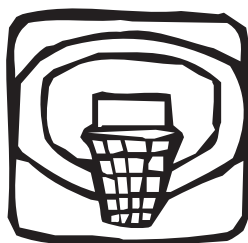
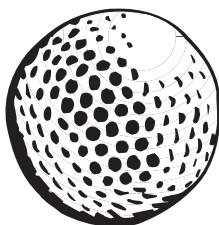


RIDGEFIELD OLD TIMERS ASSOCIATION

15th Annual Dinner
October 18, 2007



A message from the chairman

*A thanks to our members, sponsors and friends
and a call for assistance*

On behalf of the Ridgefield Old Timers I want to express my thanks to the members and friends that have made tonight's annual dinner a success. Despite the loss of the banquet facilities at the Italian American Club the Old Timers awards dinner will continue to be one of Ridgefield's most popular functions-and hopefully we can get it back to town in the near future.



We also want to give a special thanks to the Ridgefield Bank for their generous contribution in sponsoring tonight's program book and to Union Savings Bank for their generosity in sponsoring our spring golf tournament and porchetta dinner. Their significant contributions to the Old Timers help make it possible for us to provide scholarships to two Ridgefield High scholar athletes each year. I'm confident that, like our membership, both institutions are proud of the achievements made by this year's recipients, Brittany O'Brien and Tom Shaw.

Our tradition of honoring past scholar athletes and individuals who have significantly contributed to preserving Ridgefield's heritage, culture and environment is made possible by the efforts of our membership. Thank you all! On behalf of the organization I would also like to also extend a special thanks to Andy Montanari, Sr., Fred Whipple, Doug Clewell, George Besse, Steve Carboni, Carl Scala and Larry Bossidy, Jr. for their sustained assistance throughout this year, and The Ridgefield Press for making this program book possible. Thank you.

As we approach Ridgefield's 300th anniversary in January it is our hope that more of you and your friends will consider joining the Old Timers. It is a commitment that takes little time and is a wonderful way to help preserve Ridgefield traditions. More and more volunteer organizations are stressed by declining memberships. Everyone is busy. But if we are to continue to honor our past and serve our future scholars we need the assistance of a new generation of Townies and Old Timers. Please take a moment and consider joining us. It's rewarding and fun.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Tom Belote". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "B".

Tom Belote, Chairman
October 18, 2007

The 15th annual
Ridgefield Old Timers dinner
 Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007

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Who's in charge of the Old Timers?

The officers

Tom Belote, chairman; Steve Carboni, vice chairman; Carl Scala, secretary and Chip Bliss, treasurer.

2007 Committees

Awards Dinner Committee: Andy Montanari, Sr., George Besse, Bob Tulipani; Ticket Committee: Jim Mullen; Publicity/Program and Press Biographies: Steve Carboni, Tom Belote; Scholarship Committee: Fabio Paul Biagiotti, Jim Belote; Awards Committee: Andy Montanari Sr., Paul Baker, Carl Scala, Jim Mullen, Barbara Serfilippi, Sandy Pierandri Mosiello, Jim Belote, Tom Belote, Steve Carboni, Chip Bliss, John Pierandri, Jay Montanari, Guy Rossini, Pat Ligos, Peter Casagrande; Arrangements Committee: Fabio Paul Biagiotti, Cynthia Biagiotti, Pat Ligos; Program Book design: Jack Sanders; Program Book Cover: Don Carboni; Monthly Meeting Food and Entertainment: Andy Montanari Sr., Fred Whipple Sr., Doug Clewell, Tom Belote.

Former Chairmen

Paul Baker, James Belote, Thomas Belote, Frank Lancaster Sr., Rudy Marconi, Andy Montanari Sr., and John Pierandri.



Nano, Joseph and John Ancona were joined by First Selectmen MaryAnne Guitar of Redding and Lou Fossi of Ridgefield at the opening of their new store, supermarket and package, in 1980.

Civic Award to the Anconas

Nearly a century of contributions

Traditionally the Old Timers honor an individual with a civic award who has made continuous and significant contributions toward preserving Ridgefield's history, culture, traditions and/or environment. Only once before have we made an exception to that tradition when we honored the Pambianchi family as a group for their contributions. This year the Old Timers are again honoring an old Ridgefield family for their continuous service and contributions to the town.

It would be impossible given this limited space to recite all deeds and contributions the Ancona family has made to the town, and to Branchville in particular, since coming here in the early 1900s. Instead, we will

express our appreciation by providing you with a short family history of the Ancona family and business and say, "Thank you for all you have contributed to the town."

• • •

In the early 1900's a young man left Sicily with his father, brothers and sisters to pursue his dream in America. Joseph Ancona came to this country with little more than ambition and a strong work ethic. After passing through Ellis Island he arrived in Branchville and began working at the Gilbert & Bennett wire mill.

In the 1920's, shortly after serving his country in World War I, he saved enough money to build a house and a small general store Ancona's Market was born.

The 1930's and 1940's were the family years. The Ancona family literally grew up in the business. The store sold groceries, meats, shoes, boots, gasoline, and even had a soda fountain. After prohibition the liquor business was established. In 1949 a new larger store was built housing Branchville Hardware. After Joseph Sr. passed away in 1958 the businesses fell suddenly into the hands of sons, Nano and Joe Jr. They divided the responsibilities. Nano managed the wine and liquor store and brother Joe ran the grocery and hardware businesses. Later the hardware business was dissolved in favor of focusing on the grocery business. John who was 13 years old when his father passed away, partnered with his brother Joe. The grocery business was moved into the larger Branchville Hardware space. It is the building that many long time customers remember, as it housed Ancona's Market from 1960-1980.

In 1980 Ancona's Market took a giant leap forward. The 720 Branchville Road location opened July 14th, 1980. The market, which was previously 2,400 sq. ft. in size was enlarged to a 14,000 sq. ft. sales floor and almost sq. ft. in total.

In 1982, Ancona's Market was recognized in Progressive Grocer — a national

grocery industry publication, as one of the top independent retailers in the country. The recognition was repeated in 1983 and 1984. Ancona's Market was among the first to offer prepared foods, fresh squeezed orange juice and a number of other unique products and services.

For their leadership in the supermarket business, Joe and John Ancona were recognized in various grocery industry publications. In February 2006 Joseph P. Ancona was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by Michael Bozzuto — president and CEO of Bozzuto's Inc. — one of the country's leading grocery wholesalers. Later in the year, Ancona's Market was recognized as one of the top family owned businesses in the state by the University of Connecticut, School of Family Business.

Today Ancona's Market is once again updating to continue to bring customers the best in quality and service. Little touches like a sidewalk café is just another way for customers to enjoy their shopping experience.

Now in the third generation, Ancona's Market is still going strong. Today, the business is operated by Joe Ancona Jr., John Ancona, Joe (JR) Ancona (son of Joe Jr.) and Gina Ancona (daughter of John).

Thank you!

The Ridgefield Old Timers wishes to thank all of its many
kind and generous supporters, and especially
RIDGEFIELD BANK and CARNALL INSURANCE
which this year sponsored our banquet.



The Branchville Civics, featuring Tony Del Biondo, in the 1940s. Can you spot him?

Tony Del Biondo, posthumous award

Athlete, carpenter, good neighbor

Anthony Del Biondo was born at home Oct. 26, 1923, one of five children of Joseph and Anna De Benigno Del Biondo. He attended the one-room Branchville Schoolhouse on Old Branchville Road for four years, then went to Ridgefield High Center School on East Ridge. He was an active in school, an outstanding athlete and catcher on the baseball team. He graduated with the Class of 1942 and was its treasurer.

After graduating he attended Navy boot camp and training in Providence, R.I. and navy radio operator school in Boston, Mass. He achieved the rank of chief petty officer in the U.S. Navy signal corps and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific. His ship took part in the invasion of Okinawa.

After the war he attended Henry Abbott Technical School and became a carpenter. He started as an apprentice with a Ridgefield firm, Ritch & Associates, and after 20 years went on to Weston Builders, where he worked another 26 years, retiring as a master carpenter.

For Ridgefield's 250th Anniversary in 1958 he and Bob Fawcett, Branchville resi-



Tony Del Biondo, 1923-2007

dent and a founder of The Famous Artists School in Westport, collaborated in making a replica of the Branchville Schoolhouse as a float in the parade.

He was loyal to Branchville and was interviewed recently by the Ridgefield Historical Society for its oral history program about life growing up there.

He was widely recognized for his skill as a carpenter and his floral and vegetable gardens were admired and appreciated by his neighbors and friends.

As a young man he was renowned for his

baseball skills. In addition to playing ball at RHS Tony was the catcher for the league winning Branchville Civics team.

Tony was one of the greatest RHS baseball players in town history but although he was repeated nominated for an Old Timers athletic award he was so shy he would not accept it.

With this posthumous award Tony joins his fellow members of the early 1940 RHS baseball teams and his teammates on the Branchville Civics as a long overdue Old Timers honoree.

Justine Butler, Special Recognition Award

Our Hall of Fame tennis star

Ridgefield resident Justine Butler is one of this year's two Old Timers special recognition honorees.

She has lead an amazingly full life running a household, playing competitively, and teaching tennis for Ridgefield Parks and Recreation for more than 32 years — during the 70's and 80's she instructed more than 250 people per week from April to October.

Mrs. Butler was the first female physical education teacher in the Wilton Public schools and she also was a tennis instructor for the Lewisboro and Redding recreation departments.

But it was on the tennis court playing competitively, that Justine received the most notice. Her winning on the court became so habitual that the Ridgefield Press had a standing headline for use on a moment's notice: "Justine Wins Again!"

A graduate of the University of Southern Connecticut, with a masters degree from the University of Tennessee, Justine first played tennis in a physical education class when she was thirteen. Self-taught, she won the Connecticut State championship at age 18. Since then she has won more than 700 tennis awards and trophies.

Mrs. Butler has won Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and





Justine Butler in action in the 1970s.

Connecticut state championships. She was ranked in the top ten in the open division from 1968 to 1979 in both singles and doubles. She was the first and only woman in New England to play for the Olympic Cup in 1982.

Mrs. Butler was the number one senior woman's player in the 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 age groups in both singles and

doubles from 1974 until 1998. She was also ranked number one in the senior division in the Eastern tennis division from 1978-1989.

Justine was ranked nationally from 1976-1995. She played in the U.S. Open at Flushing Meadows in 1978, 1979 and 1980 and was a finalist at the Grass Court National Championships at Forest Hills and

Pt. Judith, Rhode Island in the 1970's and 1980's. She was also Ridgefield's singles and doubles champion for 15 years from 1964 to 1979.

Mrs. Butler was the founder and captain of the Pauline Betty Addie Cup for 16 years and was the first captain of the U.S. vs. Canadian Friendship Cup Team.

In 2001 Mrs. Butler was inducted into the New England Tennis Hall of Fame

in Newport, Rhode Island, the first in Ridgefield and the third in the state ever to be inducted. In 2005 she received one of Southern Connecticut State's highest awards, the Almuni Citation Award.

Justine is married Clarence Butler, also a former teacher in the Wilton schools. The couple moved to Ridgefield 49 years ago and has three grown children: Brad, Scott and Kay.

Jay Contessa, Sports Award

Football and track star

Former RHS football and track star Jay Contessa was raised on Cobblers Lane in Ridgefield and his memories about growing up in Ridgefield and sports are one and the same. He played all sports including Pop Warner football, Little League baseball and was an active member of the Boy's Club including summer camp and basketball in the winter. In junior high he played basketball, football and ran track.

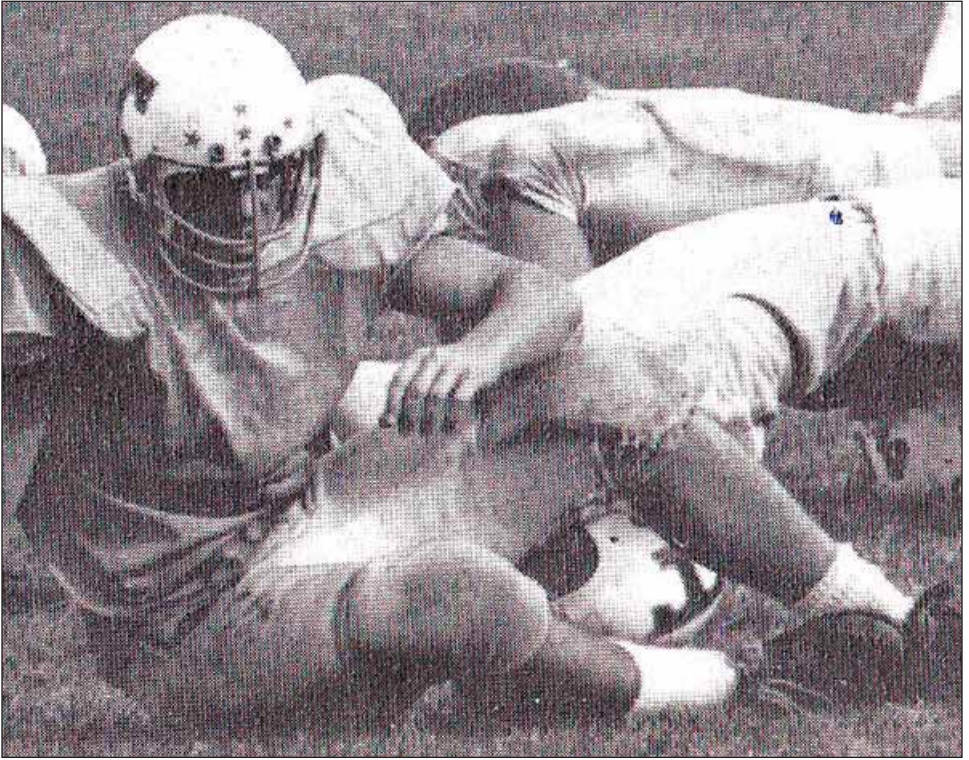
When he entered Ridgefield High he focused on football and track.

He was a speedster on the track team coached by Rick Medve. His events were the 220 and 440 relays. He excelled on the gridiron, playing both ways. He was a linebacker on defense and a guard on the offensive line. He was named to various all area teams in both track and football by the Danbury News Times and won the RHS Bill Allen award for athletics in 1974.

Upon graduation from RHS in 1974 he attended and played football at Central Connecticut State University where he played defensive end and was captain of the 1979 Blue Devils. Teammates at CSU included Mike Sherman, former Green Bay Packer head coach and current offensive coordinator for the Houston Texans and Steve Adezio, who is currently offensive coordinator at the University of Florida.

He says growing up in Ridgefield it seems that sports was all he ever did, going from





Jay Contessa was both a linebacker and guard for the Tigers, which meant sometimes, he was on the ground.

one game to the next. He considers himself very lucky in that respect. He credits many of his coaches for having a big impact on his development: Rick Medve in track and Bob Marks in football at RHS. Coaches Dean, Lancaster and Librizzi in Pop Warner football coaches Chase and Powers the junior high and Ralph Crouchley and Ed Helminski at the Boy's Club. Through the years they all instilled in him a strong work

ethic, discipline and a love of the game.

He lives in Redding with his wife, Denise, and children, Kristen, a senior at Penn State, and JJ, a sophomore and a football player at Muhlenberg College.

He is active in the Boy's and Girl's Club and Joel Barlow High School. He is employed by Unilever, a consumer products company, and will celebrate his 28th year with them this September.

Where are all the ads?

Thanks to Ridgefield Bank and Carnall Insurance, our banquet sponsors, we did not need to ask all our loyal advertisers from years past to support us again this year. However, we still appreciate their years of help.



The Ridgefield High School Basketball team, including Alan Wallace, in 1966.

Alan Wallace, Sports Award

A top, all-around athlete

Alan Wallace was one of Ridgefield High School's best all around athletes. The president of the class of 1966, Mr. Wallace played baseball his freshman and sophomore years, varsity basketball his sophomore, junior and senior years and football his junior and senior years. As a guard in basketball he was named all conference his junior and senior years and as a split end in football he was named all conference his senior year.

Ridgefield remains with him. He grew up on Catoonah St. and lived there until graduating from college. Growing up without a father he gives credit to coaches Bob Stolle (Townies), Ralph Crouchley and Ed Helminski (Boys Club) and Harry Hyra, Bob Mark and Bill Allen (RHS) for being very influential during his formative years. Alan coached basketball at the JV level for a few years

and his love and understanding of the game goes back to his three years under coach Hyra. He used Coach Hyra's drills and ideas every time he coached.



He remembers working for Bob Kane while in high school and his first carpentry job was with Cal Bruen before he moved to Massachusetts. His most vivid memories from RHS sports are the basketball games against Wilton and Abbott Tech. The intensity of the preparation, the games themselves and the standing-room-only crowds packed into the gym, were high school sports at its best. Teammates he recalls include Harry Pierandri, Paul Carboni, Bugesy Santini, Chip Bliss, Neale Turner, Stan Englehart and Rudy Marconi.

Alan graduated from Wesleyan University,

where he played basketball and lacrosse during his freshman year. Most importantly, he met his wife Barb during his senior year and they were married a year after graduation, recently celebrating their 36 th anniversary. they have two children, a daughter Kate, a professional dancer who is currently working as a choreographer in Philadelphia and a son Drew, who followed his dad into basketball. he played for travel teams, AAU teams, high school and two years at New York University.

He recently completed helicopter training and now is a licensed pilot.

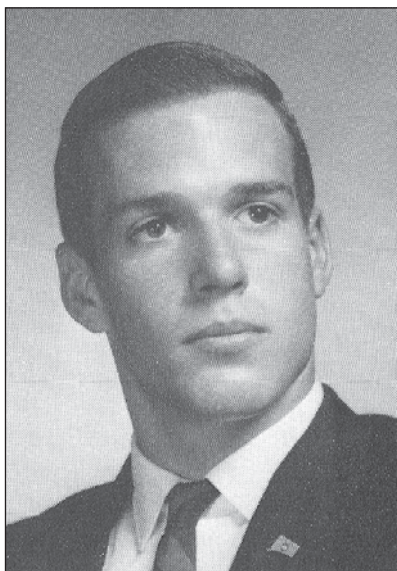
Mr. Wallace taught emotionally disturbed children for two years after graduating from college and then moved to Massachusetts where his wife had a teaching job at Northfield Mount Hermon School. He worked for a few years for a local carpenter and then started his own carpentry and general contracting business. Doing primarily residential construction, this business continues to the present.

Steve Martin, Sports Award

The undefeated quarterback

Stephen Martin was born and raised in Ridgefield, the son of Philip and the grandson of Francis, both of whom have been past recipients of recognition by the Old Timers Association.

Stephen lettered in football, basketball and baseball while in high school. He was a quarterback on the 1965, 1966 and 1967 football teams, which lost only one game in his last two seasons. Steve guided RHS to its only undefeated football season in his senior year.



His basketball experience began with the Townies and the highlight was playing against Ridgefield's St. Mary's team, featuring the Santini brothers. Although not a starter on the varsity basketball team until his junior year, as a sophomore, he played a key role on the 18-1 JV team, directed by Coach Sullivan.

Baseball was his love. Steve was one of the fortunate kids of his time to be instructed by some of Ridgefield's most notable coaches, John Forcelli, John Tulipani, Joe

Tulipani, and Bill Allen along with the support and direction of his dad and grandfather, both notable former Ridgefield ballplayers. From Little League to Babe Ruth, to RHS to Legion, and then on to the Housatonic League, every Ridgefield team he played on was a "championship" team. This was not necessarily judged by the win-loss column, which was excellent, but by the camaraderie of its players, many of which have been recognized by the Old Timers in past

years. Steve played in the first game played on the new Farmingville Little League field, practiced in the St. Mary's parking lot for a month before the Babe Ruth season started, played a game in Sing-Sing Prison and went fishing every Saturday during Coach Allen's tenure under strict rules to do so.

Steve entered Norwich University in the fall following his graduation and in the next four years played a year each of football and basketball and three years of baseball. Baseball in Vermont during April and May



The 1967 RHS baseball team included Steve Martin.

was usually played in winter conditions and it was Steve's advantage to bat for a high average just so all the running would keep him warm. He graduated in 1972 with a Bachelor's Degree in Education specializing in math and returned to Ridgefield to substitute teach for a year and then teach full-time for three years in the math department. He coached freshman football, basketball and baseball during his tenure. From there it was off to Northfield, Vermont where he has been teaching math in the middle and high school for the past thirty years. His new coaching experiences, soccer and skiing, plus girl's basketball were followed by some baseball. He served as the town's Park and Recreation Director for 5 years and served on the recreation board's for two different communities for another two years each. His coaching career was put on hold to begin raising his family.

Steve has been married to his wife Joan for 25 years. They have three children. Courtney is a graduate of the University of

New Hampshire, Meghan is a world traveler, and Patrick is a student at Syracuse University.

For most of their children's younger years, Joan and Steve shared the duties of coaching and officiating the sports their children were involved in. Field hockey, ice hockey and soccer games were observed from the sidelines while their children went through high school but they were rewarded with three visits to the state championships and one victory.

Joan is an adapted physical educator and has been active as a Special Olympics and Unified Sports coach for many of her teaching years. She was recently invited to serve as a coach for the bocce team representing the United States at the 2007 World Special Olympics games in Shanghai, China this fall.

Steve's special interests are in gardening, small scale farming and making maple syrup in the company of his three golden retrievers.

How can you help future students?

Contribute to the Old Timers scholarship fund.

See Page 17.



The 1976 RHS girls basketball team included softball star Ree Frulla.

Marie Frulla, Sports Award

A 31-year softball star

One of RHS's most outstanding woman athletes, Marie "Ree" Frulla first played softball in the old Ridgefield Saturday Morning League at the age of seven. Thirty one years later she hung up her spikes for the last time, retiring from the Ridgefield Womens Softball League.

In the intervening years she made quite a name for herself in Ridgefield sports. Ree, as she is known by teammates and friends, grew up on North Salem Rd. and lived there all her life until a recent move south.

Marie was a member of the Ridgefield High School class of 1976. She lettered in softball four years while shortstop, lettered two years



in basketball and four years in volleyball. After graduating she played in the Danbury womens fast pitch softball league as a member of the Ridgefield Rockettes.

While playing for the Rockettes she was awarded most improved player honors one year and was also league batting champ. During her time with the Rockettes the team won three league championships.

She also played one season with the Connecticut Diamonds, a fastpitch team that travelled to Puerto Rico to play in a tournament. She switched from shortstop to outfield while playing for the Diamonds.

Marie also coached the

Ridgefield girls travel softball team for two years and coached and umpired in the Saturday morning Ridgefield girls softball league for five years.

She played in the Ridgefield womens slowpitch league for 20 years. During that time she served as president for one year and treasurer for two years. Her teammates included Izzy Caporale and Barbara

Torcellini, both former ROTA honorees, Midge Robertson, and Jay Seeley. Her first softball coaches were Sal Testa and Bob Hurley, who'd coached her with the Rockettes. Ms. Frulla is a second generation honoree; her father, Allie, was honored by the Ridgefield Old Timers in 2004.

She now lives in sunny South Carolina where she works in retail.

John Devendorf, Sports Award

The 'cannonball' fullback

John "Cannonball" Devendorf was a star fullback and middle linebacker of the RHS Class of 1960.

In addition to baseball and basketball Devendorf played four years of varsity football and was considered the best RHS backfielder in the 1958-60 period.

In his senior year the RHS backfield power came from Devendorf and Vinny Carboni with Derek Warren, Casmir Kolaski and Gary Boyce providing speed and agility. George Mulvaney, Jack O'Keeffe, Chuck Camp, George Schuster, Jim Caiola and Fred Segesman guarded the center of the line. Willy Warner and John Drake were ends.



Underclassmen team members included Jim Belote, Bob Wilder, Stephen Guthrie, Derek Warren, Sandy Allen, Harlan Brooks.

When not playing sports Devendorf, John O'Keeffe, George Besse and other could be found in the afternoons at Joe Pirri's house where Mrs. Pirri made afternoon sausage and pepper grinders for the boys. Cannonball also spent a good deal of time working at Ray Brown's repair shop next to KEB's service station on Danbury Road.

Devendorf's class was, to say the least, inclusive. In their junior year each class member took an "oath" that there would be no cliques in a class of 60 people. Every



The 1960 Tiger football squad featured John Devendorf as fullback.

class member was invited to parties and the Devendorf's hosted four parties each year with Cannonball's father and uncle — both very large men — as chaperons.

After RHS Devendorf attended Bates College, played Division III football and graduated with a BS in mathematics.

He joined the Peace Corps and taught school in Malawi, central Africa for two years and played in a British central African rugby league before coming back to the United States to attain his Ph.D. in social psychology at New York University.

Since that time he has worked primarily with adolescents who have had mental

health and behavioral problems. He has also worked as a psychologist with adults in the Delaware prison system, and with adolescents incarcerated for serious crimes in Massachusetts.

He is currently the director of a long-term treatment program for female adolescents in Providence, R.I.

John's wife of 35 years, Carol, is the founder and director of a performing arts center in Massachusetts.

The Devendorfs have two sons, Brian, an engineer with GE Aircraft Engines in Lynn, Mass., and Sean who is director of alumni relations at a private school in Connecticut.

Chip Dean, Sports Award

On the field and over the air

Charles "Chip" Dean, one of Ridgefield High's most accomplished football players, was a member of RHS class of 1973. He was a three-year starter at quarterback, a two-year starter at catcher on the baseball team and a three-year defenseman for Ridgefield Club Hockey Team.

He began his football career playing for the Pop Warner Red Raiders coached first by Charlie Coles and later by Frank Lancaster Sr. starting as a center and after an injury moved to quarterback. While playing quarterback for RHS, he remembers teammates Chip Salvestrini, Joe Connolly, Steve Scala, Doug Wood, Mike Conroy, Rich Sahlin, Tom Cleaver and Tom Thomas as special players, calling them some of Ridgefield's best.

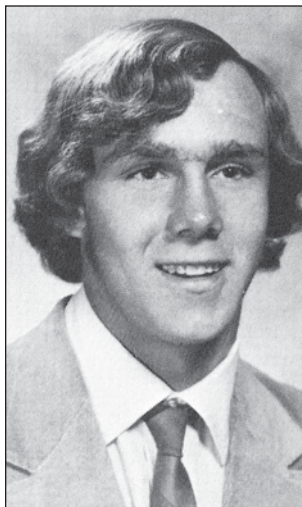
On the baseball diamond he excelled at catcher and was named honorable mention all state as a junior and was invited to try out for the Philadelphia Phillies. He remembers Tom Cesca, Lee Johnson and Bill Morris as special teammates.

Upon graduation he

received a football scholarship to Arizona State University as a quarterback. He was moved to safety and started the homecoming game that year in a 64,000 seat stadium, Ridgefield's population at the time was all of 20,000. He was a four year varsity player and lettered three years. He played with NFL greats Danny White, Mike Haynes and John Jefferson.

He continued with his interest in sports by working for ESPN. His credits include directing Sportscenter, The ESPY's, ACC and Big East Tournaments, the XGames, Wednesday Night Baseball, college football including the Rose, Orange and Fiesta Bowls.

He currently directs Monday Night Football, the Big East basketball tournament and the Women's Final Four basketball tournament. he won three ACE awards for directing college football, college baseball (College World Series) and basketball (Carolina vs. Duke). He has also won four Emmys including one for Sunday Night Football and one as the coordinating director for





The 1973 football team that Chip Dean quarterbacked.

the X games.

In addition to directing sporting events, the favorite part of his job is meeting and interviewing college and professional players and coaches. He finds it fascinating and inspiring to learn their success stories, which he shares with his children.

He describes Ridgefield as a friendly and fun place to grow up. He remembers walking downtown with Aug Dog (Tom Thomas), Satch (Tom Cesca), Tom Cleaver, Lee Johnson and others to get pizza at Roma's or hang out at Squash's after practices or games. Early on he remembers watching Harry Pierandri, Rudy Marconi, Jimmy Tulipani and Pete Santini dominate Ridgefield athletics and says they were his idols growing up. Every minute of his youth was spent training for and playing sports.

It was sports that introduced him to his

future career in television. In his senior year he worked with Paul Baker as a radio color commentator covering Pop Warner Football games.

He studied communications at ASU to be an announcer, but after taking several production classes he realized the production side was like playing sports, requiring hard work, dedication and teamwork.

Mr. Dean now lives in Southbury with his wife of 32 years Kim (Montanari), his childhood sweetheart. They have three children Kelly, recent graduate of Emmanuel College who is studying for her masters in elementary education, Kyle who is a sophomore at C.W. Post studying broadcasting and playing centerfield on the baseball team and Kasey a high school sophomore hornor student and as outstanding basketball, field hockey and javelin athlete.

Help the Old Timers help our students

Please make a contribution to our scholarship fund.
Any amount is appreciated, and will assist deserving
Ridgefield High School graduates in the future.

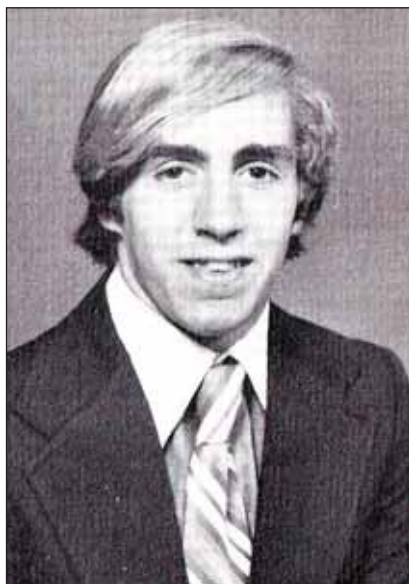
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Send your tax-deductible gift to:
ROTA Scholarship Fund
c/o Chip Bliss, ROTA treasurer,
246 Federal Road
Brookfield CT 06804

...

Thank you!

This advertisement is sponsored by Tom and Jane Belote



Dave Landers, Special Recognition Award

Tiger Hollow's Scholar Athlete

David Landers, Ridgefield High School's scholar-athlete from the class of 1974, played varsity football and track and field throughout his four years at Ridgefield High School.

In his senior year he was the captain of the football team and the track and field squad. He was also a member of the high school ski club. In 1974 he was named all-state and all-conference both in track and football and was honored as the Fairfield County Scholar Athlete.

Dave took great pride as a senior at Ridgefield High School when the sports stadium opened at the new high school on North Salem Road. It was that opening that later gave Dave the impetus to help spearhead the construction of Tiger Hollow at a time when his own children were entering Ridgefield High School.

After graduation, he attended the University of Connecticut, where he played outside linebacker. Graduating in 1978 he joined Cheeseborough-Ponds/Unilever and

spent 26 years working in the United States, Europe, Asia and Mexico with assignments in sales, marketing and management.

In 1982 Dave married the former Barbara Kirby, a varsity cheerleader from the Class of 1972. Now, 27 years later the Landers have three children. Chris, the oldest, is a senior at the United States Military Academy at West Point and was on the football and ski teams. Elizabeth (Liz) graduated from Ridgefield High School last June and is captain of the field hockey team at the University of Maine. Kirby is a junior at Ridgefield High School and is a member of the volleyball and ski teams.

According to Dave, it was his children that spurred him into becoming part of the force that made Tiger Hollow a reality. Working with a group of passionate and dedicated Ridgefielders, including Vin Pannozzo, John Pambianchi, Reed Whipple, Don Sturges, Jim Stewart, Jim Nolan, Barbara Lohse and Paul Rohrmann, Dave helped the project become a reality.

Brittany O'Brien and Thomas Shaw

The ROTA Scholarship Winners

When the Ridgefield Old Timers Association was organized in 1992 one of its primary goals was to honor athletes, scholars and notable Ridgefielders of the past by establishing a scholarship endowment for RHS graduates of the future. One year after our first Old Timers' banquet at the Italian American Club Thomas Gareau was awarded the first ROTA stipend for college study.

In 1997 the association began awarding two stipends, one to a senior girl and another to a senior boy. Since then a number of deserving RHS graduating seniors received the association's annual scholarship awards. In awarding our stipends to Brittany O'Brien and Thomas Shaw the Old Timers continue their tradition in honoring scholar athletes who are deserving and have contributed greatly to our community.

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Brittany O'Brien graduated this June and is now attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York where she is studying liberal arts and playing Division III field hockey for the Skidmore Thoroughbreds in the Liberty League. Before leaving for college, Brittany finished her Girl Scout Gold Award project by assisting the Ridgefield Historical Association in the creation of a DVD/cassette walking tour of the historic Scott House and of historical Ridgefield village.

During her years at RHS, Brittany was a member of the National Honor Society and was on the honor role for seven semesters. She scored in the top ten in the nation on the National French examination and received the North Carolina State Junior Book Award. She received the Girl Scout Silver Award, in part for her work in collecting baseball equipment for the newly created Bridgeport Caribe League and for running activities for Kindergarten Girl Scouts.

As part of the National Charity League, Inc. she was vice president for programming and philanthropy and volunteered at Bread and Roses, Senior Centers, the Ridgefield

Playhouse, the Greens (Alzheimer's) and ROAR.

Brittany taught skating to children 5-8 as part of the "Learn to Skate" program at the Ridgefield Skating rink. She also volunteered for two years in the Appalachian Service Project. In addition to the above Brittany was a Safe Rides and Relay for Life volunteer during high school.

Brittany played first line wing varsity ice hockey at RHS and was the team captain in her senior year. She was also the captain and midfielder for the RHS field hockey team, receiving All FCIAC Honorable Mention recognition. A three-letter athlete, Brittany also played JV and varsity softball at RHS and participated in 2005 and 2006 Fairfield County Fury and the Girl's Softball Fast-Pitch Pony League Elite Team.

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Tom Shaw, a sixth generation Ridgefielder, is attending Catholic University where he is playing football. At RHS Tom was a member of the National Honor Society and graduated with a GPA of 3.4. Tom was named the PEPSI FCIAC Scholar Athlete and served as a Senator on the Student Council for two years and as a member of the Student Union for three years.

Tom was a member of DECA and volunteered for Safe Rides. Tom played varsity football at RHS, was captain of the team in his senior year and was named 1st Team All-FCIAC in 2007. He played varsity lacrosse during four years at RHS and was captain of the team in his senior year. Tom was an active member of the high school's Captain's Council and was captain of the high school RBA team for two years. Tom was voted to the All Star team for three years in a row.

Tom coached seventh and eighth grade RBA for two years and helped coach Pop Warner Football for three years. Before leaving for college Tom spent this summer volunteering at the Ridgefield Boy's and Girl's Club.

Richard Sanzo, Tom's senior year honors

calculus and statistics teacher, wrote of Tom, "(his) work is often at the top of the class...Tommy exemplifies the qualities of a well-rounded student. While academics are clearly one of his top priorities, given his performance in my class, Tommy is also an active individual in his community...As

a member of the Ridgefield High School Varsity Football and Varsity Lacrosse teams, Tommy has excelled at handling the pressures associated with juggling his time between school and the athletic program. Tommy has risen to be a leader in the field and in the classroom..."

The three high schools



In 1882 governor Phineas C. Lounsbury donated the land and money to building a new Bailey Avenue grammar school (top). Soon, the premises became inadequate and Dr. William H. Allee donated land for the East Ridge School, opened in 1915. One year later the town voted to establish a Hamilton High School in the old building on Bailey Avenue. The school had no gym; town hall was used for basketball. The growth of the secondary enrollment made it necessary to move the high school to the East Ridge School in 1926. The school was remodeled in 1925 and 1939

and additions built in 1957 and 1968. In 1952 the Veteran Park School was built as an elementary school. Grades K-3 were moved to there and later, and later schools meant all elementary grades could move out of East Ridge. By the late 1960s, East Ridge was overcrowded again and the current RHS (bottom) was opened in 1972.—T.B.



Honoring Ridgefielders since 1992

More than 15 years ago, a group of friends got together with the idea of forming an old timers group for Ridgefield. Paul Banker, Julie Petrini, John Tulipani, and Joe Brunetti met at a dinner. They decided to model the new organization after old timers groups in Danbury and Norwalk, which had already honored several Ridgefield athletes over the years.

The original purpose of the new organization was to honor great athletes who were unable to continue their education past their school days, and set up a scholarship to assist current athletes. The organizers held several meetings and drew in 18 other supporters. They elected a board of officers with Paul Baker as the first chairman. Walt Evans was elected treasurer, a position he still holds and Julie Petrini was the first secretary.

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association began to have awards banquets in October 1992.

Seven Ridgefielders were selected to be the honorees and the first Special Award went to Richard E. Venus. The first scholarship recipient was Thomas B. Gareau. He had been accepted at the University of Virginia.

The guest speaker at the first banquet was Spec Shea, a pitcher for the New York Yankees.

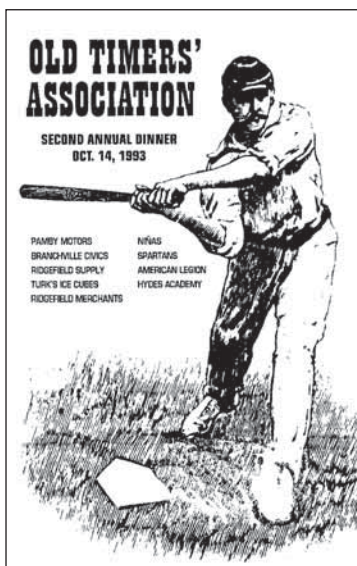
The advertisement book for that first gathering was only 20 pages, cover to cover. The event was a success and money was put into a scholarship fund. The award of the scholarship to a female Ridgefield High School graduate occurred in 1996. Janine Murphy was involved in three sports and many civic endeavors. A year later, it was decided to annually award scholarships to both male

and female recipients, and the winners in 1997 were Charles Bliss and Kerry Bennett. The amount of the scholarships has grown over the years as a result of the advertising placed in this book, as well as other fundraising efforts — especially the annual golf outing and pig roast, which takes place in June at the Ridgefield Golf Course.

In the association's second year, it introduced the Civic Award, and the first recipient was Bob Tulipani, who is a very active club member to this day. The next year, Beth Yanity became the first female recipient of the Civic Award. In 1999, Sandy Pierandri Warner became the first female member of the board of directors, she was also the association's third secretary.

The motivational guest speakers, once thought necessary for a good event, began to make the banquets stretch late into the evening. Members and guests wished to hear more from the award winners. After the event ran until 11:10 p.m. in 1999, the association decided to drop the guest speakers and to feature the honorees, as well as the emcee, often founder Paul Baker, who had a long career as a radio and television broadcaster.

The Ridgefield Old Timers Association has continued to meet annually in October to honor athletes and others, and to award scholarship. In 2006, the bylaws were updated to allow Ridgefield residents who have lived here at least 25 years to become members. Before this, members had to be natives and/or graduates of Ridgefield High School. And to paraphrase the United States Marine Corps, "we are always looking for a few, very good, hard-working new members."



Cover from 1992 Old Timers banquet

**Ridgefield Bank is proud to support the
Ridgefield Old Timers Association**

**Congratulations to the
Award Recipients and Honorees:**

The Ancona Family

Justine Butler

Dave Landers

Jay Contessa

Chip Dean

John Devendorf

Marie Frulla

Steve Martin

Alan Wallace

Tony Del Biondo

Brittany O'Brien

Thomas Shaw

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