures. Born circa 1815 (or possibly as early as 1810), he remembered the first of the white men to enter the area. Though short in stature, Samson was an incredibly strong man. He acquired the nickname of “Samson” when at age 40, he packed a 190 pound anvil, on foot, over rough terrain from Delta (near Lakehead) to the mines in Trinity County.

Samson’s home near LaMoine was a “wikiup”, a 6 ft. high teepee made of poles and deerskins and contained provisions mainly of apples, dried fruits and meats. Samson lived till 1916 – well over 100 years – and is buried in Vollmers’ cemetery in Delta.



Field by Baker home where Samson lived.



Once upon a time, in the late 1930's, what we now know as the City of Shasta Lake was a collection of many and various towns and neighborhoods built to accommodate the influx of thousands gathering in the promise of work on the proposed new Shasta Dam.

One of those raw, new Boomtowns was to become known as **Summit City** - its name derived from its location on the "summit" before de-

scending down the winding mountainside road to Kennett and the new construction site.

Within no time, it became a bustling enterprise serving the growing population - a school (Toyon), post office, firehall, gas stations, restaurants, general store, saloons, etc. All of the businesses have long since disappeared, but we'd like to tell you *about a little market that has survived, lo, these 80+ years.*

Initially the Summit City Market was located across from the present Fire Hall on what is now Lake Boulevard but then known as the road to Kennett. A road of many curves, it was finally re-aligned after the dam construction was over and the new straight stretch of road was named Lake Boulevard.

Like the road, the Market was moved a time or two, and ended up "down the street and around the corner" on what is known as Hill Boulevard today. A former owner, Mr. Johnson, sold it in the mid-sixties to Hal Munns who doubled its size. 10-12 years later, it sold it again, this time to an immigrant couple from India - Mahendra (Mike) & Jyotsna (Jo) Patel.



The Patels had arrived in San Francisco in 1974, encouraged by family already here and keen on exploring the opportunities available to them in the United States. While in India, Mike had received a Master's degree in Electrical & Power Engineering; Jo had earned a BA in Sociology. Their search took them as far south as Los Angeles, and after some time and the arrival of two children, the couple made the journey northward to investigate a business advertised for sale in Summit City (*and lucky for those who shop here*).



They enjoyed the surrounding beautiful mountains and lakes, being close to nature, and the prospect of raising their children\* in a small town. It reminded Mike of his birthplace, and thus, the sale was made. Only once since being here did they consider moving back east to be closer to family. However that did not happen since their children were involved in the community and didn't want to leave their school and friends.

42 years later the Patels can't even fathom leaving this area nor their friends and neighbors even when they do retire (hopefully soon is their children's wish). They can still be found happily operating THE DRIVE-IN MARKET on Hill Boulevard. They have enjoyed their life here "*because of the wonderful people who make up this community and who make getting up to open the store for them every day worth it.*"

\*Krina - CVHS '93, a Forensic Scientist/DNA analyst in Alameda county shown with husband, Shawn; Arnel - CVHS '95 a VA Dept. of Health Epidemiologist married to Ami with two daughters, Prisha 14 and Siya 10. Our thanks to Prisha for interviewing her grandparents and Krina for the photographs. More of their interesting life story is available to read in our files.



## From the late Marjorie Church comes this (edited) account of her memories of "TOYON THAT WAS".

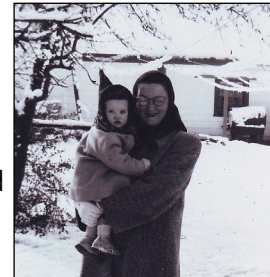
(Sent by Eileen Church Suchanek, of Sandy, OR while looking through her mother's notes.)



Our House - Toyon

"Our family moved to Toyon from San Francisco in September 1949, when the Bureau of Reclamation opened the Power House and the Bureau went on "Operations & Maintenance". We lived there for 18 wonderful years until the Job Corps moved in.

It was a beautiful place as it looked like a manicured park with its green lawns and colorful shrubs and trees. Everyone took pride in their flowers and vegetable gardens. People who moved there were generally from places like Boulder, Grand Coulee and other dams, and PG&E Powerhouses. They were friendly and helpful; it was never lonely there.



We were active in Little League, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, PTA and other outside community activities. It was a short walk to the ball park, or over the "Blue Bridge" to Toyon School. The Community House had a library and ample space for meetings, potlucks, parties and dances. Every New Year's Eve was a gala event with a dance & party. Catholic Mass was held there every Sunday until St. Michael's Church was built in 1959.

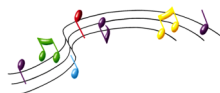


The children had many opportunities for fun; there were swings, tennis courts, hills to climb and a creek to play in. Halloween was special, including trick or treating and a costume parade. Later a huge bon-fire created a place for marshmallow roasting and singing.

*It was indeed a wonderful place where wonderful memories were made."*



## LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL....



How many remember the skating rink, "crack the whip" and skinned knees, elbows and other unmentionable body areas bruised while having fun?

Or not even in a rink, but with "shoe skates" and skate keys? No matter what, photographs bring back memories for some and tell a story to others .....Some fun facts: *Did you know that **Roller-skating** was invented in 1735 by John Joseph Merlin, a Belgian who famously introduced his new wheeled shoes at a party in London and promptly crashed into a mirror!* Or that Monsieur Petitbled **patented the roller-skate** in 1819? *His skates were inline, with only three wheels and no way to turn!* And, the first public skating rink opened in 1866!



It's 1947, WWII is over, major construction on Shasta Dam is completed (it will be dedicated in 1950) and many damworkers have stayed to live and raise their families in the Boomtown. What all thought would become a ghost town became a thriving business community with two roller rinks!



Mae - 1947



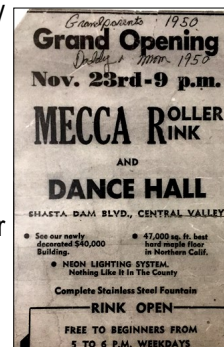
Jim

That's how it was for Jim & Mae Boles who owned and operated the Central Valley Café located down the boulevard from the Silver Dollar Bar in the 1940's, their business was thriving. So the next thing for Jim & Mae was to own the Mecca Roller Rink and Dance Hall. It had

a Grand Opening in November of 1950. It was located where the Mecca Theatre had burned down. After the rink closed, it became a grocery store - Mike's Market, then a goods store—

Ace Hardware and after a fire, was rebuilt and today is the location of the Dollar Store.

Pictured: stepson, Bill Cagle who later managed the Rink, his wife, Eva and children Michael, Richard, Ronnie Jean and Diana as an entry in the Damboree parade. (Photos from Jean Nilson)





The Boomtown Museum continues to move forward. Two steps forward and one step back. We were open for a short time to the public, then closed, and now have reopened. Volunteers continue working on projects for the Museum. *"North State Memories"* is our historical article featured in *upstate CA destinations*, a new travel publication. Darlene Brown and Alice Scarbrough will soon be promoting Boomtown Memories on Facebook. We are in contact with CV High School to have students promote boomtown history creating U-Tube videos. Being established is an Advisory Board to guide us in financial acquisitions.



In the works are plans for fund-raising, working with local businesses and agencies. *Shasta Caverns* is featured on our Community Wall, sharing their local history. Rick Fox continues to bring treasures to enhance the museum, his latest is a 40"x50" picture of The Three Shasta's. After some restoration, it should become a focal point on our wall. Ordered are two cases to display ship models built by Ken Potter. We continue to add historical items and feature local history so when you return to visit us, you will be treated to different, unique displays.

Sadly we had to cancel the Annual Dinner, Community Bazaar and local Car Tour. Throughout this Covid 19 pandemic, taking two steps forward and one step back, we continue to be productive, flexible and stay positive. *A special thank you to our volunteers and members, for without you there would be no Boomtown Museum.* Deb

### **THANK YOU – for your donations and renewals since our May newsletter, because of you—we are!**

**BENEFACTORS:** Connie Strohmayr, Redding; Betty & Larris Dorman, Los Molinas; Floyd & Melody Christenson, Shasta Lake; Norma Haner, Redding; Janeen Jones, Statesville NC; Jeanie Fogle, Veneta OR; Loss & Judith White, Austin TX; Sam Sowards, Dayton NV; Dennis & Sandy Howard, Ferndale WA; Shasta Dam Kiwanis Club; Don Baldocchi, Redding; Marylin Bohn, Redding; Mike & Gayla Ricks, Redding **NEW:** Ruth Fish, San Tan Valley AZ; Patti Holmes, Redding; T.Wright/Queen of Dragons, Shasta Lake

**FAMILY:** Rick & Barbara Kern, Shasta Lake; Darrell & Margie Ludwig, Shasta Lake; Carole Humiston, Redding; Darlene Blancett, Redding; Greg & Pam Halcomb, Redding; John & Linda Wilson, Redding; Rosemary Smith, Shasta Lake; Irene Linkhart, Shingle Springs; Kent & Yvonne Stevenson, Redding

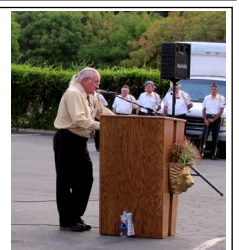
**INDIVIDUALS:** Barbara Hunter, Gerber; Georgia Haddon, Shasta Lake; Gloria Halcomb, Redding; Richard Hinkle, Redding; Sammie Wolf, Shasta Lake; Jean Naylor, Shasta Lake; Theresa Burge, Redding; Colleen Best, Shasta Lake; Rosi Stoppenbrink, Cottonwood; Vera Haag, San Diego; Yvonne Curto, Redding; Eileen Suchanek, Sandy OR; Marilyn Loucks, Redding; Allen Friebe, Los Gatos; John Adams, Lancaster SC; Lon Jones, Sutherlin, OR; **NEW:** Mike Thoman

**"SPECIAL" DONATIONS:** Bert Boothroyd *"in memory of Marvin Beaver"*; Jean Naylor *"in memory of Ron Naylor"*; Norma Haner *"in memory of my husband John "Jack" Haner who was a "Dam Kid" & active in the society"*; Janeen Rowland Jones *"in memory of my dad, Wayne Rowland"*; Barbara Hunter *"in memory of Paul Stremple"*; Bill & Darlene Brown *"in memory of our classmate and longtime friend, Loene Terry Trubkin"*; Sam Sowards *"just because"*; Rick & Barbara Kern *"thank you for your hard work"*; Yvonne Curto *"thank you"*; Georgia Haddon *"thank you"*; Mike & Gayla Ricks, *"thank you"* and Mike & Debbie Hiebert Mills *"please let my dad, Del Hiebert, know this donation is in recognition of his 91st birthday on August 1st."*



**Rod Lindsay** - A member of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk American Indians, was a man with a heart as big as the community who loved him, and sadly passed away on August 27th. He leaves his wife, Cindy, six children and many grand and great grandchildren. The Director of LIFE, Local Indians for Education, he dedicated his life to serving and educating the youth. He was instrumental in promoting Native American Culture and participated in many cultural and community events in the area.

Rod served as City Mayor, City Councilman, Planning Commissioner and Damboree Awards MC. He was responsible for the City acquiring the *piece of steel* from the World Trade Center in New York after that fateful day of 9/11/2001. The steel piece rests on a memorial wall built in front of the Fire Hall. *\*Every year since then, Lindsay, along with local service clubs, organized the Annual Sept.11 candlelight remembrance ceremony where he would serve as the evening's MC. (Because of Covid19, the ceremony is not to be held this year.)*



Shasta Lake Heritage & Historical Society  
P.O. Box 562 Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
Visitors Center: *Boomtown Museum*  
1525 Median St., Shasta Lake  
530-275-3995  
501c3 non-profit organization

Please check the date next to your name for membership dues renewal.

Thank you for helping us save on reminder postal costs. It is appreciated!

## IN MEMORIAM



**Gerald Cerepa** 1931-6/29/2020 Shasta High Class'49  
U.S. Navy Veteran, long-time resident in our City and  
"my dearest uncle" by Darlene Brown

**Rod Lindsay** 1944-8/27/2020 "please see tribute"

**Pete Rowland** 1940-8/28/2020 Shasta High Class'58, SLHHS  
member and longtime resident in our city. "My Uncle and brother  
to the late Wayne Rowland" - *By Janeen Jones*

**Loene Terry Trubkin** 1942—9/3/2020 CVHS class '60, "A Dam  
Kid" and SLHHS benefactor. "An unbelievably strong and talented  
dear friend for over 60 years" - *By Darlene & Bill Brown*

*We try to be accurate but please, we are not liable for any additions, omissions, errors and/or corrections that may occur in this publication. Any photographs or material used may not be scanned and/or reprinted or reproduced without contacting us for permission of use. Thank you.*

*Darlene V Brown, Editor Alice Scarbrough, Asst. Editor*

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*We sincerely appreciate your support to keep history alive.*



**We heard it was your 100TH BIRTHDAY!**

First Principal of Central Valley High School  
pictured with wife, Katharine at our 50th  
reunion interview in 2009.



**CONGRATULATIONS  
MR. RICHARD HAAKE!  
AND MANY MORE!**



## **Board of Directors:**

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