

# Senior Rock

## Senior Rock

The original rock was excavated from the original Revere High School foundation, it was too big to haul away so they placed it on the corner of Revere and Everett Roads. It received its first paint job shortly after the school opened. In 1968, however, students did not stop at painting the rock and began to paint the school as well. In response, the school board ordered the rock removed so a hole was dug and the rock was buried. But mysteriously a new rock reappeared. Several seniors from the class of '68 got a truck with a crane and transported a rock from Canton to Revere. Administration threatened to haul the new rock away but a petition by the students saved the rock. Today the painting of the rock continues!

September 27, 1968

## Senior rock has quite a past



The senior rock has a new look this year. It is the look of 1969! Its last paint job was a white background with red letters, the letters reading "Seniors Unite."

The rock has been passed down to the junior class every year by the senior class, and it is now in the possession of the class of '69. The rock had been taken away for a period of time before last year.

Fortunately, the seniors of 1968 decided to do something about it. A truck was used to haul the three ton rock from Canton to Revere. The cost of this adventure was approximately \$30.

At this time the administration threatened to have it hauled away. A petition was drawn up and circulated for all interested students to sign. There were also various signs posted letting the administration know that the students meant to keep the senior rock.

An agreement was reached, and it was decided that the students could keep the rock if it were moved to a more desirable location.

Our rock fell victim to many pranksters this past summer. This was partly due to an article about it in the *Akron Beacon Journal*. Many times it was repainted by students from other schools. So, you see, it has become an object of local fame.

This year's senior class plans on taking exceptional care of the rock, and it is hoped that the junior class will do so next year. In doing this, our slogan must be "Seniors Unite!"

Revere Lantern

March 18, 1988

## Mystery of the rock finally uncovered

by Argie Manolis

Many Revere alumni have fond memories of carting paint buckets to school in the middle of the night.

Why? They were on a common mission that was once frowned upon painting the rock in front of the school.

The original rock came with the school lot and received its first paint job soon after Revere opened.

In 1968, however, students stopped limiting the paint to the rock and began painting the building as well.

"The school

board dug a hole in the ground and buried the rock," history teacher Mr. David Dickson recalled.

Soon a new rock magically appeared in its place. Puzzled, boardmembers attempted to discard it with no luck. Obviously, the frustrated school board finally gave up.

Twenty years later, '68 graduate Chuck Columbes revealed those involved as Andy Shieswehl, Robby Zimmerman, Dave McGary, and himself.

"Andy had a friend through his father's business who was able to get us a

crane. We did it in the middle of the night and were never caught," explained Chuck.

He added that he wasn't sure if the same rock stands there today.

"At one point,

they buried it. I don't remember any details, though," Chuck concluded.

Perhaps no one will ever remember the real story, but Revere's rock has been around for at least twenty years.



The rock with layers upon layers of paint is pictured





## Senior Rock

# School symbol represents pride Decoration of rock provides outlet

BY PAUL HOLT

Pride for one's school is an important part of the high school experience. Each school varies in how students express this spirit. Whether painting their faces in school colors for a sporting event, going as a class on a field trip, or participating in a student-run activity such as the newspaper or announcements, many ways exist for students to let their pride shine. Though most of these activities have been around for many years, the oldest tradition in which a Revere student can take part is the painting of the Rock, a symbol of spirit ever since the construction of the Revere High School building.

The Rock is a public display of Revere student spirit. Since the first graduating class of 1952, the Rock has sat in front of the school. Even after its removal due to vandalism in 1968, four students hauled another rock all the way from Canton to replace the old one. The Rock has remained an unwavering representation of the students' pride for their school and has withstood the ever-changing school atmosphere.

While digging the foundation for the building, the landscaping crew happened upon a rather large rock. Removal of this rock could prove costly, so instead the crew placed it at

the corner of the school's property. Decorating the Rock became a more common way to express school spirit in 1954. As

carted away. One piece could not be broken easily, so [the Superintendent] had it buried."

Not all hope was lost

Columbes replaced the Rock. Students have addressed that they placed as "the Rock" ever since.

Columbes explained in this article that Schiesswehl had access to heavy moving equipment through a friend from his father's business. He and the other boys placed the new rock "in the middle of the night and were never caught."

Though the Rock may have an interesting history, it would seem like nothing extraordinary without the effort of these students. They treated a normal object into an expression of Revere students' spirit and pride for their school.

Revere alumnus Jim Goddard may be one of the few people to have painted both the original rock and the rock that stands outside the school today. Goddard painted the first rock

**"Painting the Rock was a great way to show the school pride [students] had without vandalizing or defacing other schools. I also liked getting to paint the Rock in the middle of the night. It was like breaking the rules, except you couldn't get in trouble for it."**

--RHONDA LARSON

a continuously occurring activity for students who attended Revere High School, eventually students from other schools in the area started taking part in the trend of painting Revere's rock. Rumor has it that at one point the Rock may have been repainted as many as three times in one day.

By the summer of 1968, the situation had become quite chaotic and the school fell victim to vandalism.

In response to all the mischief, the Superintendent got rid of the Rock, along with the hundreds of coats paint students had tirelessly brushed upon its surface.

According to the November 1977 issue of the Bath Community News and Calendar, "The Rock [was] broken into little pieces and

for the Rock, however. Revere students brought a new rock from Canton to replace the old rock and reignite the students' spirits.

According to the article "Mystery of the Rock Finally Uncovered" in a 1998 issue of *Lantern*, Revere alumnus Andy Schiesswehl, Robby Zimmerman, Dave McGary, and Chuck



Students utilize the rock as a way to show school spirit.



# Senior Rock

## Long history of student pride Let for students' Creativity, spirit

during his years at Revere High School as a student. His painting of the second rock took place in August of 1994, when he painted the new rock to welcome his daughter to RHS. He even put forth an effort to raise the old rock.

"In 2003, I started a drive to 'Raise the Rock' for Revere's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I had Jim Ruhlin—now president of Ruhlin Construction—all lined up to volunteer to do the work. Unfortunately, the administration had deaf ears for my cause," Goddard said.

Not all students have had the opportunity to paint both the new and old rock. Kimberly Holleran, however, did get the chance to paint the new rock before moving to Louisiana for the last years of her high school career.

"I was glad I was able to leave a

little mark on Revere just before I left, it made leaving a bit easier. [Painting the Rock] was the last time I saw quite a few of my good

friends from school, so it's a memory I truly treasure," Holleran said.

school pride [students] had without vandalizing or defacing other schools. I also

the painting of the Rock has been accepted as tradition, and not considered vandalism as it

was so many years ago. Heyn said he does not mind if students paint the Rock, as long as painting starts and ends with the Rock. Throughout the history of Revere High School, students have used the Rock as a creative outlet to express pride for their school. With



Alumnus Rob MacKay recalled painting the Rock during his senior year. He felt like a part of Revere history after laying down his contribution—his coat of paint.

"I really felt like I was in the home stretch of my high school career after painting that rock. Painting the Rock is almost like a right of passage as a student preparing to graduate from Revere," MacKay said.

Alumna Rhonda Larson thinks of painting the Rock as a constructive way to bolster school spirit.

"Painting the Rock was a great way to show the

each coat of paint lies another nostalgic story of students lugging buckets, brushes and spray cans to that same spot to show that they were there. Each student who painted it leaves their high school career behind with a triumphant tale of how they left their mark in Revere history and the Rock.

liked getting to paint the Rock in the middle of the night. It was like breaking the rules, except you couldn't get in trouble for it," Larson said. Even social studies teacher and coach Phil Heyn has fond memories of the Rock. Earlier in the year, he began researching for the football team to compile a history of past accomplishments, and he became intrigued by the history of the Rock as his research continued.

"Being a graduate and having painted it, I was interested in the Rock's history" Heyn said.

Ever since the placement of the newest rock,

each coat of paint lies another nostalgic story of students lugging buckets, brushes and spray cans to that same spot to show that they were there. Each student who painted it leaves their high school career behind with a triumphant tale of how they left their mark in Revere history and the Rock.

Cover art  
and graphic  
by Jack Ciolli



PHOTO BY PAUL HOLT