1978 Alumni Homecoming.
Short bio sketches of:
1 unidentified,
Margaret Giles Correll,
Marcella Clatsinger,
Alfred E. O'Day,
Pauline Barr White,
Christopher Harris,
Woodrow Tighe,
Coretta Hancock,
Hazel Miner Peet,
Ruth Bickerton McNiter
George Merican,
Marie Culbertson
Florence Murray Carroll
Ruth Elizabeth Dibble Beaujais
I, like many others, came from the Midwest, small, a lake town called Osages (?), Minnesota, in 1925. I attended Riverside Junior College and then came to San Diego State, which was at that time up at the corner of Park Boulevard and El Cajon. I, with a large number of alumni, a number of other friends, took a short course and was able to start teaching after two years. And then we worked from 1927 to 1933, going to after-school classes, evening classes and summer school classes, which the state required to be continuous so that we could get our degree. This was a very tough grind, so we had very little time for social activities. But the trials and tribulations we went through together bound a group of us together and who are still friends, and have continued to be so over the fifty years.

I started teaching in November of 1926, second grade overflow at Jefferson. And I was later transferred to Garfield School, then later to probably the first segregated school, Burbank, which had only Mexican children and Japanese. I was there five years and then went to Encanto where I taught every class from first grade through the MR's and finally ended my career teaching sixth grade in a temporary (so-called) building. Temporary turned out to be unlucky thirteen. Then I retired in 1968. I guess our strenuous careers or struggles achieving our degrees bound our small group of twelve together. They say misery loves company. But we've certainly had some fine friends in this group. And we still have those that are left today.
MARGARET GILES CORRELL

This is Margaret Giles Correll. I had my start in Kansas and came to California while I was in my elementary school, landing first at Imperial County and the Brawley area. My family moved to San Diego. I finished high school at Grossmont, then entered State College in February. I won't give the year, but I certainly belong in the crowd that's having a reunion now, in the old campus group. I went to State College three years and two summers, straight through, and took my degree.

And I hadn't been in school but about a month till I was arbitrarily appointed to this student executive committee and from that time on I was rather active in student government. I was elected vice-president and then president of the Athletic Association and I also served as vice-president of the student body. I joined a sorority within a comparatively short time after I came to State College. The Como (?) Group, which later became Kappa Theta and even later became Gamma Phi Beta, when national sororities were permitted on campus.

When I graduated I went to Imperial County, taught in a rural classroom east of Brawley, where I had 21 darling kids. And at the end of one year I went into the county superintendent of schools' office where I served as the deputy superintendent of schools for ten years. I resigned and was just a homemaker for a number of years until I returned to San Diego in January, right after Pearl Harbor, and have been more or less in touch with the former State College students of my vintage ever since. And I was sort of drafted into this committee for the reunion plans because I was well acquainted in that work for so many years with the people who were the moving force in it.

I think back with a great deal of delight that I was one of approximately 600 in my State College student body. I don't know what I'd do among 30,000 on this huge campus.
I'm Marcella Clatsinger and I was born in Nebraska, in Fremont, Nebraska, in 1910. And I was in the Class of...well, I was in San Diego State from 1927 to 1930. I came out of a little school, Our Lady of Peace Academy, which had only 16 graduates. And so State College was a big school to me.

After, well, during the time I was in State I played in the orchestra and Dr. Biddleman was the director. I always remember our ed. classes, physical ed. classes with Miss Rowe. And we had to wear our black bloomers and white midis and play out in front of the school. There was no gymnasium.

I envied the people who were in the Aztec Follies because I wanted to dance in the Follies. But my father said, "No, orchestra came first." So that was it.

After State College I went on to Broad Oaks in Pasadena and took kindergarten training. And that year Whittier bought Broad Oaks and so my degree is from Whittier. I have taught 35 years in San Diego County, starting out in Carlsbad for five years. Then I came to San Diego and I taught in La Jolla for two years and subsequently in Lowell School in southeast San Diego. Then over to Cabrillo at Point Loma. Because of sinus trouble I had to resign and I lived in the desert for three years, at Borrego Springs, and I taught there, which was a wonderful experience, having the first year only 18 children in the third, fourth and fifth grades. But it was a very relaxed and wonderful experience.

Then I came back and taught at Jefferson School, then on to Cleveland for just a little while. And I retired from Forward School in 1967. I retired early, but I enjoy travelling and all the other experiences since then.
My name is Alfred E. O'Day. I was born in California at a small oil town called Coalinga. My occupation since leaving college has been really varied. Of course, I graduated from the college here in 1933 with a junior high teaching credential. Of course, during the depression jobs were very difficult to get and I took a variety of jobs, including working in the oilfields, working at the reform school at Whittier, working at the neighborhood house, jobs as assistant physical director in the transient camp at Griffith Park. Then I finally got a job in the Sweetwater high school district and during World War II I was principal of their vocational school where we trained people for wartime occupations—welding, sheetmetal, and so on.

Probably the most interesting comments would be about life here on campus. I started at the old college, Normal, the old Normal School. And I think the thing that impressed me after being a teacher some, quite a number of years, was the honesty that we had on the campus in those days. In the boys' gym, if a guy dropped a 50¢ piece or dropped his wallet, it was always, as far as I know, it was found and turned into the coach. There was no stealing. And I know later on when I taught in junior high, even though you locked the drawer in your desk, it would frequently be opened and kids would take any money that was in there.

The thing I probably remember most about college life was being aligned to a fraternity. I belonged to a fraternity that, interestingly enough, included a lot of people who became teachers and principals. Lawrence Carr (?) for one, Ralph Smith; some of the others were more interested in making money. I can think of Gordie Samuels, was a building contractor, and Dick Shattuck (?), who I understand is still busy as a developer. Probably another interesting aspect of my life at the college here was inter-fraternity athletics, which I enjoyed very much. And I played basketball here for two years. And then I played, after getting out of college, for the San Diego Athletic Club.
ALFRED E. O'DAY (continued)

After World War II, I went into the oil fields and worked with my father, followed his steps, and closed out his business and came back to San Diego and went into the contracting business until 1966 when I took a job as chief building inspector for the city of Imperial Beach. This was a very interesting experience and I retired five years ago from that job. At the present time I'm taking a one-year job as city representative on the Jamul renovation of the civic center, a $2 million job and I'm looking forward to its completion next month so that I can retire again. Get into my motor home, and away I'll go!

PAULINE BARR WHITE

My name is Pauline Barr White, and I was born February 7, 1908. And I was born in San Diego. And right now my occupation is a housewife. I did teach a while and then later on I went in as a specialist in reading. And then I worked into teaching hard of hearing children. Then I ended up being a home teacher, going to the homes of children who were sick, working just part-time because by then I had three children of my own.

One of the things I remember about San Diego State at the old campus was our rowing. Once a week, I think it was once a week, we'd go out in these barges and Miss Moran was our instructor. She was very, very particular about our costumes. We wore black stockings, with seams in the back which had to be absolutely straight up and down, and baggy black bloomers with midi blouses. The bloomers were always catching in our sliding seats. Consequently, our oar would tip and we would catch a crab, which is a very bad thing to have happen.
When she’d come by in her little motorboat, which was a putt-putt, we had to come to attention and put up our oars straight up and down as she inspected us. That’s about it.

One of the most exciting things about the rowing was going by the Navy boats, anchored out in the harbor, and they would wave at us and holler and that made it quite exciting.

My name is Christopher Harris. I was born here in San Diego in the late ’10s, and attended schools in San Diego throughout my life. From San Diego High School in 1932 I graduated and attended San Diego State College when the college was one year of age. At that time there was lots of hammering and building and I can see that it has never stopped. For a while in college I attended various classes dealing with physical education, biology, and social studies. Participated on the basketball teams, on the track, cross-country teams, and finally joined a fraternity called Ela (?) Pi Beta. I also belonged to the honor society that dealt with the biological sciences under the leadership of Dr. Harwood and Dr. Crouch.

Upon graduating from San Diego State I became a teacher at Wilson Junior High School in San Diego, where I taught for forty years. Since high school and college days, I watched the city of San Diego grow to tremendous lengths. State College in particular has grown. It would be very hard to recognize areas which I frequented in the early days.

Athletes in those days were tremendous. They are also tremendous at the present time. I attend a number of State College athletic functions and appreciate the great strides they have made.
WOODROW TIGHE (?)

This is Woodrow Tighe (?) speaking. I was born in 1903 in Kansas City. Attended high school there and then came to San Diego State College in 1923. I was in 1923 to '27. I later became an architect and practiced in San Diego here for a number of years.

It is quite a change to come out here and see the college as it is today. The year I entered we had a student body of around 4 or 500. And I thought in 1927 it had grown a tremendous growth, up to about 700. Now I come out here to this reunion and it boggles my mind to see the number of people that have gone through the college who had a hand in helping the school grow today to what it is. We never thought in our young days at the college that it would ever be an institution like it is today. It does give my heart quite a bit of consolation to know I did have at least a small part in helping the school become what it has become today.

One thing that I have noticed today, which does give me great pleasure, I have not missed a football game in a number of years. And when I compare what our athletic program and the football games were in the early days to what they are now, it is really a marvelous thing to think how far the school has come in its athletic programs. It never occurred to me that we would ever be up in the big times, but believe me, from what I've seen in the last two years, we are in the big time and we're in there to show them what San Diego State University is.

I think with this little reminiscence I'll call it a day and jog over to somebody else that was along with me in those formative years. Thank you.
CORETTA HANCOCK

This is Coretta Hancock speaking. I was born on May 31, 1906, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. My occupation was teaching school. I finished training in the Teacher's College in '25. I finally got the M.A. in '63. My main campus experience was going with John Hancock, got married in '26, who was an athlete on the campus. Everybody knows John.

I taught in La Mesa and taught in San Diego, La Mesa last. I have one son, John Hancock, Jr., and he is on estimating committees, (?) astronautics, and I am now a widow. John died in 1974. I am living in a condominium now. I sold the large house. And I have two new knees which I am very proud of—one was put in in '77 and one in '78. I'm in good health and I've enjoyed all my years of teaching and all my friends in San Diego. Came here in '14 and I'm still here.

HAZEL MINER PEET

My name is Hazel Miner Peet. My birthdate is September the 14th, 1906. My birthplace was Northgrove (?), Indiana. I was 34 years with the San Diego Gas. I did not graduate. I went there in the year 1925 and in May of 1926 I went to work for my first job. I didn't have any campus experiences (inaudible). I went to the old Normal School on Campus Avenue and I retired with my husband ten years ago and we've had a beautiful retirement of ten years. We have traveled all over the world and my son, Dale Baker, graduated here in 1958 and he was had a most successful life and (inaudible).

I did not graduate because I have a twin sister and (inaudible) I was so happy to be able to quit school in order to take this good job. Because the whole time I was going to school I was so lonesome without her, having had her
all through high school with me. So anyway, we both had good business jobs and
we were both happily married and still happily married. Thank goodness.

RUTH BICKERTON MCNITER (?)

My name is Ruth Bickerton McNiter (?). My birthplace was Salt Lake City,
July 27, 1903. My occupation...well, I had worked (inaudible)...took nurses'
training at the County Hospital in San Diego and then later went into the office
nursing and worked for three or four different doctors over a period of years.
And then after my marriage I discontinued the nursing work and went into business
with my husband in the drycleaning business. And later we sold a moved to
Lakeside where we operated an egg and chicken production business.

My schooling, I started, my grammar school was started at the Brooklyn (?)
School. And in the seventh grade I went up to Normal Grammar School and was there
from 1917 in the Fall and graduated in 1919. Then I went to the San Diego High
School for three years and then moved into Coachella Valley to Thermal in the
Valley and graduated there in 1923.

I seem to be throughout my years more interested in art than most everything
else. And in 1925 I went to the Normal College and took art classes. Then
later, during my later years, I studied art under Alfred Mitchell and Rowland
McNelly and Robert Landry.
GEORGE MERICAN (?)

Well, I'm George Merican (?). I was born June 28, 1909, in the drugstore right across from the old State College. My mother went to that when it was a State Normal School and she taught and she was also a pharmacist. What I'm doing now, when I got out of this place, I worked at the zoo, helped get it started. I worked here, at school of course, doing various things. Got into the National Park Service, worked two years at Carlsbad Caverns. Got out onto a citrus orchard, up in Moor Park, in Ventura County in 1938. We'd been there a year before 1938 and we're there yet. I'm supposed to be retired, but I just can't. I'd rather keep busy and doing something else like that.

My graduation class... I started in 1926 and should have graduated in 1930, but I left out two years there to do other things. Started back with one course with Dean Blake in meteorology when I was working at the zoo, too. Mrs. Benchley let me go to that particular class. So then I went on back to the school to finish up. I finished up in February of 1932. I worked in a prospect hole up in the Laguna Mountains for a year. Then I went back to the zoo. Worked there until 1935 and the fair. Then got married and moved on up into Ventura County.

The picture that you have on one of these folders for the homecoming about the Maypole, I can remember the Maypole dances out there, being right across the street from where I lived I can remember the big auditorium they had up in there that had good wooden seats in it. Dean Peterson taught hygiene in that particular room there. I think Professor Leonard, Dr. Leonard, taught political science in that one. The other classes I took were scattered up and down most of the second story of the building. Started out with a major in mathematics. It got the better of me and I found out I had enough units in geography and I wound up with a major in geography.

Teachers, well, we look back at a lot of them. Some of them are gone now. Theodore Brooks got the geology department started. But it was Miss Sool (?)
who had the geology until he came along. She's now Mrs. Storm, of course. Other
people we can remember—Dr. Crouch for ornithology. Dr. Nasatir for history of
one sort or another. Professor Brown for Spanish.

MARIE CULBERTSON

My name is Marie Culbertson. At the time I started in the Fall of 1930 and
the one semester of squeaky halls, the wooden floors, the long lines of registra-
tion and every time someone moved up in line the floor squeaked. Then when we
moved, it was either ride the bus, a special college bus from the end of the
bus line, the regular bus line, I can't remember the name of the street now.
Anyway, this was completely in the country. If you took the last bus out at
5 o'clock in the afternoon, the coyotes would be howling in the canyons where
the highways and the freeways are now. And if it was rainy weather, which it
was that particular winter, and there were no sidewalks except across, just
from one building to the other, across the campus, you stepped off and the adobe
clung to your shoes until you had more adobe than you had shoes. And that was
the campus at that time.

And then the jackhammers were drilling the hole just outside of the library
to put the water supply in during class time. And it disrupted classes, but
that made no difference—we were pioneers.
FLORENCE MURRAY CARROLL

My name is Florence Murray Carroll. I was born at St. Cloud, Minnesota. I have been a teacher all my life. I graduated from the Normal School in 1925. I always wanted to go to school in California and when I came here I went up to UCLA and because I was from out of state, the tuition was $150, and of course I didn't have any money. Later, someone told me about the Normal School in San Diego. So I came down here and the tuition was $15 a semester. So I wanted to go to school in San Diego. And I told the dean that I had to work my way through school. She asked me if I could cook. And I said I had always helped my mother, but I thought I could cook. And she said she'd like someone to get breakfast, because their son went to San Diego High School and he had to go early. And then they had their breakfast later. I had an 8 o'clock class at the Normal School, so I had to get up early and be ready to get on the little old trolley car that went up to the Normal School. And that's where I spent my semester in San Diego.

I graduated on Friday and went to Garfield School on Monday morning. I had 44 children in the class, 30 of them boys. That was when they had mid-year promotions and they gave the trouble-makers to the new teacher, and I surely got them. Garfield School is on Monroe, 30th and Monroe.

RUTH ELIZABETH DIBBLE (?) BEAUJAIS (?)

My name is Ruth Elizabeth Dibble (?) Beauvais (?) (inaudible)...1895, Eldon, Iowa. Moved to California upon completing my education at the high school, entered the old State Normal School in 1914. Graduated in 1915. There were about 300 students at that time. Therefore, we knew all of our teachers and our teachers knew us.
I can tell many things about the teachers, amusing and otherwise. I have one in particular that makes a complete little story, about Miss Longenecker (?). She was the psychology teacher. She was a dear person, a maiden lady, plump, sweet-faced and appeared to have never, never encountered any of the rough edges of life. And one day she told us about babies, young, newborn babies and their mental attitude. And she said, "To a newborn baby, the world is one big, buzzing, booming confusion." And throughout all these years since then, up to 1978, I think it is not only to babies that the world is one big, booming, buzzing confusion. I think it is to adults and the older we get, the more confusing it is. Miss Longenecker was really much more correct than she realized.

Dr. Spilling was our science teacher. I don't remember much he told me in science, but he himself has remained quite a personality in my life. He was tall, kind of gangling, a little bit like Ichabod Crane in our imagination, kindly. He had one of the kindest faces I have ever seen. He was gentle, compassionate and understanding. And sometimes when we would ask him some idiotic question, he would never put us down in any way. He'd smile his kindly smile and say, "Well, now, there might be something to that, but I wouldn't recommend it."