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Santa Ana High School, Orange Co., Cal..

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Poly-High, Santa Ana, Cal.



SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL SANTA ANA, CALIF.

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SANTA ANA POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL

Santa Ana High School, the oldest and largest high school in Orange County, was founded in 1889. The first class to graduate from Santa Ana High School was in 1892 and consisted of three boys; Harry Hunt, Lee McDrill and Walter Stafford. The commencement exercises were held in Spurgeon's Hall on 4th street (built in 1882 and demolished in 1913 and site of Orange County's first movie screening in 1897). All three graduates went to Stanford University, which had just opened. It is questionable if they could have entered the State University at Berkeley, since Santa Ana High School was not accredited until one year later, so the class of 1893 may be able to claim the distinction of being the first class to graduate from our high school. The high school graduating class of 1893 consisted of eleven students.

The first high school was located on the second floor of the building generally referred to as the Central School Building (205 W. Church Street, now Civic Center Drive), the grammar school using the first floor and the elementary division occupying an old school building immediately east on the same site. These were the only school building in town at the time.

The first principal was professor M. Manley who, the school records show, served from 1889 to 1892. The only subjects taught were English, history, Latin, and mathematics.

The first known high school yearbook, the Ariel, was published in 1904. For many years, there were two issues

published annually because there was a class graduating in February as well as in June of each year. These annuals are of great interest today because they contain the early pictures of many successful merchants, politicians, and professional leaders in the community.

In the 1910s, the board of education decided the campus should be moved to its present location on West Walnut Street. The decision caused a great deal of controversy. Many argued that the site was too far from where people lived and that the land was swampy. Board members were threatened with recall, but plans proceeded. On September 8, 1912, the firm of Whitney & David, Architects, was chosen to design the new buildings, and in 1913 the buildings were completed on West Walnut Street, a site that aviation pioneer Glenn Martin had once used to try out his first airplane. The location was considered "out in the country" by bond opponents.

The new Santa Ana Polytechnic High School, as it was named, was an extremely beautiful complex. The administration building faced Walnut Street, but was situated south of Pine Street. It was flanked by two other buildings, the fine arts building on the east at Walnut and Ross Street and the science building on the west at Walnut and Parton Street. These two buildings were also used by the Santa Ana Junior College.

While the exterior of the buildings was superb, the interior left a great deal to be desired according to a school housing survey of Santa Ana prepared by USC's Education Department in 1928. The building was cited for poor

PHOTOS: (Left, Top to Bottom) Santa Ana High School in 1901, 1928 and 1943. (Right) members of 1921 graduating class.





PHOTOS: SAHS Annual for 1931, Santa Ana High School Football team, class of 1904.

lighting, inadequate fireproofing, poor interior hallway circulation and poor design of the interior floor space. Other key items such as cabinets were either forgotten or omitted in the design phase and had to be added later.

On March 10, 1933, The Long Beach earthquake rocked Southern California and Santa Ana suffered serious damage. A report made to the Board of Education in June 1934 detailed the need for extensive repairs to the buildings of Santa Ana Polytechnic High School. The decision was made to demolish the buildings and a new high school was constructed on the site in the architectural style of the day.

Santa Ana High School had a number of good track athletes during the early days, and George Horne, a graduate of the class of 1907, broke

the world's record in the high jump while attending Stanford University. The girls of the high school organized a basketball team around the turn of the century and were right at the top in competition with other high schools. Santa Ana High School has since gone on to have Olympic athletes as well as professional athletes. To date, Santa Ana High School has captured 28 C.I.F championships.

Today, Santa Ana High School has grown in size to incorporate 18 buildings and provides more than 3,400 students the means to academic success. The 2021 varsity football team won the league championship as did the speech and debate team. This year, the school placed four graduating seniors in Ivy League schools and five juniors in internships with CalTech. Senior Priscilla

Arceo spoke as national valedictorian for the class of 2020 at the *Graduation Together* commencement broadcast alongside speakers President Barack Obama and Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai.

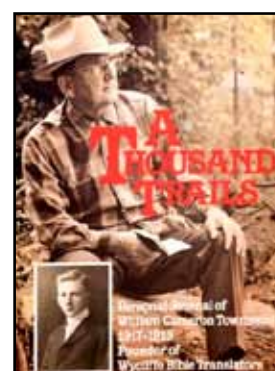
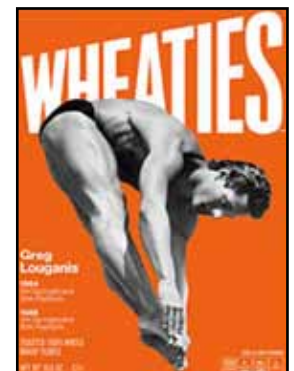
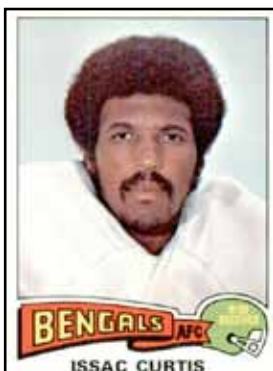
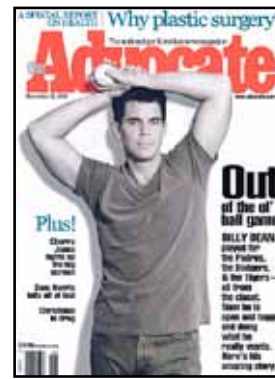
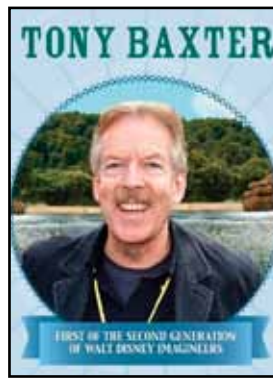
Notable local graduates include former Santa Ana city councilperson Rob Richardson (class of '79) and former Santa Ana mayor Dan Young (class of '69), along with former Floral Park resident developer and philanthropist Henry Segerstrom (who served as valedictorian and class president, class of '39).

No matter the time or the circumstance, a Saint is a Saint and always proud and ready to keep the Saint spirit alive.

Edited from articles by Rob Richardson and the Santa Ana Unified School District.



Santa Ana High School war-time graduating class of 1942. SAHS graduates move on to an array of colleges, including the U.S. Naval Academy and Santa Ana Unified's educational partner Santa Ana College. In 2021, four SAHS students were accepted to a number of Ivy League schools, including Harvard.



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT: (Top Left to Right) Original members of the surf band *The Chantays* (**Bob Spickard**, **Brian Carman** (co-writers of "Pipeline"), **Bob Welch**, **Warren Waters** and **Rob Marshall**); **Barry Asher**, professional bowler and title holder; **Tony Baxter** former senior Vice President of Walt Disney Imagineering and lead designer of numerous Disney attractions; **Billy Bean**, major league baseball player for the Detroit Tiger, Los Angeles Dodgers, and San Diego Padres; **Tony Bellamy**, guitarist, member of first Native American rock band Redbone with the #1 '70's hit "Come and Get Your Love" (Row Two L-R) **Beverly Bivens**, singer with the 1960s band We Five; **Eddie Bravo**, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu athlete; **John Brinkerhoff**, USMA '50, Associate Director for National Preparedness FEMA, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs DoD; **Gerald P. Carr**, astronaut and father of neighbor Jess Carr on Bonnie Brae; **Clifford "Gavvy" Cravath**, six time National League baseball home run champion. (Row Three L-R) **Isaac Curtis**, football player, Cal Berkeley and NFL Cincinnati Bengals; **Clancy Edwards**, sprinter; **Derek Fleming**, featured Soul Train Dancer; **Diane Keaton**, Academy Award and AFI Life Achievement Award winning actress; **Greg Louganis**, Olympic Gold Medal Diver, LGBT Activist. (Row Four L-R) **Bill Medley**, singer and songwriter, best known as one half of The Righteous Brothers singing duo; **Gilbert Melendez**, two-time California State All-American wrestler; professional Mixed Martial Artist; former WEC and Strikeforce Lightweight Champion, current UFC Lightweight contender; **Donn Moomaw**, football player, UCLA Bruins center and linebacker elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1973; **William Cameron Townsend**, prominent twentieth-century American Christian missionary and founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators; **Marvalee Hendricks Wake**, evolutionary biologist, president of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.