



THE GALILEO OBSERVER

The Official Newsletter of the
Galileo Alumni Association



“To make GAA great... communicate and participate”

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EDITOR’S NOTE

As you probably have noticed, the Observer has a new look. We have added a lion’s head to the right of the masthead. This not only balances the masthead, it adds to the significance of Galileo Galilei, who was a lion of science. This publication now has a circulation of more than 500 and continues to grow. As with most publications, the actual readership exceeds the official circulation figure due to pass-along readership.

Summer is here and we will continue to publish throughout the season. This newsletter is emailed free to alumni, students, faculty, and anyone who wishes to receive it. We will soon mail copies to those who do not have email or access to a computer.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and our new look.

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Sports Hall of Fame Dinner a Huge Success!

The Annual Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Dinner was held on May 21st at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. Twelve former athletes and one coach received honors. Joining the ranks of members of the Hall of Fame were Dick Bechelli, Mike DeLuca, Kevin Fong, Ernie “Babe” Gammino, Vince Gomez, David Longacre (coach), Joe Martino, Frank Pavich, Pete Pompei, Peter San Fillipo, Ron Sligar, Nick Valeri, and Joanne Wiltshire.

The evening was marked by festivities that included a fabulous sit-down dinner (the prime rib was outstanding!) and the meeting of long time friends and family. Each honoree had a special table for his/her family and friends. 181 people attended the event that featured the presentation of medallions to the honorees.

The highlight of the evening was the surprise presentation of a \$1,000 check from the proceeds of the 2004 and 2005 dinners by the Sports Hall of Fame Committee to Galileo Principal Margaret Chiu who immediately announced that the money would be used for baseball uniforms which was met with a loud cheer from the table where a group of invited students sat. Margaret gave an impassioned talk about Galileo’s progress both in scholastics and in sports and thanked the Galileo Alumni Association for its continuous support and for “always coming through” when needed (e.g., the Dragon Boat Races). She was interrupted several times with applause. In a surprise move, she also thanked the

Ertola family for providing the Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarship Fund, making it possible for three Galileo students to attend the University of California Berkeley this Fall.

Once again, the proceedings were handled masterfully by Chairman Ron Ertola, ably assisted by Bernard Valdez and Mario Lombardi. There was a buzz among the attendees that this was a tremendous event. The round tables were beautifully arranged and decorated by Barbara and Mario Lombardi, with Barbara and Jackie Brown preparing the name tags. Doris Valeri and Marie Pompei helped with seating. The feeling was that one was dining in an upscale restaurant or hotel. The entire Sports Hall of Fame committee (Ertola, Valdez, Lombardi, Jim Dresser, Pete Pompei, and Nick Valeri) is to be commended for putting on a night of fun, good food, and camaraderie. Thanks to their many hours of work sorting and selecting the final honorees, this valuable Galileo sports tradition has been revived and will continue into the future.

*****The Honorees*****

Dick Bechelli (1951)

Football – 3 years

Baseball – 3 years

All City in both sports

Dick received a baseball scholarship to USF where he played for four years. He continued to play semi-pro in the Canadian Summer League, Sacramento Valley League and the U. S. Army. He was a member of the Block G Society.

Currently Dick is on the USF Athletic Advisory Board, is a USF Trustee, and chair of the Business Advisory Council. He is the Olympic Club Foundation President, Fort Mason Foundation Trustee and a member of the Salesian Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors. He has been a Board of Directors member of the Olympic Club and past president of the Old Time Athletes Association.

Mike De Luca (1965)

Football – 3 years

Baseball

All City in both sports

Mike was All City quarterback in 1964 and threw a season high 900 total passing yards and 10 touchdowns. He threw for 200 yards and 3 touchdowns to defeat defending champion St. Ignatius (coached by Galileo Sports Hall of Famer Vince Tringali). He was named All City pitcher in 1965 and pitched a three-hitter against Lowell with a season high 5 wins. He was a member of the Block G Society.

Kevin Fong (1977)

115/125 Exponent Basketball – 3 years

Track and Field – 3 years

His basketball team placed 2nd in 1974, 1975 and 1976. In track, he placed first in the S. F. PAL Jesse Owens

Championship in 1976 and 1977. He was named Varsity Track Man of the Meet at McAteer High School in 1977. He placed first in the AAA Varsity Pole Vault and was All City in 1977. He graduated with the 2nd best pole vault mark of all time (his record was broken by James McClannahan, last year's Hall of Fame honoree). He was a member of the Block G Society. He continued in track and field as a coach at Galileo (1989-2005). He is currently a P. E. teacher at Galileo and assistant coach at Sacred Heart.

Ernie “Babe” Gammino (1946)

Baseball – 3 years

“One of the greatest pull hitters of all time.” Ernie made all city in baseball in 1946. He was a member of the Block G Society. He played pro ball with the San Francisco Seals from 1948 to 1950. His career ended when he was drafted into the Army and served in the Korean War in 1950. An avid golfer and member of the Old Timers Baseball Association. He was a 2002 honoree of the Friends of Marino Pieretti Club. A long time member of the Italian Athletic Club, Olympic Club and Salesian Boys Club. He entered the North Beach-Marina Hall of Fame in 1994 for outstanding athletic ability. He was an honoree at the Dane Benedetti annual dinner in 2002. Respected and adored by all who knew him. He passed away in May, 2004. His medallion was received posthumously by Ernie's son, Michael.

Vince Gomez (1952)

110s Basketball – 3 years

Vince was a member of the co-championship team and high point man. He made all city in 1951. In track, he placed 3rd in the high jump in the all city meet. He was basketball manager for the Varsity All City Championship Team in 1950. He received a music scholarship to College of the Pacific and continued to play freshman and sophomore basketball. He graduated with honors and was a member of the Honorary Music Society. He earned two Fullbright Scholarships for Music. Today he is a jazz musician and performs throughout the Bay Area.

David Longacre (Coach)

An outstanding athlete in high school and college, David brought his athletic ability to coaching. He coached 44 different Galileo teams from 1977 – 2001. He coached freshman/sophomore football for 7 years. He won the AAA Round Robin Championship in 1979. Co-champs 1980-81. Overall record was 21-5-2. In track, he won 6 Varsity championships in 9 years. In specialty pole vaulting he won AAU championships for 10 consecutive years. He served as Girls Tennis Coach for 14 years. His record was 94-37 (two doubles teams won AAA City Championships, defeating 4 consecutive Lowell teams in 2000-2001. As Boys Tennis Coach, he made 4 team playoffs in 7 years with a record of 65-49. In addition to coaching, Dave was department head for special education for 10 years.

Joe Martino (1950)

Basketball – 3 years

Baseball – 3 years

All City Baseball - 1949

In addition to making All City, Joe was named baseball team captain in 1949. He was a member of the Block G Society and Student Body President. He played semi-pro baseball including on the American Legion Galileo Post Championship Team. He coached Little League and CYO Baseball. He still plays competitive tennis. Presently he is President of the Salesian Boys and Girls Club.

Frank Pavich (1951)

Track & Field – 3 years

Football – 3 years

Basketball – 1 year

Frank made all city in football and track in 1951. In the S. F. Interscholastic Championship he was in the shot put and discus competition. He placed first in the shot put in the Stockton Relays. He received a bronze medal in discus in the California Interscholastic Federation Meet. He was All Northern California at right tackle in football. He was a Wignan-Wiseman High School All American. Earned a football scholarship to the University of Southern California. At USC, he played for 4 years and in two Rose Bowls (1953 & 1955). He was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in 1955. He was a commissioned officer in the U. S. Marine Corps and Conflict Management Consultant for the U. S government where he received other significant commendations and awards.

Pete Pompei (1950)

Varsity Basketball – 3 years

Track – 1 year

Pete was All City starting guard on the 1950 championship team. He ran track and was a member of the Block G Society. From a basketball family, brothers Frank (1935), Mario (1945) and George (1948) and Pete all played first string varsity basketball for Galileo. Two were on championship teams (Mario in 1945 and Pete in 1950); both are now in the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame. Pete continued to play basketball in the service. He was a Northern California Basketball Association referee and was a Marina-North Beach Hall of Fame honoree in 2001.

Peter San Fillipo (1973)

Varsity Football – 2 years

Wrestling – 1 year

Varsity Swimming – 3 years

In 1972 Peter won the city championship for small schools in the 50 meter and 100 meter freestyle. He was a member of the Block G Society. He swam and played water polo for City College of San Francisco. He graduated with honors and received two college scholarships. Peter is a National High School Sports Official.

Ron Sligar (1952)

Varsity Track – 3 years

Varsity Basketball – 2 years

130s Basketball – 1 year

Ron was a member of the Block G Society. In his senior year he was student representative to the City of San Francisco and State of California. He continued his education and basketball at San Jose State and in the Air Force. He participated in the Senior Olympic Tournaments in 2000-2001. He attended Galileo's 50th reunion in

2002. He met his high school sweetheart, Anna, and married her in 2004.

Nick Valeri (1950)

Varsity Basketball – 3 years

Nick received 1950 All City honors as a member of the San Francisco City Championship team that consisted of four, now five, Galileo Sports Hall of Famers: Don Bragg and Jerry Tamalier, both deceased, and Mario Lombardi and tonight's honorees Pete Pompei and Nick Valeri. Nick was also president of the Block G Society.

Joanne Wiltshire (1955)

Swimming – 3 years

Joanne competed in swimming and synchronized swimming from 1947 to 1949. She represented Crystal Plunge Swim Club in North Beach. She received a Block G for swimming. She won the Junior and Senior National Synchronized Swimming Championships in Florida, Los Angeles, and Oakland from 1948 to 1955. She turned professional and traveled on tours around the country. She taught and coached swimming in high schools throughout Marin County.

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Three Galileo Students Awarded First Annual Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarships

Three deserving Galileo seniors were awarded the first ever Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarships. During the graduation ceremony on June 8th, Trevor Chuan, Veronica Girma and Emily Wu each were presented with a \$1,000 award. Both Trevor and Veronica will be attending the University of California Davis and will be studying biochemistry, while Emily will attend U. C. San Diego and will study biomedical engineering. Biographies of these worthy students will appear in the July issue of the Observer.

Thanks to the generosity of the Ron Ertola Family, this scholarship will be presented again in 2006. Donations are welcome and are tax deductible.

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Galileo Honored as 2005 California Distinguished School

Thanks to the efforts of the students, teachers and staff led by Principal Margaret Chiu, the Galileo Academy of Science and Technology has been honored as 2005 California Distinguished School. Read the letters of congratulation that Margaret and the Academy have received from U. S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell at <http://galileoalumni.org/2005-distinguished.html>.

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Reno 50s Reunion a Blast from the Past

by Nina Pattini Clima

There were 320 attendees at the Reno Reunion of the 50s on May 4-6. The reception on Wednesday night had

hors d'oeuvres, and a free drink. Everyone received a souvenir fanny pack. It was fun watching classmates find each other. Sixteen golfers were disappointed when they were rained out on Thursday. Regardless, they were happy to receive a visor donated by The Silver Legacy. The slot tournament on Wednesday was very exciting. Each player sat at the machines for three rounds. Top prize was \$750. The prizes were split among 25 players, with \$80 being the smallest prize awarded. There was also a pedro tournament. Top prize was \$100. That night there was a dinner and dancing, door prizes and a raffle, and everyone received another free drink. John Zuffo led the singing of the school song, and Art Leones led the Galileo cheer. Joe Martino was guest master of ceremonies. Dancing went on until 11:30 PM. The committee worked very hard to put this event on.

A Memento of the Reunion

Richard Lee (Class of 1958) has captured the highlights of the reunion on a DVD. Pictures were taken by several classmates and were given to Rich who put them together on the DVD. It is available for purchase for \$20 (includes protective envelope & postage). \$5 from each sale will go to the Galileo Alumni Association.

To obtain the DVD, please contact Rich Lee at richlee@worldnet.att.net, Nina Clima at PalmiraClima@aol.com, or Jennie Wong Lee at 640 – 27th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121.

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A trip to the past aboard a train . . . by Mario Flores

I boarded the train in Martinez, bound for the Galileo reunion in Reno. I was beginning my adventure into the past. I chose my spacious seat with care. We left the station at 10:00 AM. The windows were like a wonderful painting of the real world.

The landscape rolled by as the clickety clack of the train's wheels sang out like a lullaby. Town after town came and went. Slowly the signs of civilization began to fall away as we began our climb up the magnificent Sierras. Cities and towns surrendered to the tranquil beauty of nature at her best.

Feeling hungry, I made my way to the dining car. I ate with three wonderful people. The combination of good conversation and beautiful scenery began to work its magic. I was finally truly relaxing.

After lunch I moved to the observation car and enjoyed a cup of coffee with the sounds of children, laughter and above all, the breathtaking view of the Sierras as my companions.

The train was slow trudging up the mountain as if wanting us to enjoy the splendor. At times we could, literally, reach out and grab a handful of snow.

From time to time a narrator would talk over the loudspeakers, telling us interesting facts about a small town or area. It seems the mountains are rich in history.

We arrived in downtown Reno six hours later. The depot is only two blocks from the Silver Legacy and most of Reno's hotels.

It only cost \$61 round trip. Driving would have cost at least \$50. If we had enough people, we could reserve a train car just for us. On the way home we could sleep or reflect on the events instead of facing the tedious trek home by car. If we have another reunion in Reno, I urge a train trip. Or maybe, we can just travel for the heck of it.

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The Song & Yell Contest is Coming Up

(and Galileo needs volunteers for judges)

Do you wish to judge the 61st Homecoming Song and Yell Contest? The date is Friday, October 14, 2005. The reception begins at 10:15 AM, and the event ends about 12:30 PM. If interested, we need your name, year graduated, whether you were an officer in any student government or club, participated in any sport, and your current career. We include this information in our program and introduction.

Also, please email Eugene Wing, Associated Student Body Advisor, your address so that the Corresponding Secretary can mail you an invitation in September. Because of its great success, we need to limit the number of judges to 12.

Eugene Wing, ASB Advisor

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Through The Telescope. . .



Summer's here and with it, vacation trips. Where are you going this year? I'm going to Mexico City to visit friends in August and then visit a coffee farm in Chiapas.

Congratulations to the three winners of the Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarships. As one who was a classmate of Joan's in Marina and Galileo, I know she would be proud of the three recipients who are on the way to the University of California. Thanks to Ron Ertola, Joan's husband, and his family, this was made possible.

The Sports Hall of Fame dinner was a huge success (see story above). One recipient came all the way from Virginia to accept his award. Frank Pavich with his lovely wife and daughter were all excited about the event and meeting old friends. Pete Pompei finally joined his brother Mario in the Hall, a great basketball family. Kevin Fong's mother beamed as her son received his award. Afterwards, Vince Gomez, another honoree, said: "What an honor to be inducted with some of my heroes from high school days. Galileo gave me so much support to become the person I am today."

Are Galileo, North Beach, and San Francisco unique? You bet! People often ask me, "How is it that you have so many friends going way back?" "Indeed," I reply, "I have dozens and dozens of people I have known for over 50 years and some over 65 years, going back to Spring Valley School, Marina Junior High, Galileo, and Cal Berkeley. Many more have disappeared, moved away or passed on. San Francisco basically has a small town atmosphere created by the various neighborhoods. Is it like this in New York City, Los Angeles, or elsewhere? I doubt it. At the Sports Hall of Fame dinner, I saw Dick Bechelli, Frank Pavich and Ron Sligar for the first time in 55 years. All three looked better and fitter than they did in high school.

It's a Small World: In a business call the other day to Southern California, I spoke with Dana Erickson, a specialty coffee roaster. Turns out Dana taught a Special Education class at Galileo from 1990-1998. His great, great, great (can't remember how many *greats*) grandmother was Jane Sather, second wife of Peter Sather. Sather Gate at U. C. Berkeley was named after her. Dana has fond memories of his teaching days at Galileo.

Wouldn't it be roaring great if Galileo students or young alumni had a centipede complete with lion heads and costumes in next year's Bay to Breakers race? Something to think about, kids.

Changing Times: The Muny Bait Shop at the corner of Polk and Northpoint is now the S. F. Liquor & Food Mart. The Michaelis Food Store one block over, was once owned by Henry Michaelis (Galileo - 1951) and still maintains his name.

For you chocoholics out there (I'm one of them), the California Academy of Sciences currently has on display "Chocolate: The Exhibition" through September 5th. It covers the science, history and evolution of chocolate.

The next Belasco Theater production scheduled for sometime this Fall will be "The Music Man". If you haven't been to one of Eddie's shows, make it a point to go soon.

Wrestle with this: Galileo won the All City Wrestling Championship, beating Washington High School.

3 Questions: 1 - Why is a book in which you place pictures and souvenirs called a *scrapbook*? Nothing scrappy about that! 2 - Is the tomato a fruit or a vegetable? My answer: When I eat it whole, it is a fruit. When I slice it and eat it in a salad, it is a vegetable. 3 - Why do service stations charge for air and water? Aren't these life essentials free in Nature?

The 68th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge was celebrated recently. I remember well that Sunday (May 24th) in 1987 when we celebrated its 50th anniversary. I parked my car at Ocean Beach and walked through the Presidio along with hundreds of other people to the bridge. We were like pilgrims heading for a shrine or a line of evacuees leaving town (see *War of the Worlds*). There were around 500,000 people on the bridge that day, and then-Mayor Diane Feinstein was in the middle of it all. I walked out about one-third of the way and then I suddenly felt a pang of claustrophobia. I slowly squeezed my way out of the crowd and walked to Crissy Field where I took a photo of the bridge. It had a lower curve instead of the normal upper curve. It was quite a memorable day.

Young at Heart: I feel it is a compliment when nobody gets up to give me a seat on a bus or streetcar even though there is a posted notice saying that federal law requires that "these seats must be vacated for seniors and disabled persons". Maybe I should carry a cane? When I was a kid, I was taught to get up for elderly people. Nowadays, kids feel they are privileged and sit in the senior seats.

Curious pair: Churches and Irish pubs both have stained glass windows.

Bad color for a car: avocado green.

For the first time in 30 years, California red wine sales have overtaken white wine sales in U. S. grocery stores, according to The Sacramento Bee. Could the pursuit of good health have anything to do with it?

The Fillmore Jazz Festival, just over, had 100,000 people over two days. Besides jazz greats such as Jules Broussard, there was great barbecue from Memphis Minnie's and Powell's, two of the best in the city.

Communing with Nature: Sigmund Stern Grove has undergone a fantastic makeover. Famed landscape designer Lawrence Halprin has done a wonderful job and made the space look larger with rock terraces, more picnic tables, a beautiful stage and sound system and an overall enhancement of the entire area. His design has revealed the beauty of the eucalyptus and redwood trees. I have attended the concerts there for the past 50 years, and the Grove has never looked better. It is located at 19th Avenue & Sloat Blvd. Concerts start at 2 PM on Sundays through August 21st. For more information go to www.sterngrove.org.

At a recent concert at the Grove, when the master of ceremonies asked the audience to turn off their cell phones, one of the musicians of the San Francisco Symphony reached into his breast pocket, pulled out a cell phone and turned it off.

And how about that final competition on “Dancing with the Stars”? Wasn’t it the greatest?

Pet Peeves: Backpacks on public transportation. Telephone voicemail recorded runarounds.

Obituaries: Reno Petrucci (1953). Alma Hinton (1953).

Fortune in a cookie: *Sing badly, if you must, but sing.*

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Mez Sez

by Vince Gomez

May 21, 2005 was a great evening in North Beach. After more than 50 years, over 300 Galileo High School alumni and friends gathered together for the annual Sports Hall of Fame Honoree Dinner held at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club. I was very thrilled and honored to be one of the inductees for the 2005 Hall of Fame. During my three years at Galileo (1949-1952), I was fortunate to be around so many fine athletes. These included fellow inductees Dick Bechelli, Joe Martino, Frank Pavich, Pete Pompei, Ron Sligar, and Nick Valeri. My inclusion with these talented varsity players was quite a surprise since I never grew out of the lightweight classification till after high school. My nicknames at Gal were Germ, Flea and Cricket. Those three years at Galileo gave me the support, confidence, and background that were important in my adult career as a music educator and musician.

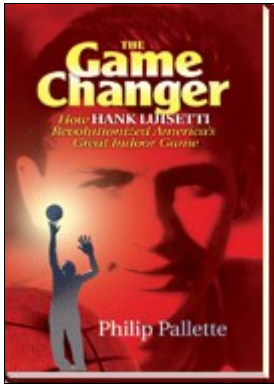
The greatest thing about these Hall of Fame dinners is the opportunity to see and catch up with classmates from our high school days. I saw and chatted with my fellow inductees and the following alumni: Mario Lombardi, Vince La Rocca, Fred Setting, Sisvan Der Harootunian, Fred Tooker, Bill Dito, Bob Gelardi, Danny Bartolozzi, Ed De Martini, Jim Dresser, Ralph Lomele, Al Massucco, Lorin Scola, Joe Scafidi, Frank Clima, Paul Cassidy, Harry Holsworth, Mel Chiarenza, Carmela Lombardi Hoffman, Joanna Woeber Gaskell, Cordelia Porter Surdyka, Marion Napolitano and Pat King among others. My family table included my wife Carol, College of Pacific fraternity brothers Ces Ciatti and John Sylvester, Dick Fregulia (my piano partner from the Washington Square Bar & Grill), teaching colleagues John Orofino and Leon Cathey (who both taught at Galileo at one time in their careers) and Orofino’s wife Peggy McCullough (Galileo class of 1965).

All in all a fun time was had by all. The food was excellent, the wine was smooth and the organizing committee should be commended for not letting the inductees give long speeches.

An interesting side note during the dinner was that I found out that Joe Martino, Harry Holsworth and I have something else in common. We have been San Francisco Giants Ball Dudes at one game or another. We have sat during games on a short wooden stool in the right or left field bullpens dressed in a Giants uniform chasing down foul balls. Holsworth has

done it for about 10 years dating back to 1995 at Candlestick Park. Another Galileo alumnus and member of the Sports Hall of Fame (who has worked for the Giants as an usher since 1975), is Nino (Scipe) Cresci (Class of 1947). He holds forth in the Field Club level, Section 108. It appears that Galileo alumni are still active and involved in the San Francisco community in one form or another. Till my next column –Take care and drop by the Washbag if you're in the City.

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The Game Changer : How Hank Luisetti Revolutionized America's Great Indoor Game

by Philip Pallette

About the Book

“Hank, the nimble; Hank, the quick; Hank, the human corkscrew; Hank, as fast as light; Hank, the rubber-boned man,” wrote Roy Cummings after seeing a 19-year-old Hank Luisetti perform for the first time in 1936. Cummings sat alone in a deserted gym trying to describe to his readers what he had just witnessed on the basketball court. Luisetti, who learned the game to a background chorus of fog horns and gulls on San Francisco Bay, would later that year introduce New York’s basketball legions to the jump shot. Now Philip Pallette has created a riveting account of the basketball life of this eminently shy and decent young man who transformed Stanford basketball from a group of fun-loving dabblers into national champions. *The Game Changer* is a book that rediscovers the long-forgotten adulation basketball fans felt for Luisetti by tracing his journey from boyhood on to becoming basketball’s first matinee idol and the man who changed basketball forever.

About the Author

Philip Pallette lives not far from Madison Square Garden with his wife, enjoys watching and writing about basketball, and works for an acquisitions firm. He is currently working on a mystery novel that takes place in 1936 San Francisco, and yes, he does like to play basketball when he gets the chance.

Free Preview

The sweat-soaked uniform seemed to have lost its definitive red color. The dazed All-American wearing that uniform was being helped into a sitting position, while all around him popping flash bulbs illuminated a purgatory of hostile fans. Located among these fist-raising Cal rooters was a tall, 21-year-old English major, a former pre-med student named Eldred G. Peck. In another few years, Peck would be known to the world as movie star Gregory Peck, but for the moment Eldred was just another Cal student looking on while a companion pointed out that the All-American, in this case an All-American named Hank Luisetti, could not do much damage if he would just remain seated on the floor. A press photographer was stretched out on the hardwood, pointing his Leica through a forest of legs gathered around Stanford’s 6-foot-3-inch basketball star. *LIFE* magazine had sent a crew to cover the game, during the fourth minute of

which Luisetti broke the national scoring record, coolly pivoting around a defender and flipping in a high, floating left-hander from the right corner. Oh, what a night.

In the minutes just before, Peck had seen California slice into Stanford's huge lead, the score was 42-32, and time was out with 10 minutes to play.

Immaculately white-clad male yell leaders took to the floor, aiming large megaphones up at the immense Cal cheering section, stirring up a Friday night frenzy. The roar swelled to the top of five-year-old Harmon Gym, and the noise needed no interpretation. Every sweating player, student and fan knew that Cal was at the brink of elimination. For the Bears to come from behind and tie for the southern division title it was now or never.

After trailing most of the game by ballooning double digits, the Golden Bears *had* come from behind, applying an all-out, attacking, man-for-man defense that threw a roadblock up to Luisetti's raging, racehorse offense. Faced with the tight confines of the Stanford match up zone, Cal attacked inside. Granite-jawed, bleary-eyed center Chet Carlisle, as if hearing the call of the wild, scored a string of leaping baskets close to the hoop compelling Luisetti to call a timeout.

With the timeout over, the yell leaders still had the crowd stomping out the beat to *Big C*, the school song. The Cal players huddled in their foul lane, resolutely looking over at their opponents. A composed Luisetti walked to his position within earshot of play-by-play announcer Doug Montel and thought briefly of his mother listening at home. He watched Beebs Lee take the inbounds pass from his roommate, Calderwood, and the notion jumped into his mind that his life as a college basketball player was nearly over. This was shortly before the unthinkable happened—Luisetti being knocked unconscious.

Now as Peck looked on, the raucous cheers that had filled the sold-out arena dropped to a dull murmur. Eight-thousand pairs of eyes focused on Luisetti, flat on his back near the midcourt sideline. The game stopped on the lonely trill of Lloyd Leith's whistle, the crowd realizing that it was Luisetti, and not another player, being rolled over onto his back.

Note: Phil Palette is a 1938 graduate of Galileo. He can be reached at ppalette@nyc.rr.com. While readers may purchase the book on line through www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.com for \$22.90 plus shipping, they can get it at a discount at the following website: www.hankluisettibook.com. There it is \$17.50 plus shipping, which is about \$5.

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LETTERS

I've been to four GAA board meetings now. They work very hard. It's a shame that not more members at large attend the meetings. If I lived closer I would go more often, but then, I'm a '55 grad. People who graduated in the 60s and 70s are still working. It's very difficult to work full time and sit on the Board especially since a lot of members (I don't know the percentage) live a great distance away. I'm hoping to contact some of my email friends and see if I can get them interested in going to the meetings. We need to get involved. The present Board can't continue forever. --Rose Garcia Melcher

Ed. Note: I work fulltime, am a Board member, and write and edit this newsletter. Board meetings are once a month at 6:30 PM and last about 2 hours.

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Hi, Bernard. We had a wonderful time Saturday night [at the Sports Hall of Fame dinner]. Thanks again for all your help. It was a huge success!!! Hope to see you again real soon. Stay well. --Jowanna Woerber Gaskell

Bernard Valdez' reply: We have dedicated Galileo grads on the Association Board and the Hall of Fame Committee who give a lot of time and effort to plan events like Saturday night's. It's nice to know that other grads appreciate our work. Thanks for the kind words. Hope to see you at our next event.

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I was searching around and found this page for Coach George Poppin and wanted to pass along a big hello to my coach (not at Galileo but at George Washington High School in 1947). My name is Frank Brown and I played right end. I joined the U. S. Marine Corps shortly thereafter, and Coach told me to look up his cousin, a lieutenant if I remember correctly. I never got in touch with Coach or his cousin, but I served in the Corps until 1952 after Korea and the Chosen Reservoir. If possible, let him know he is still one of our truly great life influences. --Frank Brown

Ed. Note: Coach George Poppin receives this newsletter regularly, and I'm sure he will be glad to read your kind comments and reply to you.

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Dear Augie [Venezia], thank you for inviting me to the Galileo Alumni Association meeting this Thursday. After thinking it over, I regret that I won't be able to attend at this time. I just have too many things on my plate at the moment and would not be able to help much. I am presently the presiding President of the Golden Gate Park Senior Center with over 700 members and President of the San Francisco Caper Cutter Square Dance Club. Both of these organizations take up quite a bit of my time besides all the traveling that my wife and I do every year. Enclosed is my application to join the Association, and hopefully I can help support its efforts in future endeavors. I had a great time at the reunion last week and best of all, I got to play Pedro again. Please give my regards to Nina [Clima], Kay [Michelis] and Cordy [Surdyka]. --Al Jeung

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I was part of the graduating class of 1995. I was wondering if someone could tell me if the 10 year reunion is coming up for the class of '95 and when it will be. I would be interested in attending if there is more information on it. --Myron Kam

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I always read about problems that are occurring all the time about the GAA on Phil's [Kaiser] Lions Pride. I always receive a letter for my donation to help the GAA. I usually send \$5 or \$10 to help out, but where does it say that I'm a member? I got your alumni application for a donation of \$25 or whatever I can afford. Let me know by email your answer before I send any money to help out. --Saul Rayo (Class of 1953)

GAA President Jim Dresser's reply by email: Hi Saul, thank you for contacting me about GAA. Your name is on the GAA membership list which is maintained by Diane Wall Cowart, committee chairperson. Your donations help to support current Galileo programs. GAA is now in the process of printing membership cards, so as soon as they are available, one will be sent to you. Since GAA is a non-profit organization, letters from Diane document your donations as tax deductible. So, yes, you are a member of GAA and always will be.

Many alumni are confused by Phil Kaiser's comments in his Lions Pride. Mr. Kaiser has *not* submitted a membership form to GAA. His website and weekly emails are *not* affiliated with GAA. He is *not* personally acquainted with any of the GAA Board members. He gets facts from the GAA website and the *Observer*. He emails alumni for information and then puts his own "spin" on it. In the past, Board members have tried to clarify information he printed, but he ignored our comments

and instead gave his own negative interpretation. Since he always has to have the last word, it is futile for GAA Board members to communicate with him. Unfortunately, Mr. Kaiser's ongoing criticism of GAA undermines our efforts to enlist new members and raise funds to help Galileo.

You will receive the *Galileo Observer*, the official publication of GAA, for as long as you wish. On our website, <http://galileoalumni.org/>, you will find past copies of the *Observer*, minutes of Board meetings, upcoming events, and photos from previous events. GAA officers and Board members volunteer their time, energy, and resources to the organization. If you would like to volunteer for a committee or have any questions, please contact officers or committee chairs by going to <http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html>. Since you live in San Francisco, plan to join us at our next GAA Board meeting on Thursday, September 8, at 6:30 PM in Room 210 at Galileo.

I appreciate the opportunity to communicate directly with you and hope this answers your questions.

Sincerely, Jim Dresser, GAA President

Saul Rayo's answer to Jim: Thank you, Jim, for replying to my email. Now I have an idea of what is going on. This will clear my doubts about the truth. I will continue my help in what I can for the GAA. To me Galileo is something special, and I will try to be there at the next meeting. Thanks again, Jim. Always a Lion, Saul Rayo.

* * *

I went to Galileo from 1956 – 1957. I did not graduate from Galileo, but my class did in 1959. I was cleaning the other day and found a picture of the Song Girls taken back in 1957 and thought that you might like to share it with some people. A similar copy of this picture is show on page 96 of the 1957 Galileo Telescope yearbook. The caption under the picture in the book reads: “Fun was had by all when the Cal song girls came to Gal. Pictured here are: Top row – Sal Billante, Joe Tanzi and Joe Borg with the Cal song girls (lucky boys). Bottom row, left to right – Joan Webster, Marge Conway, LaVerne Stevens, Joan Jung, Gail Knox, Merri Storelli, and Laura Shelton. Enjoy! ---Joan (Jung) Louie



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GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Financial Statement

June 1, 2005 – June 30, 2005

BALANCE FORWARD

\$6,703.19

INCOME

Membership donations (New members)

\$100.00

Membership donations (Renewals)

\$1,060.00

TOTAL INCOME

\$1,160.00

EXPENSES

Office supplies

\$29.60

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$29.60

BALANCE

\$7,833.59

Submitted by:
Joe Scafidi
Treasurer, GAA

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(Additional information on these and other events at www.galileoalumni.org.)

August 14 – Galileo Alumni & Friends Golf & Dinner Event, Sharp Park

September 8 – GAA Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Room 210, Galileo

October 14 – Annual Song & Yell Contest, Galileo Field

April 27, 2006 (tentative date) – Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Dinner

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WRITERS/REPORTERS WANTED!

For articles and stories on alumni, events, whereabouts of graduates for this newsletter. No mastery of English required, just your willingness to communicate and participate. Contact the Editor.

* * *

If you would like to promote your Galileo event on the GAA website <http://www.galileoalumni.org/>, please send information to galileoobserver@aol.com and/or webmaster@galileoalumni.org.

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The OBSERVER Is For All

Galileo alumni, family, friends, students, faculty . . . anybody and everybody, The Observer is for you. If you haven't already done so, send in the email addresses of anyone you know who would like to receive a FREE emailed newsletter every month or so. We'd like to reach as wide a range of readers as possible. Send the email addresses to: webmaster@galileoalumni.org.

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IMPORTANT

For all EDITORIALLY-RELATED comments or suggestions, please address your emails to galileoobserver@aol.com.

For all TECHNICAL problems (non-receipt of newsletter, etc.), address your emails to webmaster@galileoalumni.org.

Thank you.

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The Galileo Observer invites your letters, memories, inquiries and suggestions. All submissions are subject to editing. Send them by email to: galileoobserver@aol.com, or by postal mail to: Galileo Observer, care of Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

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