



ILLUMINATING ST. HELENA'S HISTORY

THE ELECTROLIER

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"SPIRITS OF ST. HELENA"

A Cemetery Discovery Walk at Holy Cross Cemetery
Saturday, September 22, 10:00 am – Noon



This is one of the beautiful windows in St. Mary's Chapel, built in 1904 at Holy Cross Cemetery. The chapel was renovated in 2006.



On this walk, you'll see the final resting places of some of Napa Valley's most notable wine family members. You'll discover the plots for the Mondavi, Komes, Nichelini, Trinchero, and Korte families.

"Holy Ground: Discovering Holy Cross Cemetery" is the theme of the St. Helena Historical Society's tenth annual "Spirits of St. Helena" Cemetery Discovery Walk. The event will be held on Saturday, September 22, from 10:00 until noon.

One-hour tours will depart from the front gate at 10:15, 10:30, and 10:45 am. A docent will guide each group to special places on the grounds, where you will hear background from descendants of some of the family members buried there.

Holy Cross Cemetery is located at 2121 Spring Street, St. Helena. Admission is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers; people are encouraged to join on the spot to receive the member discount.

Reservations are not required. For more information, please contact the society at 707-967-5502 or shstory@shstory.org. See you there, come rain or come shine!

Frederick Beringer was among the first to be interred at Holy Cross, in July 1901, even before the cemetery had been dedicated. Catholics are still being buried here 111 years later.



GAMES BOYS PLAY:

Sports at St. Helena High School from 1908 to 1968



On Wednesday, September 12, fans of St. Helena High School sports gathered in the high school gym for a program titled "Games Boys Play." Photos of teams dating back to 1913, taken from yearbooks, were displayed with game statistics and newspaper articles.

Jim Hunt (class of '62, shown at left) lectured on his research on boys' basketball (began in 1908), baseball (1910), and football (1924), including outstanding games and athletic feats. See a brief summary of his speech on page 3. The complete speech is posted on the society's website under "Research Library."



Now Jim plans to study girls' sports teams. Stay tuned for more—in a few years.

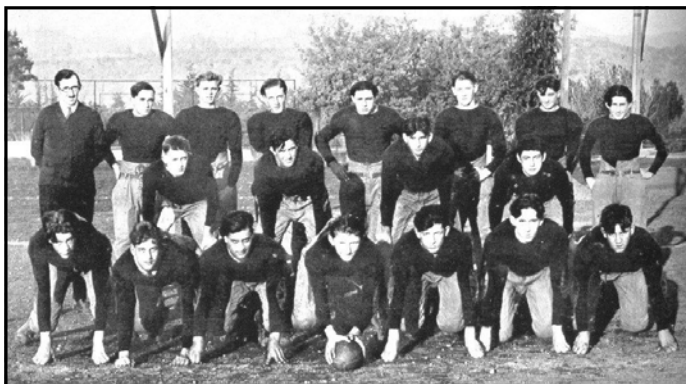


Playing basketball started at St. Helena High School in 1910. By 1919 the team had won the Sonoma-Napa-Solano Athletic League Championship. Do you know the names of these players? From the St. Helena High School Yearbook of 1919, St. Helena Historical Society collection.

From the *Collection*



This photo is our latest addition to the collection. Can you identify the three unnamed players on the 1950 Blue Sox baseball team of the town of St. Helena? Shown here are (front row) Harry Magnaghi, Lee Hunt, Chuck Stanley, Dante "Sonny" Gruppo, and Don Penland; (back row) Chuck Carpy, next three players unidentified, Fred Beroldo, Al Carpy (coach), and Harold Hilker. Donated by Judy Stice Parady.



The high school formed its first football team in 1924. Shown here are the first players. Their last names are (bottom row) Jackse, Jursch, Lizzio, Vasconi, Duval, Harrison, and Corbella; (middle row) Smyth (captain), Harrington, Mossi, and Lovering; (top row) Mr. Waterman (coach), Walters, Teping, Becky, Beyer, Duval, Paulson, and Camail. From the St. Helena High School Yearbook of 1925., St. Helena High School collection.

Highlights of Jim Hunt's Speech

Who knew that St. Helena High School's colors were once green and gold and that their sports teams were known as the Thunderbirds? These were among the fascinating sports stories of the past presented by Jim Hunt at our September program.

St. Helena High School baseball started in 1908 when a field was laid out at the school. Later games were played at the elementary school's new Carpy Field (named for the beloved coach Al Carpy) because there were lights for night games. In 1958–1968, the basketball teams played with awesome skill and with record wins. Jim recounted stories of exciting athletes and winning games.

The boys formed a basketball team in 1909. Games were played in several locations until the new gym was completed in late 1929. During the 1960s the teams put in outstanding performances, as described by Hunt. Many all-league championships were snapped up, along with other feats.

Football began in 1924. In the first 28 years of games, the Saints compiled a 109/96 win/loss record. In the 1952–1968 era, it was 109/25! But in 1960, the “streak” began when coach George Davis led the Saints to a five-year undefeated record of 45/0. Jim recapped some amazing individual and team performances in memorable football games.

At the end of his talk, Jim passed out copies of



the Thunderbird cheer. Everyone in attendance recited the inspiring war whoop, ending this blast from the past of St. Helena High School boys sports history.

The Thunderbird Cheer

Beat on the buckskin, beat on the drum.

Hi! Hi! Hi! For the Thunderbirds come!

Their eyes burn red with the blood of battle,
Their wild wings roar in the medicine rattle.

Ho! Let the iron-wood war clubs crash,
With thunderbolt and lightning flash!

Hi! Hi! Hi! Boom! Boom! Boom!

At right: Today's St. Helena High School football team attended the sports history lecture with their coaches.



Left to right: Alan Hardin, Tom Giugni, Jim Hunt, and Dan Heibel reminisce about their time playing sports at the high school. Giugni was also a coach.



Shown here is the baseball team of 1947, which was the best ever for its win/lose percentage. It held the record for the most wins until 2012—a record of 60 years! Sitting left is coach Al Carpy; who can name the players? From the St. Helena High School Yearbook of 1947, courtesy of St. Helena Historical Society.



Cornerstone

By Skip Lane, President

A board subcommittee has been looking into the possibility of placing a manufactured building on the City-owned Adams Street property. The building would give us room to expand our collection and allow us to display some of that collection for the public. The building would also provide office space and room for meetings. An architect friend of John Komes has just produced some initial drawings, which we are in the process of reviewing.

I'd like to welcome the 36 new members who joined the Historical Society as a result of our membership drive in June. The society is now over 200 members strong. If you know of anyone who is interested in local history, perhaps you'll suggest they call the office to find out how to join.

I hope to see all you members old and new at the numerous programs we're hosting the rest of what's been a busy year!

KUDOS



Mariam Hansen (left) and Susanne Salvestrin received a Certificate of Appreciation from American Legion Post #199. The two, plus Robyn Orsini, prepared the biographical booklet/program for the St. Helena Veterans Memorial dedication on Veterans Day this year.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 20, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Harvest Festival

This year's booth will feature exhibits about St. Helena High School sports. Researcher Jim Hunt will be on hand to give game stats for baseball, basketball, and football. Relive the football team's 53 game-winning streak coached by George Davis! Exhibits will be on display.



NOVEMBER-TO BE ANNOUNCED

Veterans Day Movie



This fascinating film tells the story of the World War II submarine *Lagarto*. Its captain, Frank Latta, was a St. Helena resident. The *Lagarto* was lost in the Gulf of Thailand. Above, Latta at his desk on the submarine. Courtesy of the Latta family.

DECEMBER 4, 6:00 PM

Holiday Party at Farmstead



This year's annual holiday party will be held at Farmstead Restaurant. There will be time to socialize before sitting down to what is bound to be a sumptuous meal. Help the society celebrate another year of preserving St. Helena history. Invitations will be mailed to members.

Photo of the Month



This BMW Isetta was on display at the Silverado Orchards Car Show on September 16. This 1958 model, owned by Francis Ford Coppola, is entered by opening the whole front of the car.



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