

HISTORY OF THE LA SALLE CLUB

As reported in the Catholic Herald by Eleanor Doyle in 1961, "It was a blue November evening in 1939. Christian Brothers High School had just taken a trouncing on the grid field from a local school and a group of CBS boosters were sitting around commiserating over the unhappy situation. From this bull session a plan was evolved to do something practical to provide the Gaels with sports gear which could place them on an equal footing with boys in the public schools. A hat was passed and coins clinked in. The total: \$20.25.

As simply as that the La Salle Club was born...In addition to sports equipment, the La Salle Club through the years has purchased seats for 5,000 people, lockers for the sports minded boys, and stoves, tables, and cooking utensils for the CBS cafeteria.

Members filled in and reseeded the football fields at both schools (21st and Broadway and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.)...and painted and rewired the CBS gym."

The occasion for this tribute by Eleanor Doyle was an "Old Timers Night". Past Presidents honored included Tom Armstrong, first President, Tom Kenny, Cy Puliz, Jack Ryan, Joe Genshlea, Andy McGuire, Pete Margetts, Dr. Leo Farrell, Leo Williams, Kettle Wirts, Bill Bordisso, Al LaTour, Marv Ash, Charles Ravellete, and Al Westlake. In memory, were honored deceased Presidents: Hiney Finkelstein, Harold Matthews, Walter Hicks, and John Cerruti.

In these early days of the La Salle Club, members included many men from such organizations as the Southside Club, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Knights of Columbus, and the Elks Club.

The La Salle Club continued to support the physical education department and athletic program through membership dues and various fund raising events including 45 years of Baseball Hall of Fame under the leadership of Vincent Stanich until his recent death, Annual Frolics and Raffles, Fireworks Sales, Classic Basketball tournaments, Golf Tourneys, and various dinners

as Hamburger Night, Law Enforcement Appreciation Award Nights, Cioppina Dinner Dances, Fall, Winter, and Spring Banquets for athletes.

In 1989, the La Salle Club changed its name to Christian Brothers Boosters Club, appealing to men and women as members, particularly among parents of athletes. Last year, 1995, the La Salle Club was reorganized with Ray Clemons as President with membership of men and women who are interested in assisting the students at Christian Brothers High

School in their academic and athletic pursuits. Aside from two annual dinners honoring coaches of the Sacramento area and the Baseball Hall of Fame, the La Salle Club will assist the Boosters Club and other fundraising groups in support of the school, but it will not sponsor any specific fundraising project of itself. Its purpose is to enroll men and women, through membership dues of \$20.25 (first fundraiser noted above by Eleanor Doyle), who are willing to be identified with Christian Brothers High School and assist in any way they can to support the mission of the school in the Lasallian traditions of the Christian Brothers.



by Brother Bertram Coleman, FSC