



## Herm Stauss Class of 2009

Herm Stauss was a skilled man who brought many positive things to Oroville High School, but more importantly he was blessed with the ability to insure that they remained as part of the campus itinerary.

As a youth in Southern California, Herm graduated from North Hollywood High School. He compiled a perfect attendance record during those four years. He advanced to Santa Barbara College (now the University of California at Santa Barbara) where he played football and was a sprinter and middle distance runner on the track team. In '40, he won the Most Valuable Player award during the Gauchos championship football season.

He graduated from Santa Barbara College in '45 with a teaching degree in Industrial Arts. He served in the Navy before taking a teaching position at OHS.

He arrived in Oroville in '47 and retired in '79. During his tenure at the Bridge Street campus, Herm taught woodshop, print shop, leather crafts, math and physical education.

But his more widely known work as a high school educator came on the athletic fields where Herm coached cross-country, JV football, track and golf.

Early in his teaching career, as an assistant track coach to Hugh Harrison, Herm helped with the popular Oroville Relays. Later he was instrumental in maintaining the springtime event from the early '50's through the late 70's. During his retirement year in '79, the relays were renamed for Herm, and they remained the Herm Stauss Relays until they ceased to exist in '96.

Herm's efforts as a coach and organizer in track and field earned the Oroville community the prestigious honor of hosting the CIF State Track Meet at the old Harrison Stadium in '72.

Herm was promoted to Athletic Director at OHS and was named Eastern Athletic League AD of the year in '78-'79. In '96 Herm was chosen the North Section CIF Honored Coach in track and field.

During his term as Athletic Director, Herm was instrumental in seeing that the OHS girl's interscholastic sports program was restarted after decades of absence.

One of those who brought the proposal to Herm was teacher/coach, Liz Coleman. She said, "Herm had a great deal of knowledge, and was ever willing to guide us as we built the girl's program. He was well respected among the other coaches and athletic directors which greatly facilitated our dealings with other schools within our league. Herm allowed me to coach without any of the hassles of administering the programs, and was always a joy to work with."

A former student, Bob Sharp, said, "He was an informative, knowledgeable and motivational coach. Under Herm Stauss' guidance and influence, I became a better athlete and person. Now that I am older, I truly can understand just how good a coach and leader he really was."

Herm and his wife, Rosie, were both teachers/coaches at OHS and their two children also graduated from the school. Hopefully they will soon see the return of the Herm Stauss Relays at the new Harrison Stadium.