

Morrow Steadman Class of 2010



Morrow Frederick Steadman was a 1928 Oroville High School (OHS) graduate who served his country during WWII as an Army officer and became a successful attorney. He is best known for his part in planning, organizing and constructing Oroville's most outstanding and long-lasting landmark: the Block O on Table Mountain.

Morrow and his brother, Ernie, along with a group of OHS classmates worked for three months to construct the Block O. Morrow and Ernie borrowed a Model T truck from their dad's ranch to haul the cement and water to the base of the trail leading to the work site on Table Mountain. From there, the building materials were loaded on the backs of the varsity football team and other volunteers. As they climbed the steep trail stooped over under their heavy loads, they had to contend with the elements and the occasional rattlesnake. In all, the boys hauled 108 105-pound bags of cement, 12,000 bags of sand and gravel, and 4,000 gallons of water. The only casualty from this Herculean feat was a borrowed pack horse. After mixing the ingredients at the work site, they poured the concrete in sections around automobile axles, which they had driven into the ground to prevent the O from sliding downhill. When volunteer participation began to slack off before the project was finished, Ernie arranged for girls to serve a picnic lunch at the site. The volunteers returned in force and completed the project in April of 1929. They dedicated the Block O in June, christening it with a bottle of champagne and a rousing speech.

Morrow was an excellent student and graduated a semester early in 1928. He excelled at football and started on the varsity team all four years at OHS. He was the team captain in 1928. In addition to athletics, he participated in student government, yearbook staff, and theater productions. He also joined the Boy Scouts and was the first local boy to earn Eagle Scout rank.

After graduating from OHS, Morrow enrolled in the University of California, Berkeley to prepare for law school. As a college athlete, he played water polo and competed on swim teams. He graduated in 1932 with a bachelor's degree. He then enrolled in Hastings Law School and graduated in 1936.

During World War II, Morrow served over three years in the US Army. He was assigned to the Judge Advocate's Office in Atlanta, Georgia and attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

After the war, Morrow returned to Oroville and entered into private practice as an attorney and served thirteen years as an Assistant District Attorney. He performed community service, which included serving as Oroville Rotary Club president, County Fair board member, OUHSD board member, president of Butte County Employee Association, Red Cross chapter chair, Boy Scouts troop leader, St. Paul's Episcopal Church volunteer, and Community Girl's Swim Team coach.