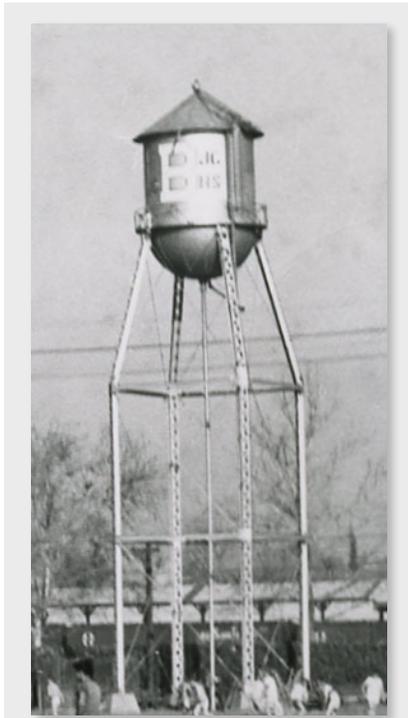


Still Got the Blues

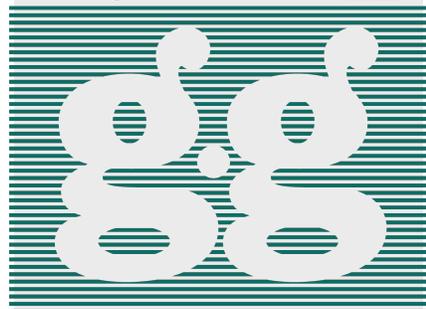
Bakersfield High School Alumni Quarterly



Water Tower in the 60's

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Driller Corner...

By: Milena Nord Class of 1993

We are so incredibly thrilled about the formation of our Bakersfield High School Alumni Association, an organization 125 years in the making! Alongside our excitement about the beginning of this new chapter, however, is a sadness that comes from the closing of a different chapter: the 20-year principalship of our beloved Mr. David Reese.

Mr. Reese came on as principal in 1999, and since that time, he has been witness to triumphant victories and to some exciting and long-awaited changes, including countless academic achievements, sports championships, and the creating of the Alumni Association and the BHS Alumni Plaza at the Kern County Museum. One of the most anticipated changes that occurred under his leadership was the nearly two-year, massive renovation of Griffith Field. Seeing the first football game played in the beautiful new stadium in 2017 is one of Mr. Reese's sweetest memories.

Under Reese's leadership, the incredibly comprehensive archiving program was begun at BHS to preserve and protect the school's rich history, and the very successful Project Lead the Way

engineering program was established. 'The Driller Way' is a recognizable phrase for students at BHS, and it was Mr. Reese who created and implemented this model of behavior for Drillers which helps to equip students and instill in them the desire for a successful life. In recognition of these outstanding achievements in education and for his numerous other contributions to Bakersfield High School, Mr. Reese was inducted into the California State University, Bakersfield Hall of Fame in 2017.

According to current senior Margo Kuney, Mr. Reese is extremely supportive and "makes students feel like their accomplishments matter to both him and our school" - a sentiment that is echoed by so many current and past students. In fact, Mr. Reese says what he will miss most about his job is the opportunity to attend and cheer on his Drillers in such a variety of exciting activities, from outstanding sports events, beautiful choir performances, academic decathlon battles, Virtual Business team victories, the thrilling Warren Cup competitions, and so many others.

But not all of Reese's experiences as principal have been about serious activities and competitions; he has been a part of some lighter moments as well. He has made cameo appearances in dramas, dropped twenty feet in a harness from the top of Harvey Auditorium while holding the Earl Warren Cup to open the show, and, on one Halloween, he arrived at school in his high school basketball uniform...complete with "old school" short shorts and a huge wig. He remembers students falling down laughing as they saw him walk by!

Reese says that his most satisfying experience as principal has been what he has witnessed at the end of every year...each Sunday before graduation, he looks out of his office window after the Baccalaureate ceremony is over, and he watches his soon-to-be graduates, dressed in caps and gowns, taking pictures with their friends and families. "It seems like the weather is always nice and cool and the kids look so excited and happy about their upcoming graduation as they fill Elm Grove and take their last pictures with their friends."

To date, Mr. Reese has handed out nearly 13,000 diplomas to students. As he steps onto the stage this year to recognize this year's graduating class of Drillers, he can be proud knowing that each diploma he hands out is not only a reminder to the students of the four years of love, support, and encouragement that they've received at BHS, but also an induction into the Alumni Association of the greatest school in the world.

Goodbye, Mr. Reese, and thank you for the love you've poured into this amazing school. Once a Driller, Always a Driller!



Days Gone by...

This is the Kern County Union High School girls basketball team of 1900.

Ideas for stories or things you want to see?

We want your feedback! If you have something you would like to share, please contact Mel Wilford at:
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