

Legacy Links

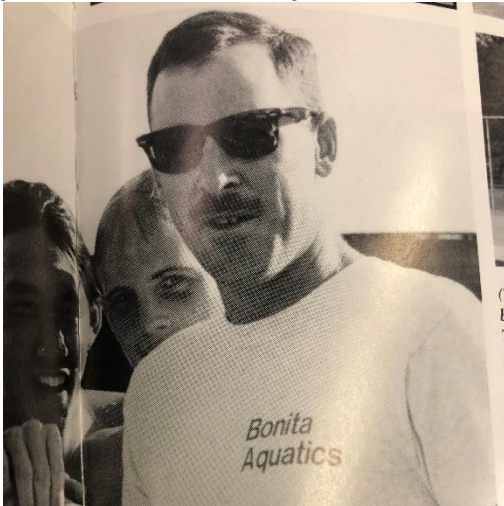


**PRESERVING OLD LA VERNE'S
ENVIRONMENT:
MAKING HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE**

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Every Picture Tells a Story:



Jeff Allred recently sent this story of the career of Mr. Andy Rosenberg, water polo coach at Bonita High School. This story will inform you about how the aquatic center came about and how the collaboration formed among BUSD, the city of La Verne, and the ULV for building and maintaining this venue. It also explains the purchase of two mobile home parks owned by the city. Enjoy this piece of La Verne history. Thank you, Jeff!

Mr. Rosenberg Comes to La Verne

In 1990 Andy Rosenberg joined the faculty at Bonita High School after a brief stint at Nogales High School in

La Puente. It was there at Nogales, with absolutely no prior coaching experience but a solid working knowledge of water polo from his high school playing days, that Andy's burning passion for coaching was lit. In his first year as the coach at Nogales, he led its varsity team to the 1988 Sierra League championship. When he was recruited to come to Bonita, it was largely through the efforts of two parents who wanted the school to start a swim team. Before he interviewed for the job, Andy visited the school and found a campus without a swimming pool! However, Andy soon learned that Bonita High School was geographically connected to Las Flores Park by a pedestrian bridge where there was an old, out-of-use city pool with feral cats roaming the bottom. Andy accepted the job to teach history and coach swimming at Bonita with the full intention of convincing them to start a water polo program as well. The only problem was that the 1960's era "plunge" at Las Flores Park had one shallow end and non-standard dimensions, which made the pool unsuitable for CIF regulation water polo competition.

Once on the job, Andy's first order of business was to convince City of La Verne Parks and Recreation Director Bill Aguirre to make repairs to the pool. Through Andy's persistence and Bill's supportive influence that

objective was accomplished in short order. And, while the pool was still drained, he and a few of his prospective aquatic athletes took a can of paint and hand-painted lane lines on the bottom to enable swim competition in the old plunge. Andy also took the opportunity to attach a water polo goal cage to the south side wall, the one deep end of "his" pool.

Bonita's Powerhouse Water Polo and Swim Teams

During the early 1990s, when no one was paying much attention, Andy and his water polo and swim team had pretty much full reign to schedule and use the pool. He poured his heart and soul into forming and coaching Bonita High School's water polo team, with astounding success! As perennial league champions and CIF championship contenders, the Bearcats water polo teams became a force within the Southern California water polo world. The only problem was that the Bonita water polo team was unable to host official home games due to its deficient, non-standard pool. As a related interest to Coach Rosenberg's water polo aims, the Las Flores Park pool served as the official home of the Bonita High School swim teams. Both the girls and boys Bearcat swim teams coached by Andy achieved similar successes forged by his water polo teams. La Verne's aquatic sports each made their marks in the CIF Southern Section.

Innovative Financing Funds the La Verne Aquatic Center

With momentum created by the successes of Coach Andy Rosenberg and his teams, strong sentiment emerged in La Verne for replacement of the antiquated Las Flores Park pool with a new state-of-the-art aquatic center. Although no existing capital funds were on hand to pay for such an ambitious project, the City of La Verne became the moving party to make the dream a reality. A complex conceptual financing plan was developed to raise the needed capital improvement funds through powers of the La Verne Redevelopment Agency. In a nutshell, the plan called for a Redevelopment Agency bond issue to raise capital funds at a low interest rate, and to use a portion of future tax increment revenues within the existing

property tax levy to pay the annual debt service costs over time. The plan called for the purchase of two local mobile home parks (Valley Rancho Mobile Park on Arrow Highway and La Verne Mobile Country Club Estates on Moreno Avenue at Foothill Blvd.) to preserve low-and-moderate income housing options in the community. In addition, a portion of the bond proceeds would be accessed to build the aquatic center for the use by residents (including those with low-and-moderate incomes.) All of this could be accomplished without raising taxes on residents or businesses! Because the conceptual financing plan was unprecedented, La Verne filed a validation lawsuit in court against itself (La Verne vs. La Verne) for judicial review before implementation. The court validated the plan and paved the way for the financing plan to proceed. The City then formed a citizen committee, which included Andy Rosenberg as a vital member for design of the future aquatic center. The committee ultimately identified the need for additional funding and agreements were struck with the Bonita Unified School District and the University of La Verne for joint funding, use, and maintenance of the facility. Andy was thrilled to have a beautiful new aquatic center designed by Aquatic Design Group and constructed by California Commercial Pools. The only downside was that Andy had to share "his" pool!

Deep and Enduring Relationships

Of course, Andy's closest and most enduring relationships were with his wife, Kathleen Turner, and their two daughters Madeleine and Claire, who love him and miss him greatly. Andy had the opportunity to coach both on the Bonita High School girls water polo team over a period of several years. Under Andy's direction the Lady Bearcats water polo team produced many more league championships, CIF playoffs, and even a CIF championship in 2009. Beyond his family members, Andy formed strong and lasting relationships with many of his players and their families. Thanks to the efforts of Coach Rosenberg, Bonita water polo and swimming became and continue to be a family affair. Many of the families with whom Andy associated had

multiple children on his Bonita aquatics teams over the years. A few of these families with multiple aquatic athletes include the Allred (Brad, Heidi, Craig, Heather, Ryan) Amakasu (Mark, James, Robert) Domenici (Anthony, Daniel, Adam) Dow (Bryan, Keith, Kurt) Hatch (Chad, Paul, Danny, Missy, Matthew) Rieben (Mike, Brian) Stewart (Steven, Andy, Adam) White (Michael, Danny, Tyler) Valderrama (Sergio, Andrea, Rebecca) and Vosburg-Corjon (Cole, Nick) families. Many Bonita high school aquatic athletes have gone on to compete successfully at the college and university levels. Most notable is Alex Rodriguez who played for Andy in the early 1990's. Alex went on to become a water polo All-American and national champion at Pepperdine University. He ultimately became the Pomona-Pitzer Colleges national champion water polo coach, and a three-time US Olympics water polo coach. Andy and Alex maintained a close bond over the years.

The Importance of Mental Health Attention and Treatment

The following tribute was included in Andy's obituary penned by his wife, Kathleen. "Mental health issues are real, and they can be as deadly as any cancer. Andy Rosenberg suffered from OCD all his adult life, probably stemming from the loss of his leg in a hit and run motorcycle accident at the age of 17. For some reason, his medication stopped working about a year ago. He was trying out new medications as well as cognitive behavior therapy, but unfortunately it was too little, too late." Appropriately, Andy's memorial service took place in "his" pool in the form of a Bonita High School alumni water polo game. As a tribute to Coach Rosenberg, alumni Bearcat water polo players converged at the La Verne Aquatic Center from near and far for a spirited game in his honor. Andy's life and contributions are not measured by wins in the pool or even championships, although there were many.

Coach Rosenberg is remembered by those who experienced his unbounded passion for the game of water polo and the joy, satisfaction, and positive pursuit that the sport provides. His passion will continue to be

shared and felt, especially by those he coached. Thanks Coach!



President's Message

Although we live with continuing anxiety about climate change, fires, COVID, and inflation, there are many ways we can celebrate and be grateful. First, the LVHS has been busy with the International truck restoration. You may have seen the International riding on a Sanders trailer for the July 4th parade. This issue of *Legacy Links* provides details of the next steps in this lengthy but rewarding process. On August 20th, LVHS members met for the annual potluck picnic, were updated about the International's progress by Project Director Erik Chaputa, and participated in a spirited discussion about a permanent museum to house our historical artifacts. Led by former Mayors Jon Blickenstaff and Don Kendrick, various locations and timelines were discussed. The impression was that this is an idea whose time may be at hand. The adventure is before us.

LVHS Activities in October-December

Join members of the LVHS to learn about building an ofrenda during the LVHS Member/Community meeting on **Monday, 10/10/22, from 4:00pm-6:00pm** at the Hillcrest Meeting House. Our presentation is entitled "The Dia de los Muertos, a Time for Honoring and Sharing" by Ms. Roberta H. Martinez.

This holiday of joyful celebration is a time for family and friends to remember loved ones who have died. Ms. Martinez will discuss history and customary core practices associated with this day of remembrance. Historian and writer Roberta H. Martínez is the author of “Latinos in Pasadena” and is the Executive Director



and Founder of Latino Heritage and The Latino Forum. She has served on the Pasadena Civic Center Public Art Advisory Committee and will certainly expand our horizons. Attendees will view an “Ofrenda” (altar) created by an LVHS member.



For more learning and culture during Hispanic Heritage Month, join the LVHS on a visit to the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture, and Industry in Riverside on **Saturday, October 15th, at 11:00am**. This docent-led tour is limited to 20 participants. Reservations are required; contact Sherry Best at 909/596-4679 or sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org for details. The “Cheech” opened in October of 2022 and houses the finest collection of Chicano art in the United States.

Both events are sponsored by the LVHS and La Verne’s Cultural and Social Inclusion Committee.



The Riverside Library is transformed into the Cheech Marin Museum for Chicano Art

LVHS is Busy in November

On **Friday, November 4th**, we will meet again at the Hillcrest Meeting House to hear about life for indigenous peoples during the time of Spanish colonization. The presentation is scheduled from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Two weeks later, on **Saturday, 11/19/22, at 11:00am**, we have a docent-guided tour of The Old Mill in San Marino. Following the tour, we’ll hear about the San Gabriel Mission while we enjoy sack lunches on the patio.

It happened that the tour of The Old Mill is scheduled for the exact same day and time as the “Cruisin’ La Verne” car show. Of course, the 1938 International will be there, accompanied by Bonita High School teacher Rob Zamboni and some of his students. The car show will be held on “D” Street from 10:00am-4:00pm, so drop by to hear about our progress and visit the truck.

LVHS is Even Busier in December

The LVHS is bringing back home tours to coincide with our vintage holiday sale on **Saturday, December 10th, from 2:00pm-5:00pm**. The action will happen on Third Street, with books, vintage items, and homemade jelly for sale. Watch for upcoming details.

The last page of this newsletter is a replica of the calendar that was sent to all members on 8/15/22. The

calendar is suitable for posting on your refrigerator to prioritize activities. Remember that occasionally dates may shift, so watch for email updates.

This will be a big year for the LVHS and we hope you join us for our planned activities and celebrations.

Rolling with the International

The 1938 International traveled back to Old Anvil Speed Shop after a successful July 4th debut, with help from Sanders Towing.



Richard, a Sanders Towing employee, is ready to take the International to Old Anvil

Once at Old Anvil, it was visited by Bonita High School auto shop teacher Rob Zamboni to assess ongoing restoration activities. While Old Anvil specialists work on the body, the bench seat will be stripped to the springs, cleaned, and recovered in brown leather.



Old Anvil Speed Shop owner Paul Bosserman poses with Bonita Auto Shop Teacher Rob Zamboni

From Old Anvil, back it will go to the Bonita High School for more active help from Rob’s students. The truck will stay with the Bonita Bearcats for as long as it serves as a teaching tool for students, with occasional opportunities to visit car shows and city activities. By the time the Bonita High School students are finished with it, the truck should be drivable.



The International on Alameda Street in Vernon during its career as a fertilizer hauler

A serendipitous connection occurred when a resident of Orange County saw the International in the Old Anvil lot and paid a call. It transpired that Mr. Doug Graft, Fire Chief at La Habra Heights from 2013-2019, worked with Inman Conety many years ago when they both delivered fertilizer for Swift. Mr. Graft sent an old snapshot of the International to Paul and Jenna Bosserman at Old Anvil, which was forwarded to LVHS President Sherry Best. She and Mr. Graft had a long visit; he remembered Inman clearly and promised stories of their interactions. He is keenly interested to stay in touch with the restoration and maybe he’ll drive the International for us some day.

Look for the International at the upcoming “Cruisin’ La Verne” car show on Saturday, November 19th. Rob’s students are invited to join us and share their expertise. This is the first appearance of the International during this calendar year; we expect to enter two more car shows in 2022-2023 and keep our

profile high. This will be an opportunity to see the truck up close if you missed it after the July 4th parade.

LVHS Celebrates at the National Night Out



LVHS Membership Chair Kathy Kalousek and her daughter Sara sit with President Sherry Best at National Night Out

La Verne's National Night Out was held at Las Flores Park on Tuesday, August 2nd, and the LVHS was there to celebrate! We sold t-shirts, books, and accepted memberships and donations. Best of all, LVHS representatives had opportunities to visit with La Verne citizens.

This was the LVHS' second year of participation and it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with residents. We were paired next to the city's Cultural Awareness and Social Inclusion (CASI) and the Chamber of Commerce tables, which was a perfect fit of organizations providing service to their community.

Remembering the Past, Even When It Wasn't Pretty

In the April 2001 edition of the LVHS newsletter, a wonderful and very poignant piece by Galen Beery celebrated the 50th year anniversary of J. Marion Roynon School with a story of the time when Mrs. Mercedes Garcia enrolled her children in Lincoln School, defying the policy of school "sequestration" that separated Anglo and Hispanic students. It is especially timely to meditate on this event in La

Verne's history during Hispanic Heritage month. Some of you remember Dr. Dolores Garcia Gonzales, who related this story to Galen. Dr. Gonzales graduated from Bonita High School in 1949 and earned her BA from La Verne College, the first Hispanic to do so. She completed her MA at Cal State Los Angeles and her Ph.D. at Claremont Graduate School, after which she taught in the Bonita Unified School District for 28 years and finished her career as a Professor at the University of La Verne. This story tells about a racist school policy and how Dolores' mother Mercedes defied this policy.

Lincoln School, built on "D" Street in 1906, served all elementary students of Lordsburg/La Verne, both those of Anglo and those of Mexican descent, until 1927. In 1926 the School Board had a second school built at the corner of "A" Street and Palomares (now Arrow Highway) for children of "the Mexican colony" south of the Santa Fe track. The "American" children would all go to Lincoln. The *La Verne Leader* referred to the policy as 'sequestration'.



A class of children poses with their teacher at the Palomares School; note the number of children in this single class!

Palomares School soon became overcrowded and had a dismal record for education. A few parents of Mexican-American students did get them enrolled in Lincoln – but it was a real struggle. After WWII, under Superintendent J. Marion Roynon, funds were secured to build a new school which all students attended. In 1957, Lincoln School was named in his honor.

One day in 1937, Mrs. Mercedes Garcia of First Street took her two children by the hand and walked them

six blocks to Lincoln Grammar School to enroll them for school. Her son, Manuel was 7, her daughter, Delores, was 5. Delores recalled the following memories:

Mrs. Garcia Enrolls her Children in Lincoln School

At that time the school was named Lincoln School, and it was a big three-story building right in the middle of the block. The ground part was all kindergarten. The middle part was all the second, third, and fourth grades. The top part was an auditorium – a real auditorium -and the sewing room, a band room, and a library, and the principal's office. You had to go up cement stairs to get to them. On the other side of the main building were wings for classrooms. It was very different from what Roynon School is now.

My mother took us up the flight of stairs, and said to the secretary, "I need to talk to the principal because I want to enroll my children here." The secretary was very nice and said okay, and she took us in.

The principal, Mr. Ray Cullen, was sitting right there behind a desk. My mother stood there with us, like this, and he said, "Well sit down, ma'am."

My mother said, "I won't sit down. I will stand. I would like to enroll my children at this school."

He said, "I'm sorry, but you can't. We built a school for *your* people over there, on that side of town, and that's your school, and that's where your children should go."

My mother said, "You didn't build it for me, 'cause I wasn't even here yet! We just moved here from Lindsay, California. My son, Manuel, knew a lot of English when we came here, and now, after attending Palomares School a year, he doesn't. I don't want that for my daughter."

"No, I'm sorry, but you know, I have to follow policy. Policy says they can't come here, because – they have that school over there."

She said, "Well, I don't believe so, because I think that I can go up and talk to somebody, there must be

somebody who's in charge of you. You know, somebody I can talk to." "Like who?" said Mr. Cullen.

"Like the mayor or the councilmen – there must be somebody I can talk to."

And he said, "Well, it doesn't matter, it wouldn't help you any at all to talk to them because...it's *just the rule* that *they can't come here!*"

At that point he got up, and he came around his desk, and he was on this side. He looked at me a little bit, and then he looked over at my brother, and said, "It is not that you children aren't clean. It's just that *they can't come here*. It's the *rule!*" I'll never forget the look he gave me!

My mother reached in her purse and took out a piece of paper. This is my husband's pay stub from the Pure Gold packing house – and it says right here *Public School Deduction*, and isn't this a public school?" "Well, yes..."

"Well then my husband just paid for this school by this deduction, so it's a public school my husband just paid for. *My children should be able to come here!*"

And he said, "Well, yes... but they still *can't!*"

At that point my mother just swung us around, and she said, "I will see who else I can talk to!" I could just feel her hands quivering. To this day I can feel the emotional anger in her hands.

She pulled us out of the office and down the stairs. We weren't halfway to the flagpole when we heard him running after us. "Mrs. Garcia! Mrs. Garcia! Wait! Wait! Wait! Don't call anybody! I'll make a few telephone calls!"

The following Monday my brother and I were enrolled.

The kids went all the way from kindergarten through 8th grade at the Mexican School, many of them had to repeat grades two or three times, which made them pretty old by the time that they got to Bonita High School. At Bonita we were all merged together. But the dropout rate of Palomares students during the Freshman and Sophomore years was very high

because the kids just didn't have the English skills to cope, to make it in high school.

There were only four other Mexican kids whose mothers were like our mother and got them into Lincoln School. They were Robert Rodriguez, Richard Flores, Eddie Soto, and Gloria Tafolla. My brother went on the trade school, and the rest of us – we all graduated from college!

The Last Word: Just Ask Bill

The other week Bill Lemon and Sherry Best were working on a digital image storage project and came across a very cool building known as "Ye Old Gas Shoppe". Bill supplied the details. We are reminded that people who grew up in La Verne may assume that iconic buildings from the past are remembered, but we think they need to be re-introduced to the uninitiated. Historical knowledge is a dynamic process of learning and re-learning.



Sherry Asked

Bill, where was this quaint building located, and what can you tell me about its owners. Was it always a gas station? Tell me about the building and car in the background.

Hello Sherry:

This 1925 Frasher Foto seems to be the earliest of the photos we have that were taken of Ye Old Gas Shoppe. This combination of gas station and living quarters was located on Foothill Blvd. near the northwest corner of Garey Avenue. Some notable elements are the glass cylinder, gravity fed gas pumps, and Quaker State Motor Oil sign. All photos show the entrance to the living quarters. Close scrutiny of the 1925 photo shows what looks like a slot machine to the left of the front entrance under the canopy.



An ad, published in the *Pomona Progress-Bulletin* on July 17, 1937, was the earliest print mention of the station that I've found. The station was used as a contact point for prospective buyers of some resort property in Live Oak Canyon.

The images below depict minor changes to the building façade. The building on the right in the photos below could possibly have been a service garage. It will be noted that the more recent photos have signs for Standard Oil products. The pumps have been modernized.



The auto in the background appears to be a late 1930s–early 1940s Chrysler product (Dodge,

Plymouth. Chrysler, DeSoto.). An example of an ignition key is depicted.



According to the 1942 Index to Register of Voters in La Verne Precinct No. 2, Clarence and Flossie Estes were listed as occupants of the station. Clarence was the station operator.

I don't know when the buildings were removed, but an advertisement in the *Pomona Progress-Bulletin* on December 10, 1956, offered the property for sale for a deposit of \$600. The site has been occupied by a Jack in the Box restaurant since 1976.



Maybe you are one of those people who skip to the end of a magazine to check out a special item or read the last page of a story. Going forward, *Legacy Links* will provide "The Last Word: Just Ask Bill" at the end of each edition. It is fitting that Bill should have the last word.

Membership Strong

An organization is only as strong as its membership. The LVHS is beginning to grow again after years of COVID isolation and member drop off. If you know someone who would enjoy being a LVHS member,

encourage them to sign up. Membership makes a great gift, too!

While you think of whom you might ask to join the LVHS, look at our growing list of life members. Your strong commitment is encouraging.



NEW LVHS Members

Thomas Allison
Steve & Angie Anderson
Mesmal "Kash" Kashifalghita

LIFE LVHS Members

(in alphabetical order)

Thomas Allison
John & Sherry Best
Kathryn Booth-Butler
Brian Bowcock
Kenya Chang
Jeff & Donna Dye
Leanne Hall
Roger & Mary Hanawalt
Kathy Kalousek
Don & Gaynel Kendrick
Marilyn Kilgore
Bob Kress
Bill Lemon
Marlene & Bill Morgan
Gail Pellettera
Peggy Redman
Gayle San Miguel
Eric Scherer
Barbara Smythe
Betty & Brian Tracy
Alan Wadham
Marv & Sandy Weston
Gary & Jacquelyn Wolf