

The View from Bardason Field

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Appeared in *The Carmel Pine Cone*, October 25, 1990

When Carmel High first opened its doors in 1940, the view from the football field was a simple celebration of untouched space: artichoke fields stretching to the sea.

Fifty years later, the view is still spectacular: the vista embraces Carmel's fight against conformity. Twisted cypresses and the Fish Ranch give the Padres one of the most scenic backdrops for football in California.

Even in the years when the football team was not competitive, you could look across the 50-yard line at the ridge that comprises the southern edge of Carmel Valley to take your mind off the scoreboard. The changes that have been wrought during a half a century of time-outs and touchdowns have been many and varied.

In 1940, Mission Fields didn't exist. Neither did The Crossroads or The Barnyard shopping centers or any of the development at the mouth of Carmel Valley. To name just a few, South Carmel Hills, Carmel Knolls, and Carmel Rancho Center weren't even sparks in an ambitious developer's eyes. Imagine what the land looked like then: pure, undeveloped, sweeping hills and pressed valleys, as it had 500 years before. Carmel High has seen plenty of changes in its time.

In its own celebration of Carmel High's rich history, a committee of devoted persons has materialized. Its brainchild is CHS's 50th anniversary celebration. The Carmel varsity football team will play Pacific Grove at 2 p.m. on its own Bardason field for "The Shoe," a traditional trophy that symbolizes the friendly rivalry between the two schools. Before the game, a parade will be held on Ocean Avenue when students display homecoming floats and alumni participate. At halftime at the game, past Homecoming queens will be presented in vintage cars along with past football players and students. Two footballs signed by both teams will be raffled off as a fund-raiser to pain the school. After the game, a fully catered reception by the Padre parents will be held in the school's gym with every class's graduation pictures on display. To end the day, a dance will be held in the gym for alumni and students alike.

Patricia Beebe, Carmel High's dynamic new vice principal, is the director of the anniversary celebration. "The highlight of the whole 50th anniversary celebration," she says, "will be an event in the spring which will include a golf tournament, a barbecue, a gala reunion, and other activities."

Key committee members involved in the process of contacting anyone involved with CHS in the last 50 years are Cherie Evans, Susie Faia, Lou Langley, Karen Marasco, Chuck Phillips, Sandra Shoemaker, and Kim Spindler. A column will run in the *San Francisco Examiner* to inform Bay Area residents of the event.

"We're really anxious to involve as many alumni and friends as possible," Mrs. Beebe commented. "But it's difficult getting out all the information. If anyone knows someone involved with the high school, please contact us so we can send them an invitation." For more information, please contact Patricia Beebe at 624-1821 or Karen Marasco at 624-1015.

The 50th anniversary celebration will be a success. It's an interesting thought to keep in mind that 50 years from now, at the 100th anniversary celebration, the graduating class of 1991 will be around 68 years of age. I'm sure we'll look exactly the same, and the view from the football field will not have changed either.