



Spotlight

**For Alumni
And Friends
Of East High
November 2005**

East's New Multi-Purpose Athletic Field Dedicated

For the past 50 years, very little attention has been given the condition of the outdoor playing surfaces at East High School. The tennis courts had fallen into ruin, the football practice field was full of ruts and weeds and the baseball field was in need of a major overhaul. On Friday, September 2, 2005, East High's new multi-purpose athletic field was dedicated.

This new field, which was constructed at the cost of 1.5 million, is an artificial field and track and will be used by the football team for practice and junior varsity games. However, it will also be used by soccer teams and lacrosse teams. The construction was made possible when the citizens of Denver supported a \$310 million bond issue in November 2003.

In addition, Mountain States Bank contributed \$25,000 for installation of a scoreboard. Mountain States Bank became a neighbor of East High School in 1947. Since then the two have partnered in many endeavors.

Included in the total cost was the revitalization of the baseball and softball fields. New sod was installed as well as a new sprinkler system, and a new infield was built. New fencing around both sports venues helps to beautify the area which had become a picture of disintegrating chainlink fences and weed-filled playing surfaces.

The old tennis courts were demolished and made into additional parking for student cars. The school district has contracted with the city to move the East tennis venue to City Park.

A number of dignitaries were on hand for the dedication ceremony.

Geography Experiment To Challenge Students

In an experiment called "de-tracking," an effort is being made to close the achievement gap between white and minority students at East. The experiment calls for requiring all freshmen to take accelerated geography, regardless of their ability or background.

The tracking system, while it has produced many outstanding students over the years, has been the center of a controversy over what many call the DPS's "in-building segregation." The current breakdown of East's population reveals that 38 percent of the students are African-American, 46 percent are white and 12 percent are Latino. Principal Kathy Callum, who is in her third year at East, made it one of her goals to confront this issue.

"Some classes," she said, were looking like suburban homogeneous white school and some were not. We want every class to be challenging and rigorous. It is not drudgery to me to make classes harder."

She was immediately on board when Keith Lucero, geography teacher, approached her with his idea of requiring all freshmen to take Geography X. The idea was



Principal Kathy Callum spoke and thanked the citizens of Denver for listening to the needs of school children. Similar new fields were also established at Abraham Lincoln and Montbello high schools.

Others on hand were: Mayor John Hickenlooper, new DPS superintendent Michael Bennet, Les Woodward school board president, and Theresa Pena, school board member and alumna of East High.

Mayor Hickenlooper was pleased with the new facilities and reminded those present that exercise is vital for the total well-being of people. He said, "If you play a sport, you learn that there's nothing you can't do." Michael Bennet said, "It's important that taxpayers see the jewels in our community and what's amazing is how all of this came together with the power of cooperation."

The revitalization of East has finally become visible to the community. Besides the construction of

this amazing sports venue, the library renovation program is close to starting. Next summer, attention will be given to improving the Esplanade and cleaning up the walls and the Sullivan statues. Another item included in the tax bond was money to sandblast the entrance of East and to replace the pieces that have broken off the colonnades.

Those who have attended East have their own memories of how beautiful East was from 1924 until the late 1960s. Hopefully, those memories will not just be memories. East started out as part of the "City Beautiful" program under the leadership of Mayor Robert Speer. Several decades later, East is starting to regain some of that original beauty.

Changes Due For The Esplanade

Back in 1919, when the Esplanade was built and the Sullivan statues were erected, East High School was still downtown at 19th and Stout. In the fall of 1925, the new East was dedicated and became an integral part of the history of the Esplanade.

Over the years, the Esplanade has suffered the ravages of time, erosion, drought, vandalism and neglect. Starting spring 2006, the Denver City Park Department is planning to restore the historic Esplanade to its original beauty.

The plan is to tear up the old Esplanade and make the streets narrower, keeping it one lane with no bike lane. This will take away parking spaces on the Esplanade, a popular parking option for students.

Plans also include the planting of grass, flowers and trees along the Esplanade to bring back some of the charm of earlier days. Another goal is to repair the deteriorating Sullivan statues and the fountain, and to clean up the walls along Colfax. No significant work as been done for years on these areas. The target date for completion is 2006.

East has made a major step forward in improving the school site with the construction of the new athletic field, and the cleaning and repairing of the main entrance. Hopefully, a new and improved Esplanade will restore the area to the vision Mayor Robert Speer had in mind when he created the Esplanade and demanded that a stately edifice be built on the loca-

tion as part of his "Denver Beautiful" program.

East Seeks Spot On National Register

In 1991, the Alumni and Friends of East were instrumental in securing Denver Landmark Status for the building. Now, a project is under way to secure a spot for East on the National Register of Historic Places.

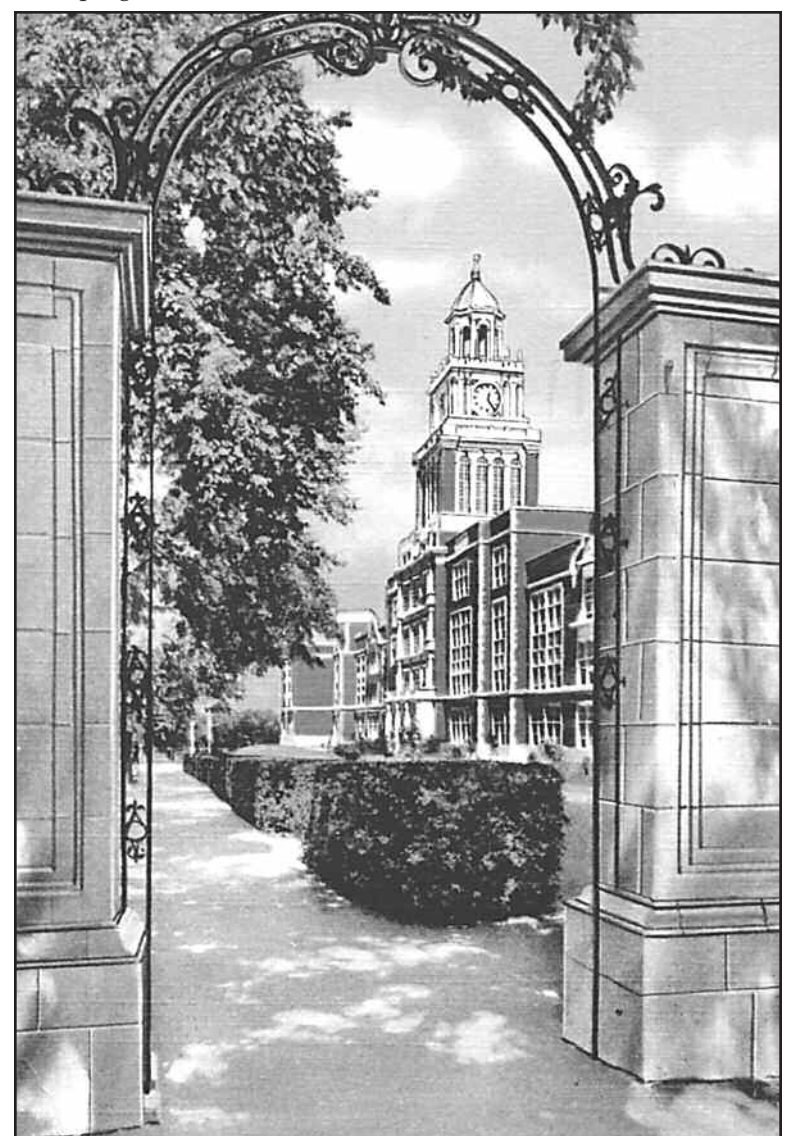
Since the National Historical Preservation act was passed in 1966, 79,000 districts, sites, buildings and historical artifacts have been placed under the protection of the National Register (NR). The Register is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation.

The NR is part of a program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect resources and properties. The NR is administered by the National Park Service which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

There are several approaches in seeking recognition as a National Register site. The committee at East is attempting to make a case that the preservation of East High School is significant for the community, because East has and continues to make a contribution to the overall well-being of the East Colfax community.

The building stands an excellent chance of making the Register on the significance of its architecture alone. However, the committee wants to show how East has been a leader in the educational scene and that its future is tied in directly with the well-being of Denver.

East has been from the beginning an architectural gem and the one significant edifice on East Colfax, with the exception of National Jewish Hospital.



East High Circa 1944

Alumni And Friends Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2005

10:30 a.m. • East High Social Room

Everyone Welcome

2005 Reunions

Every summer, East alums return to Denver and to East High School, in an attempt to remember good times and to renew old friendships. During the summer of 2005, the classes of 1945, 1955, 1965 and 1995 made their way back home.

The Class Of 1945

The Class of 1945 was the first graduating class since the beginning of World War II that did not see the majority of its boys facing military action in Europe or the Pacific.

The group held its 60th reunion June 4-5, 2005. The first activity on the reunion docket was a casual golf event on Saturday, June 4. A heavy rain storm forced the group to stay in the club house. No time was lost however, with remembering and reminiscing.

On Saturday afternoon, several of the group visited the Tower Museum at East High. On Sunday, June 5, the group gathered for a luncheon at Pinehurst Country club.

A total of 128 people attended the Sunday function, which included 86 from the class of 1945. The time was spent remembering the many activities that East High School offered them at the end of a very trying time in American history.

The graduating class of 1945 broke in a new principal, Graham R. Miller, and they said goodbye to Annette Badgley, who taught Latin at East for 39 years. It was a time when there was a good deal of respect for adults. Even Elizabeth Sparhawk, dean of girls, was called the First Lady. Carl Schweiger, longtime successful coach, was the assistant principal. Eugene Schaefer was conducting East bands and orchestras and Violette McCarthy and Fareeda Moorhead were the directors of East's vocal music. It was the year that Mina Murchison gave up leadership of the student council.

Groups like the Seraph Sisters, the Red Jackets and the White Jackets continued their high standards of service. Congress, which started at East in 1890, was still going strong, as was the Minerva Club, an organization for women. Mitzi Tower was heading up the *Spotlight* and Howard Sobol ran the *Angelus*. Dorothy Curtin was the president of the Script Club.

In athletics, the swim team, tennis team and basketball team won the city title and the year was filled with good athletes: Carl Sundgren and Bob Frederic in football; Wayne Smith and Ray Bissell in golf; George Mansfield and Chuck Sheehy in basketball; Jimmy Newcomb in wrestling; Chuck DeMoulin and Hugh Berger in swimming; Joe Silver in tennis; and Dale Berglund in baseball.

Arbor Day was still a time honored tradition and a new tradition was started. After WW II, the United Nations was formed and a local



Official 60th Reunion Committee for the Class of 1945, left to right: Janice Johnson Mansfield, Joanne Vincent Mackay, Alan White, Harold (Puck) Lee, George Mansfield, Richard Oswald and Bob Olds.

UN chapter was started at East. Mrs. Kreiner was still putting on Christmas pageants and training many young people in the skills of public speaking. Dances like the junior and senior proms, Sweetheart dance and homecoming dance were very popular. Howdy Day and Red and White Day were two special events.

Barrie Lorie won the 72nd Woodbury Contest and Janet Schemmel won the Wolcott Sight Reading contest.

The 1945 yearbook is full of wonderful pictures of the building of East and its campus. During this time, the Esplanade was at its full beauty and many of the visiting alums reminisced of lunch hours spent lounging on the Esplanade and the South Lawn.

The Class Of 1955

The class of 1955 graduated from East right in the middle of what many call the greatest decade of East's long and storied history. Over 300 alums gathered for a two-day event to celebrate their 50th reunion. The first activity on the docket was a golf tournament. On Friday, evening the group met at historic Four Mile House for its first gathering of the entire group.

A special part of the evening was an appearance by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper. The mayor delivered a document in which he proclaimed August 19, 2005, to be East High School Day in Denver.

On Saturday the group visited East High School and the Tower Museum. Much of the day was spent roaming the halls in search of old memories. On Saturday evening, the group concluded a very successful reunion with a formal dinner at the Cherry Hills Country Club.

Listening to the alums reminisce about their teachers, names like Justin Brierly, Greg Browning, Bill Koerber, Bill Weimar, Pat Panek, Genevieve Kreiner, Myran Craig, Robert McComas, Ruth Eggleston, Violette McCarthy, Fareeda Moorhead, Jack Beardshear, Larry Garrett, Virginia Stearns, Margaret Smith, John Matties, Harry Charlesworth, Fred Ticen, Morris Hoffman, Lucille Ilgudas, John Brennan, and Regina Desjardins. Many of these legends have

passed on. It was a special moment when Greg Browning appeared at the Saturday night get-together.

Most of the classes of the '50s were blessed with athletic success and the class of '55 was no different. The Angels captured city and state championships in golf, tennis, skiing, gymnastics and swimming. The basketball team went undefeated in league play only to lose a heartbreaker to Manual in the state championships.

Great athletes of 1955 were: Hirsch Barmatz, Clark Boget, Doug Carr, Bill Heidbrink, Norm Harthun, Roger Kinney, Bob Linenberger, Keith Mollohan, Bob Levy, Jay Mills, John Naylor, Roy Pritts, Jim Sheff, Jimmy Vandermiller, and Norman Yabe.

The class remembered those classmates who had passed on but were not forgotten, including the head girl Diane Gorsuch, head boy Tom Inman and the class valedictorian, Vaughn Aandahl. This class had its own Miss America in Marilyn Van Derbur.

The Class Of 1965

When the class of 1965 entered their senior year at East High School, change was in the air. Troops were being sent into Viet Nam, Malcolm X was assassinated and the first African-American (Rachel Noel) was elected to the school board. There was talk about busing to achieve integration in the district. But for all of that, much of the life at East was the same as it had been for decades.

The class of '65 met in Denver the weekend of September 17, 2005, for their 40th reunion. This was another one of the large graduation classes at East, numbering over 600. The group's main function was a cocktail hour and dinner/dance at Coors Field in LoDo. (Continued on next page)

Alumni Scholarship Awards 2005

For the 11th consecutive year the Alumni & Friends of East awarded scholarship dollars to outstanding graduating seniors. This year 15 deserving seniors received awards totaling \$10,000.

Michael J. Wilkerson received the renewable \$1,000 scholarship for 2005. Michael was a remarkable student and contributor to East. In addition to his outstanding academic achievements, Michael excelled in jazz band, speech and tennis. Band director, Keith Oxman, describes him as a terrific musician and a real "difference maker."

Michael was a three year starter for the East tennis team, a repeat city champion and state qualifier, and was named to the All-State Team his senior year. Michael's command of rhetoric and speaking ability contributed to his success on the Constitutional Scholars Team, and qualified him for National Speech Contests and made him the 2005 Woodbury Award winner.

East teachers repeatedly described Michael as, "personally modest, unassuming, determined, well-rounded, with a cheerful yet ambitious disposition." Michael is currently attending Stanford University.

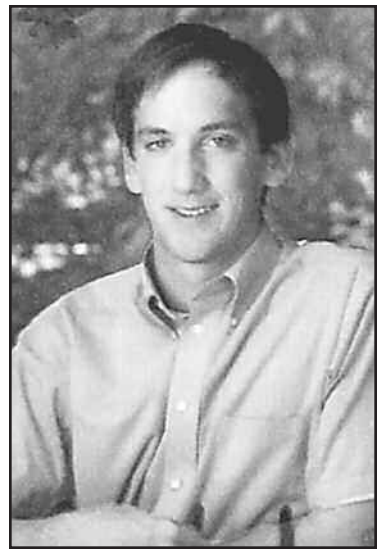
Four additional seniors were awarded one-time \$1,000 scholarships for 2005.

Emily Steiner received the Robert Colwell Award for outstanding achievement. Emily is a well-rounded young woman with a maturity beyond high school years. Among her stated "lessons learned" at East, she included the human lessons as some of the most important — learning to make choices and what "not to do."

Emily is described by her teachers as a born finisher — no matter what she chooses to pursue. She was a leader on and off the soccer field for four years and tutored fellow students at East as well as carrying a rigorous academic schedule. Emily is attending Bucknell College where she plans to major in ethics and biology.

Elias Cornejo received the Price Smith Award for outstanding achievement. Music is Elias' passion, but it is also an excellent metaphor to describe him. Elias is spirited, cultured, upbeat, and unique. East teachers report Eli provides energy, creativity and discipline to the classroom and to his relationships.

In addition to his musical and academic endeavors, Eli was a leader on the soccer team, Latino



Michael Wilkerson

Students United, Jazz Band and National Honor Society. Eli is currently attending Colorado University.

Blake Ritche received the Class of 1953 Award for outstanding achievement. Blake's credits include a passion for learning, love of East High School, history and storytelling. His current goal is to become a history teacher.

Blake's sense of humor, research skills, verbal abilities, creative mind, and writing talents will provide any classroom and all his future students with a great educational experience. Blake is studying history at Western State College.

Brittany C. Page received the William C. Griffith Award for outstanding achievement. As a student at East, Brittany was focused, adept, mature and self-motivated. She was exceptional at conveying her point of view without being overbearing, and good at listening to others but relied on her own values to make decisions.

Brittany describes herself as responsible, dedicated to learning, and excited to step into the new experiences of college. Brittany is in the school of nursing at the University of Northern Colorado.

Ten additional remarkable East seniors were granted \$500 Book Awards: **Charla Agnoletti, Megan Fessenden, Katherine Lind, Kathleen E. M. Mullen, Bethany C. Pae-Danley, Samantha Reimers, Jasmine S. Rowe, Daylynn Royer, Elsa Sakett and Julia Simmons.**

The Alumni scholarship program has awarded over \$70,000 since 1995 when we reactivated the original scholarship trust started in 1925. We are always looking for contributions to our scholarship fund! All donations are tax-deductible.

Camp Hale Named For East Alum

Irving Hale was born August 28, 1861, in Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York. He moved to Colorado with his family at the age of five. He excelled at academics and graduated at the top of his class at East Denver High School when the school was at 19th and Arapahoe. He was one of seven who graduated in the first graduating class from Arapahoe School in 1877.

He was accepted at the Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1880. He attended the Academy for four years, graduating in 1884. His grade point average was the highest in academy records until 1953. He was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. He later taught engineering at West Point.

Irving left the army in 1890 to become manager of the General Electric Company of Denver. He rejoined the army on May 1, 1898, and was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel in the Colorado



Irving Hale

National Guard and later a colonel of the 1st Colorado Infantry Volunteers. His unit was sent to the Philippines in 1898.

Hale was promoted to Brigadier General for his action against Manila. He was wounded in the knee on March 26, 1899, at Meycauyan, and recommended by Brevet Major General for distinguished gallantry in action at Calumpet, Luzon. He was awarded the Silver Star and was honorably discharged on October 1, 1899.

His name became attached to a special mountain division (the 10th Mountain Division) training in the Colorado Mountains for mountain duty in Italy and Germany. Camp Hale, near Leadville, bears his name. He died July 26, 1930, and is buried at Fairmount Cemetery in Denver.

Irving was the first valedictorian of any class at East High School and he belonged to the longest standing organization at East, the Cadets, later to be called ROTC.

**Alumni Association
Membership Renewals
To Be Mailed
In January 2006.**

War Memorial Renovation Update

The War Memorial will be reinstalled by the end of October, with the updated names and additions noted.

2005 OBITUARIES: EAST HIGH ALUMS AND FRIENDS

AL COHEN — was one of the great builders in Denver. He passed away September 30, 2005, at the age of 84.

He graduated from East in 1939, and from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He served in WWII and later earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the California Institute of Technology.

His genius stands all over Denver. He built the Qwest Tower and the Lincoln Center downtown. He refurbished the Daniels and Fisher tower and built several shopping centers, much of the mountain community of Genesee and several of the condominiums at Vail.

He was also instrumental in bringing Dan Ritchie to the University of Denver at a time when the university was on the brink of bankruptcy.



Robert Colwell

ROBERT P. COLWELL — Former East High Principal in the '60s and '70s passed away in his home on October 10, 2004. He was 91.

Bob Colwell was appointed principal at East at the beginning of the 1960 school year. This was the year that George Washington opened, and Sam Waldman, the previous principal, was assigned to head up the new school. Mr. Colwell worked as a teacher and administrator for the Denver Public Schools for 39 years, including 14 as principal at East.

He was known and beloved for his passion for human relations and social justice and for his dedication and vision in experiential learning. He often said that he was most proud of the senior seminar which existed during his tenure at East. His entry into East High School couldn't have come at a more critical time.

Midway through the '60s, time began to change and public schools were right in the middle of the controversy. Viet Nam was on the horizon, school busing to achieve integration was imminent and the assassination of national

leaders was far too commonplace. Such a time required visionary and compassionate leadership. Bob Colwell admirably answered the call. Many believe that Bob Colwell's leadership helped East weather the storms of the '60s and '70s. His willingness to test the waters of educational change will be one of his lasting legacies. At his funeral, Allegra Happy Haynes ('71) spoke about Bob Colwell's ability to try to bring people together in troubling times.

A long-standing member of the United Church of Christ, Mr. Colwell co-founded Camp La Foret. He found challenge and satisfaction on the family ranch near Bailey, Colorado, which many East students and teachers knew from visiting there. His main interests included gardening, fly-fishing and classical music.

Robert Colwell was born April 9, 1914, in St. Louis, Missouri. He grew up in Loveland and earned his B.A. and M.A. at the University of Colorado. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Eleanor Knight Colwell, and his daughter, Penelope Colwell Jensen, and his son, Robert Knight Colwell.

In honor of his service to East, the Alumni Association has decided to pursue the naming of the East High library the Robert Pulliam Colwell Memorial Library. Anyone interested in donating to this project may send contributions to the Alumni and Friends of East 1545 Detroit St. Denver, Colorado 80206.

ROBERT P. HACKSTAFF ('45) — CEO of Frederick Ross Co. for 20 years died at the age of 78. He pioneered the concept of local commercial real estate businesses from around the country affiliating with each other to deal with national companies. His idea became known as ONCOR International. Bob grew up in Park Hill and attended Dartmouth College. With longtime friend and East High colleague, Myron "Micky" Miller, the two joined efforts in the Avondale shopping center on West Colfax.

JULIA JANE SILVERSTEIN RIES: ('27) — The first woman licensed as a landscape architect in Colorado, died July 4, 2005. During her career she was responsible for more than 1,500 private gardens and public projects. Her brother, Harry Silverstein Jr., was chief judge of the Colorado Court of Appeals. She was a major force behind projects at the Denver Botanic Gardens, Civic Center Park, the Governor's Mansion and the Denver Art Museum. In 2005 she was awarded the ASLA medal

Lowenstein Theater Proposal

The St. Charles Town Company is planning a unique urban cultural center on the site of the landmark Lowenstein Theater. The Tattered Cover, Twist & Shout, and the Denver Film Society will be the major tenants with some additional retail and restaurant tenants. The complex will include a seven story parking structure with 315 parking spaces as well as

some ground level parking. The St. Charles Town Company will be seeking state and federal historic designation for the Lowenstein Theater. If all funding is secured, construction will begin in November and the first tenant planning to open will be the Tattered Cover in July 2006. Other tenants will open over time through the following spring.



Proposed Lowenstein Theater Project

from the American Society of Landscape Architects for lifetime achievements.



John Schrant

JOHN SCHRANT — GENEROSITY WAS HIS WAY OF LIFE — The 1970s was a turbulent time. Forced busing to achieve integration of the Denver public schools was in full swing and John Schrant asked to be transferred to East High, where the issues of social integration were being tested to the fullest. John H. Schrant died June 7, 2005, at the age of 89.

John became an ambassador for East High School. He was constantly on the alert for a student who appeared to be suffering from one of any of a number of teenage problems. He would seek the student out and offer him pumpkin seeds. Every fall he would travel to the Greeley area and come back with several pounds of pumpkin seeds which he would process and put into individual bags to be distributed to East High Angels. One of his sons, Tom, said, "He truly loved people and lived that on a daily basis. Dad wasn't a rich guy, but he gave away what he could."

John expanded this philosophy and energy beyond East by volunteering at the downtown Greyhound Bus Station and at Stapleton Airport until it closed. He was an instant friend to any stranger he met and he saw it as his duty to greet newcomers and help them to transition to Denver. He was even listed in some guidebooks as "Big John" — the go-to-guy when you travel to Denver. He often opened his wallet to buy tickets for the desperate, and guided runaways to shelters and halfway houses.

John was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, to a Quaker family. John attended Colorado State Teacher's College in Greeley, on an athletic scholarship. He worked at DPS elementary schools and later became a guidance counselor at Abraham Lincoln. But, it was at East that he really made his mark. Another son, Jim Schrant, said, "He wanted to go to East to see if he could bring people together. He was always willing to go where there was a need. Almost like a firefighter, he saw a fire that needed assistance."

Education was a family enterprise. His love for education and teaching was an inspiration for his family. The family includes his son Jim (recently retired from teaching at North), and his son Andy, an assistant principal at North. He is also survived by sons Ken, Mike and Bob and a daughter Nancy Schrant Lankenau. He was preceded in death by his wife Edith.

PRICE BRYANT SMITH — East has always had the distinction of being a place where teaching legends are made. From the beginning of East's history, great teachers have been a hallmark of any success the school has achieved. Price Bryant Smith takes his place in the history of East as one of those unique educators.

Price died January 11, 2005, after battling cancer. On May 14, 2005, his students gathered at East for a

memorial service and to pay their respects to one who made such an impact on their young lives.

Students who gathered described Smith as a mentor and friend, and one who set high standards for his students. But what they remembered most was the passion and intelligence by which he approached the classic letters and civilizations. He gained the reputation as a wonderful storyteller and his students were known to be well prepared for the AP test in Ancient History. But more than academic success, students learned about the passion for ideas. Happy Haynes, a former student, said that one class she never missed was his. "He dramatized history," she said. "He had that ability of putting you back in time in a different world and on different shores."



Price Smith

Price was born January 28, 1925, in Fort Collins. An orphan for most of his childhood, he joined the Navy during World War II and took part in four invasions in the Pacific theater. When he returned to Denver he graduated from the University of Denver, where he met his future wife Florence. The two of them traveled extensively in Europe, Asia and Africa. He shared the world's culture and civilizations with his students. He helped design and build a Japanese style house in Douglas County.

Price was also a very good artist. Many of his works adorned the walls of his home. He could be counted on to design and construct the elaborate sets required for the all-school musicals at East.

At his memorial students wrote: He inspired us to dig more deeply into subject matter than we ever had before. He made his classes unforgettable and he shared a personal warmth and keen interest in his student's difficulties and aspirations.

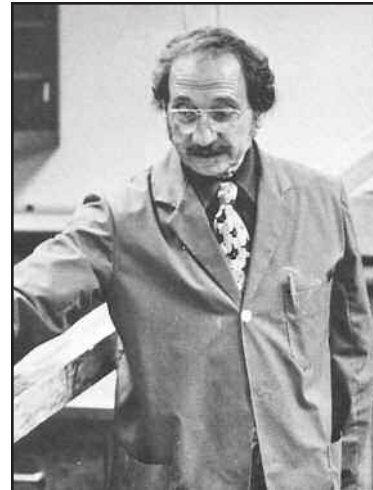
Students who gathered in May have established a memorial fund through the East High Foundation. Tax-deductible contributions will go toward finishing the Library Renaissance project. Checks may be made out to EHAF and noted on the memo line — "Price Smith." Donations can be mailed to EHAF, PO Box 201404 Denver, CO 80220.

DOMINIC ZARLENGO — was known to many at East as "Mister Science." He was a teacher and inventor. He patented dozens of "gadgets" over his lifetime and made science a practical adventure for his students.

His career spanned 40 years. Dominic died October 4, 2005, and is survived by his wife Ginger, his brothers Vincent and Charles. He was the father of four children, had seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

He was an active East booster and was seen at most major dramatic, musical and athletic events at East High School.

He loved demonstrating how the theories of science could be applied to everyday activities and his penchant for the dramatic and the wonder of discovery made him a very successful and popular teacher.



Dominic Zarlengo

2005 Reunions

(Continued from previous page)

In 1965 the athletic teams won four state titles (cross country, track, tennis and basketball), clubs numbered 35, and dances and royalty remained popular. The school was entertained by the magical production of *The Mikado* with sterling performances by Greg Alexander, Connie Miller and Lee Fiser.

Dan Eitemiller was head boy and Leslie Cliff was head girl. Academics were, as always, top flight, led by Harlon Dalton, Chris Hart, Larry Goldhirsch, Betty Smith, Karen Hooker, Annette Cluff, Lynda Watts, Pat Stensaas, and Larry Atkison. Tyler Hall was taking great shots for the *Angelus* and Mikkel Saks and Lynn King-

ston excelled in the Woodbury and Wolcott contests respectively.

On the athletic field, the most prominent names included: Steve Dertinger, Jerry Stevens, Jim Ellis, Bill McMosley, Brent Newton, Lee Omohundro, Paul Springs, Bob Brannon, Marcellus Wallace, Tarry Harrison, and Bill Moss.

The reunion committee was headed up by Dan Eitemiller, Carol Hoffman, Sandi McNatt Nort, Phyllis Drew Pompili and Luther Pomranka.

For information on how to purchase the reunion book published for the event: inquire at Reunions Unlimited at 303-694-1888 or 800-868-7513 or e-mail them at reunionsunlimited@weplanreunions.com.

East History Book On Sale

To Order:

Send check or money order for \$20 plus \$2 for postage and handling.

Make check payable to **Alumni and Friends of East** and send to:

Richard Nelson
112 South Eaton Court
Lakewood, CO 80226

Flights of Angels

A History of
Denver East High School
1874-2004
by Richard Nelson



The History Of Music In Denver

"The location of Denver is rather unique among those pioneer settlements of the country which have developed into large cities. The beginning of a city has usually been due to a strategic position as an ocean port or an inland water way or as terminus or distributing point of a railway system. But Denver, established in 1858, hundreds of miles from any railroad or steamship line, grew into a thriving center for mining and trade, having for many years no communication with the eastern world except for the overland trail for stage."

These were the words written by Malcolm Wyer in 1927 in an article entitled: "Development of Music in Denver and Colorado," and published in *The Lookout*, a publication of the Denver Public Library. It appears, however, that many of the early settlers were men of education and culture. It would not be long before music was introduced into the territory. The opening of the Tabor Grand Opera House on September 1, 1881, was an important event in Denver's musical history.

Public school music in Denver has had a long and creditable story. It is fortunate that in the early years it had unusual leadership. Dr. Frank Damrosch, who founded The Juilliard School (known as the Institute of Musical Art) in 1905, was conductor between 1882 and 1885 of the Denver Chorus Club. In 1884, he began service at East High School (Old East). From these early beginnings a program was started at East that remains to this day one of the more popular and success-



Violette McCarthy

ful enterprises.

When public schools were first organized in Denver, music was not even a part of the original curriculum. In fact, at Arapahoe and Denver East Side Schools, no auditoriums were constructed for the purpose of music or drama. School was thought to be purely an academic enterprise.

John Clark Kendel, director of music in Denver and for a short

time at East, wrote: "The schools should be a place where an attempt is made to create a great army of intelligent music lovers, who shall constitute that vast audience, which shall listen to the great artists of tomorrow. What of tomorrow? Experience has shown that children can be taught to play musical instruments. The day will dawn when children will be taught to play musical instruments in the public schools at State expense. The State trains lawyers to maintain civic peace, doctors for physical well being. Why should it not prepare those who minister to our aesthetic sense?"

What really put music on the map in Denver and at East High was the presence of Wilberforce Whiteman. Mr. Whiteman spent some time as music director for the West Side (District Two) and was eventually appointed supervisor for all Denver schools in 1904. He began to work with East students in 1904. Ironically he was not hired as a staff member on the East faculty until 1919. He retired from service in 1923, but in that

Instrumental Teachers

Wilberforce Whiteman
Kenneth Gorsline
Roland Roberts
Eugene Schaefer
Kay Shadwell
Vincent Tagliavore
Jack Bailey
Neil Bridge
Gerald Noonan
Scott Springer
Brian Whittle
Doug Bushnell
Keith Oxman

Vocal Teachers

Nannie Dodge Smith
Frank Damrosch
Walter Arundel
Wilberforce Whiteman
Fareeda Moorhead
Violette McCarthy
Marion Padboy
June Sinnard
James Guinn
William Taylor

Proud Academic Tradition

The National Bicentennial competition on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights was a five-year educational program (1987-1991) honoring the 200th anniversary of the fundamental documents that are the basis for American democracy and freedom. Because the competition offered such an outstanding learning opportunity, it was extended by Congress as the "We the People...The Citizen and the Constitution" in 1992.

Each year since 1987, classes of students in all 50 states have participated in intense programs of study on democratic philosophy, the history and principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the establishment of the American government, rights and responsibilities of American citizens and how principles embodied in the Constitution have shaped American institutions and practices. Students must demonstrate their ability to articulate in-depth knowledge on every area of the Constitution, Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment and to produce persuasive proof for any position they take.

Competitions take place at the Congressional District level, the State level and the National level. The competitions are modeled on congressional hearings. In 2005, 50 states and the District of Columbia competed for the coveted National Champion title.

East has represented the State of Colorado in this rigorous national competition **16 times and 12 of those times East has placed in the top 10.** American History teacher Sheila Feeney introduced the program and competition in 1987 and East placed sixth in the nation!

East took a year off from the competition and the following year Dr. Deanna Morrison took on the work and joy of leading an East High class to the national competition. When Dr. Morrison retired from teaching, with nine straight state titles — **including one year as National Champions in 1992** — Ms. Edna Sutton stepped in and continued the East tradition. Under the coaching of Ms. Sutton, East has continued to represent Colorado as **State Champions for the past six consecutive years.**

The secret to East's success is very committed students, good teaching and great support from the school and community. Students who participate in this program commit to do extra work on weekends and evenings, to do better work than they have ever done before, in many cases, and to work as a team.

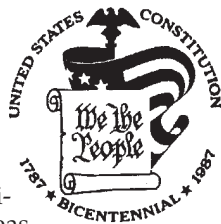
This is no "quiz bowl." It is oral questioning and discussion by demanding judges who are college professors, government policy makers, justices and judges from state and federal judicial offices. Historical knowledge combined with understanding, supportive evidence, and the ability to make application to modern day situations, events and issues are the norm.

Students participating in the We the People program report it was the most significant experience they had in high school. Many find their passion and go on to be political science majors or enter the law. The Constitutional program has "real life" impact.

The Center for Civic Education in California has been tracking

student participants since 1988. The results showed significantly increased civic responsibility of participants. Constitutional competitors are more active in college and local governments, demonstrate more community involvement, take more leadership roles, and have greater voter participation.

We are proud of all the East participants for their commitment and work and all those adults who encourage and help make this level of thinking and learning possible! We wish the current East Constitutional Scholars Team good luck in this year's competitions! We hope you will be in Washington, D.C. in the spring of 2006!



Keith Lucero Puts Geography On The Map

In 1992, Keith was in charge of staff development for the southwest Denver area, when Linda Matarrese, longtime history teacher at East, called him and asked him to come to East and teach geography.

It would not take Keith long to become one of the more popular and respected teachers in the building. His geography classes were in great demand, partly because the University of Colorado had started requiring geography credits from its entering freshmen, but mostly because Keith has a special knack of relating to kids.

"I see geography as a visual learning experience," he said in a recent interview. "I guess it appealed to me because I am also a visual learner." His classes are well-known for his emphasis on hard work and serious study. "Geography is a lot of hands-on work with projects and group based activities. I compare the study of geography to the study of algebra. In algebra you are taught how to think in the concrete and to develop the skills that will en-



1912 Girls' Chorus Club with Mr. Whiteman

time he left his stamp on music in Denver.

While at East he organized a Girls Chorus, a Boys Glee Club, a Male Quartette, and Jazz Band, and a Mandolin Club. Later on, he doubled up as the director of the Orchestra as well. A constant companion in the early days was his son Paul Whiteman, who graduated from East and went on to achieve fame in the Big Band era. Mr. Whiteman was convinced that school not only trained the mind (thus the creation of lawyers, teachers, doctors and scientists) and the body, but the training of the soul as well. Music was, he believed, one of the best ways to achieve this goal.

Since Wilberforce's departure, East has had the fortune of hiring some of the best music talents to lead the music program at East. Following Mr. Whiteman was Fareeda Moorhead and Melvin Payne. Miss Moorhead achieved the same legendary stature as Mr. Whiteman. Alumni groups from the '40s, who revisit East, recall the influence she had on their lives. From this time on, the vocal and instrumental programs became separate programs.

Glee clubs vanished from the scene, but girls and boys chorus continued. The Angelaires came into existence and quickly became the elite singing group at East.

The orchestra, over the years has suffered from the lack of large numbers of players, especially in the string sections. Not as many children take lessons on the violin, viola and cello as they once did.

The jazz band remains one of the strongest music programs at East and has turned out some outstanding jazz artists including, Ed Lenicheck ('38), Stan Koshi ('67), and Ron Miles ('81), to name a few.

One of the strongest programs in the '30s, '40s and '50s was the East High marching band. The band, sometimes over a 100 strong would march at halftimes of the football games and were known for their homecoming productions. During the '70s, lack of participation in this endeavor and the tightening of budgets forced the Denver high schools to drop marching band. If an Angel wants to be in a marching band, he or she must join the All-City Marching band.

The debate over music in the schools will always be a debate between those who believe that schools should be strictly an academic experience and those who believe that music is an integral part of the development of a young person. Whenever school districts are in a budget crunch and are looking for ways to cut expenses, the music program becomes a prime target.

East Library Renaissance Project

Yes, the East Library Renaissance Project is under way. An architect has been hired and has been working diligently to produce the actual costs of the project and at the same time working on each of the individual project pieces. We have raised approximately 80 percent of the planning budget of \$367,555 and continue to work on fundraising. One of the wonderful contributions to our project is free flooring provided by Larson Distributing Company, a company owned by an East parent. Our plans are focused on an end of July 2006 completion date. If you have any questions about this historic project please call Kathleen Butler at 303-733-3616.



Keith Lucero

able you to think in the abstract in high levels of math. The same is true of geography. Perhaps if students find success and develop solid skills in geography, they will better handle classes in government, history, psychology, sociology and the like."

Keith attended the University of Denver and graduated with a B.A. in 1982. He is currently working on his masters in geography. He has served the district for 24

years, starting first at Smiley and later at Lake Middle School.

Keith has made news recently when a longtime dream of his has come to fruition. "I was tired of teaching all of these bright kids in Geography X and being the only minority in the room. Far too many students, who have yet to develop strong educational skills, were languishing in a regular social studies class without being challenged. I believe it is time to start challenging these kids to work harder. I truly believe that a student will live up to high expectations of them," stated Keith.

Keith approached the East administration with the idea of requiring Geography X for every freshman. Mrs. Callum, herself a graduate of East, was eager to implement some program that would reduce the achievement gap of minority students at East.

Keith Lucero is passionate about his subject, rigorous in his demand for academic work and interacts well with young people. The Alumni and Friends of East salute this fine educator.

2006 REUNIONS

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