

A High School Passeth Away

By Eleanor Doyle

When a high school which has flavored the academic climate of Sacramento for over 90 years ceases to exist, it occasions something of a psychological wrench for its alumnae, and, more important, a confusing sundering of loyalties on the part of its current students.

This is the dilemma which involves students, past and present, of St. Joseph Academy High School, which is scheduled to close down at the conclusion of this academic year. In the future, teenage girls in the freshman

through senior years of high school will be enrolled at Bishop Manogue High, now under construction at the corner of 21st and Broadway.

Last Roundup

To mark this end of an era for SJA, at the corner of 9th and F Streets, a Last Roundup is on the social calendar this Sunday afternoon for alumnae and their families, plus the present crop of frosh and soph girls who completed studies on Wednesday.

Nostalgia will be the dominant mood between 2 and 6 PM as former students gather on campus to renew long time acquaintances, honor members of the Class of 1916, who will mark their 50th anniversary, and pay tribute to Sister M. Gabriel, SM, dean of the community at SJA.

Sister Gabriel, a former principal, has in recent years been in charge of the school library.

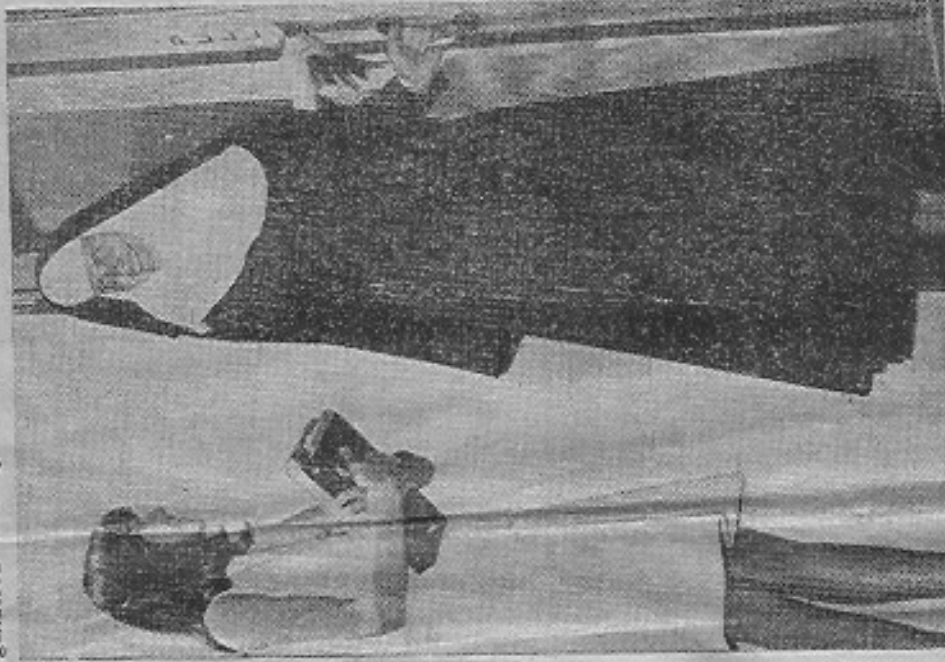
Spirit In Action

The caliber of the girls who have just completed their freshman and sophomore years at SJA, and their remarkable school spirit, was poignantly displayed this past week when they held their annual Class Day. Parts of the program will be presented Sunday during the Last Roundup.

Earlier, Sister Mary Monica, SM, principal, commented

exists among members of the student body. Actually, they have some misgivings about leaving SJA; they are fearful that with a larger enrollment here by the stu-

"There is a fine spirit engendered here by the stu-



Farewell, SJA

Paula Hanley, fourth generation student at St. Joseph Academy High, watches Sister Mary Monica, SM, principal, turn the lock on the school door at the conclusion of classes this week. See additional photos on page 10. Sirlin Photo

ment at Manogue High, they may lose some of the closeness they have encountered here."

True Integration

The recent Class Day performance pointed up dramatically the "spirit" which she had noted — and much more. In an era spooked by racial unrest, adults could have taken a lesson in integration as practiced by these teenage girls. No, not "practiced," but rather "lived."

The student body encompasses the entire ethnic color spectrum, from white to saffron, brown to black. And nobody seems to notice. As in the musical, The King and I, where the song, Getting to Know You, is sung, this is precisely what has happened at St. Joseph High, where the small enrollment of 210 has allowed all the girls to become personally acquainted.

The motivating force which has made such school spirit possible, must be credited to the caliber of the faculty, with particular kudos for its vital, personable principal, Sister Monica.

Named Principal

A native Sacramentan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burns, she, too, is an SJA alumna and has been assigned there by the Mercy Order for 11 years. She already has been named

St. Joseph Academy Spans 90 Years

Its 'Spirit' Invades New Era

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principal of the new Manogue High.

Here are some of the opinions of a large group of students, all of which occasioned cheers and handclapping when uttered:

"The entire student body thinks Sister Monica is the greatest!"

"It is good to know that we will have her behind us next year!"

"If we didn't know she was going to be our principal at Manogue, we don't think we would be assured we could take the spirit of SJA with us!"

Sorry To Leave

Lorraine Brossard, a sophomore, voiced the misgivings of a number of the students about leaving SJA: "We really don't want to leave the school. Sure, the building is old, but that isn't what counts, it is the spirit of the place. But now we believe perhaps we can bring this spirit with us to Manogue High."

Another soph, Debby Potts, noted, "We are leaving behind some pretty good memories here. But we look forward to meeting new friends at the new school."

Sharon Woods, frosh, voices enthusiasm for the change of campus locale: "I'm excited about the new

school. Besides, it will be closer for me and I won't have to ride so far on the bus."

Made Welcome

Gale Spiller, another freshman, recalls how she was "lost when I first came to SJA, since I didn't know too many people. But the sophs were really wonderful about making me feel welcome. I think this same feeling will exist at Manogue High."

Georgann Taylor, soph, says, "I made a lot of friends here and this is because there is real sincerity among the girls, which represents the school spirit. I am certain the girls will take this with them, even though I won't be there to share it because I am moving to Hawaii."

Katie Collins, frosh, who has regrets at leaving, states, "Here the kids all feel that they know everyone. It might be hard to know everybody on a larger campus."

Still another student, Patty Gormley, explains she is look-

ing forward to the move "because the school is named after a member of my family," Bishop Manogue, founding bishop of the diocese, was her great, great, great uncle.

Built In 1925

Sunday's reunion will mark the return of hundreds of "old" grads who will bid farewell to the tradition of St. Joseph Academy.

Actually, the present two-story high school facility is a fairly modern structure, having been built in 1925. Prior to that time, both elementary and high school classes were held in the spacious convent building, which was razed in the 1940s. Until then, the convent not only housed the school classes, but also the novitiate for the Sisters of Mercy. In 1941, a new motherhouse and novitiate was constructed in Auburn.

Since 1956, when Bishop Armstrong High opened on a co-instructional basis, SJA has only accommodated freshman and sophomore classes.

Even after BA became an all male student body, SJA continued this formula with the girls finishing high school at the new St. Francis.

however, this was disbanded in 1939.

Family Heritage

The first mother-daughter combination to graduate from the academy was the late Minnie Rooney O'Neil, who received her diploma in 1881. Her daughter, Mary O'Neil, still a Sacramento resident, graduated in 1906.

Since that time, a generation to generation continuity is credited to many families.

Paula Hanley, a current student, holds the record of

a fourth generation student to be educated at SJA. Her mother, Maryetta Fisher Hanley, (Mrs. Phillip J.) earned her diploma in 1941, preceded by her own mother, the late Etta O'Brien Fisher, and grandmother, Margaret Bannon O'Brien.

The late Mrs. O'Brien, who lived on a ranch down the river, has the distinction of being the only student who boated to class every day. Tradition has it that her daily transportation was a row boat via the Sacramento River.

Column 3 continued on reverse.

Former Principals

Former principals are expected to converge on campus this Sunday to greet alumnae, including Sisters Gabriel, Evangelist, Rita, Raymond, Celestine and Clement.

Those now deceased who headed the school during the 1900s were Mother Liguori, Sisters Gertrude, Francis, Antonia, and Cecilia.

Originally, the Sisters of Mercy fused both the elementary and secondary classes into one entity. SJA did not achieve separate identity until 1918 when the high school division began to work for accreditation.

A boarding department was part of the school's heritage,



Era Of Bobby Socks

Kathleen Salvatore shows off her bobby socks.



How Students Looked In 1918

There was no set mode of dress for students in the first decades of the 1900s, however, most of the SJA girls wore black pleated skirts, white

middy blouses and red ties, much like the outfit shown here by Charlis McKay. Sister Mary Gertrude, SM, adjusts her tie.



First Uniform—Almost

In the year 1925, on the 50th anniversary of SJA, a uniform was adopted for the students to wear. Sheila Collins models a facsimile of the original, with one exception. It should be belted.



Believe It Or Not

Once upon a time, in the 1920s, 30s, and early 40s, this was the outfit donned by SJA students for gym sessions. Janice Waldron, with pom-poms in hand, shouts a cheer that such gear is gone forever.



Oldtime Graduation

Sharon Romanello, left, and Shelia Holman, right, model commencement robes which were used in the final graduation exercises held in 1956. A tradition at SJA was for graduates to carry red roses.

Class Of 1916 Gathers For SJA Reunion

Members of the St. Joseph Academy Class of 1916 will be paid special honor this Sunday at the Last Roundup reunion on campus, which marks the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

Early in the day they will lunch together at the Mansion Inn, then drive to the 9th and G Street campus to greet friends.

Classmates planning to attend are Mary Ann Roach Canfield, Gussie Brown Hill, Doris Larke Ulm, Claire Brennan McDonald, Ethel Lane Cartier, Geraldine Genshlea Dadigan, Esther Bennett Johnson, and Ethel Connelly.