

A HISTORY OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,
SERVING THE SOUTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY SINCE 1937

Written by
Carleen Riemen Laurentz, Class of 1946



1700 Dumble
Houston, Texas 77023-3195
(713) 923-7751

Jose Trevino, Principal
1998

4/4
p

O it's Au-stin Hi, our Au-stin Hi, with the ban-ner we all

love. It can win the test a-bore all the rest, for our ban-ner waves a-

bove; so we'll stand and sing & let our voi-ces ring, for it's Au-stin Hi we

(stand up)

Love. O we're proud so we'll fight for our boys with all our might Austin Hi, Austin Hi, Green

white.

A HISTORY OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, SERVING THE SOUTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY SINCE 1937

The continued growth of Houston during the 1930's necessitated more school construction. A new east side high school was needed to relieve ten year-old Milby. A location at Jefferson and Dumble was selected. The site was owned by the Houston School District. The school was to be funded with the aid of PWA funds. Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States, and he had set up many programs like the Public Works Administration to give people jobs during the Depression. Many older schools in Houston needed repair, and new ones needed to be built. Plans were made for Lamar Senior High on the west side, Austin Senior High on the east side, plus three brand new elementary schools - Roberts, Looscan and Southmayd.

September 20, 1937 was an exceptional date for the Houston Independent School District. Superintendent E. E. Oberholtzer proudly announced the opening of five new schools, making a total of 110 school buildings to accommodate the 73,503 students who enrolled. In 1937, James V. Allred was governor of Texas, and R. H. Fonville was mayor of Houston. Infantile paralysis (polio) was one of the major concerns of parents. The fourth iron lung had been added to the county hospital, and City Health Officer Dr. John W. Bryan urged teachers to be alert for signs of illness among their pupils.

One of the new schools opening its doors for the first time in 1937 was Stephen F. Austin Sr. High. Located in southeast Houston, Austin was a modern three-story structure of red brick trimmed with Texas limestone, built on a 13 acre campus at a cost of \$521,000. Austin had 44 classrooms, a large auditorium, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, a swimming pool, a library, sewing, cooking and home economics rooms and administrative offices. It had science labs and a shop for industrial arts training which were the largest and best equipped in the city.

The architects for Stephen F. Austin were M. J. Sullivan, Birdsall P. Briscoe and Sam H. Dixon, Jr. of Houston. The contractor was Southwestern Construction. The complete cafeteria equipment was installed by General Hotel Supply Co. The Public Works Administration granted \$16,846 for improving the grounds, to which the Houston Board of Education added \$13,680 in order to fill in with 19,000 cubic yards of soil.

Mr. George A. Loescher, Austin's first principal, had been busy all summer, putting together a first-rate faculty and staff. Mr. H. A. Johnson was vice principal; Mrs. Pauline M. Crouch was dean; registrar was Mrs. Edith Breeding; and Mrs. M. V. McDougal was secretary. The teachers were: English - Hogan, Harrison, Jones, McLean, Phillips, Edis Smith, VanTuyl and Waggamon; Speech - Andrews; Math - McDaniel, Dailey, Daugherty, Funchess, Rawson, Roy, Ulmer and Willis; History - Lallier, Andrews, Dick, Greenhill, Potter and Tribble; Commercial - Watson, Burk and Soncrant; Science - Gates, Eckman, Funchess, Lytle and Summers; Foreign Language - Boxley, Dawson, Dilworth and Spampinato; Music - Sims and Spampinato. John Scott was the first football coach. He had 65 players on the first Austin team. Their opening game was

held on Friday, September 17, 1937 with Galveston's Ball High. The score was 20 - 7 in favor of the more experienced team. The school colors were green and white. The mustang was selected as the mascot. The Round-Up was to be the name of the school newspaper and The Corral was designated to be the school yearbook.

Austin won the city championship in volleyball that first year. An ROTC and a National Honor Society was organized. In addition, extra-curricular activities included Mustang Mounties (horseback riding), Wahoo Whoppers (history club), Bar Nothing (civics club), Debate, Sub Debs, Commercial Club, Orchestra, Band, Choral Music, Latin, French and Spanish Clubs, the Dolphin Club (swimming) and the Interscholastic League. The Mustang Boosters appeared at sports events with a real live Stevie in tow with his keeper. Mrs. F. F. Roth served as president of the first Parent-Teacher Association. There were 224 graduating seniors in 1938.

The school year 1937 - 38 brought the establishment of another well known group - the Scottish Brigade. Austin High School was named for the "Father of Texas," Stephen Fuller Austin, who was a scotsman. Miss Beatrice Lytle organized a girls' drill team to represent Austin. It was named the Scottish Brigade, and 120 industrious teen-aged girls began practicing during the summer of 1937. They marched through the streets of Broadmoor. Relatives, friends and neighbors came out to watch. The girls collected donations from businesses and supportive individuals to buy uniforms. It was decided to have green coats with white belts, plaid pleated skirts, white leggings, and hats with a green feather. Lee Dell Barker modeled the first uniform. She was paraded through the halls of Austin for all the students and teachers to see. Martha Jo Hulcy was chosen to be major; Bernice Evans was captain of the drill corps; Lee Dell was captain of the drum and bugle corps; lieutenants were Wanda Roberson (flags), Robyn Moncrief (drums), Annie Stanford (bugles), Dot Lemke (Company A), Ella Burndrett (Company B), Wenono Fay Herly (Company C). The Brigade's first public appearance in full dress uniform was in downtown Houston for the Armistice Parade November 9, 1937. They also performed at Austin's football games, the Shriners' Ball, the Rodeo Parade, and they soon became noted for their scottish dances, precision drills and snappy musical cadence. Bagpipes from Scotland were ordered, and when the girls learned to play them, the bagpipes added a unique charm to Brigade performances.

Except for a few changes, the Austin faculty remained the same during the first decade. The school song, "Austin High," was introduced. These were war years, and many students and ex-students joined the military services. Miss Evelyn McGinty (History and Latin) was the first Austin teacher to go overseas. She went with the Red Cross to England. Students who stayed in school helped with the war effort, too. They bought enough government stamps and bonds to buy three jeeps. A service plaque of 639 names was made to honor students and teachers serving in World War II. The 1943 - 1944 war yearbook The Pony was very small due to shortage of materials and money. Quill and Scroll for creative writers was added to the growing list of organizations. 1940 put the athletic department on top with a winning football team. The Mustangs went to the state playoffs. The ROTC was awarded first place in city-wide federal inspection.

The rifle team held high rank. The Mustang Band won honors in state and national competition. In 1946, the Austin Track Team were state champs.

Mr. George A. Loescher was an able leader for this new east end high school. As Austin's first principal, he wanted to establish good traditions. Mr. Loescher wished Austin to be more than a seat of learning. He desired it to be a center of many happy associations among students, teachers and parents. With its picnics, proms, football games, Brigade, Band, Chorus, plays, elections, clubs, classes and homework a "spirit" was created. Mr. Loescher brought to Austin High School his talent for coordinating everything, giving respect to all and showing his faith in these young Americans. He believed that the proper role of the faculty and staff was to guide the students through teaching and counseling into studying their subjects carefully and to thoughtful consideration of the problems that confronted them so that they would make wise decisions. George Loescher hoped that Austin High School would influence the minds and personalities of its students to the extent that they would, in all the years ahead of them, enrich the lives of others.

By 1947, the faculty had grown to 55. The office staff was Miss Annie Laurie Howard, registrar; Mrs. Pauline Crouch, dean; Mr. James Goettee, assistant principal; and Mrs. Maxine Branard, secretary. There were 285 seniors. The clubs and activities included Mustang Boosters (the largest); National Honor Society; Student Council; Gavel Club; La Directiva; Green Masque Players; Band; Orchestra; Chorus; Hospitality Club; Rolling Ponies; Mustang Mounties; Sub Debs; Round-Up; Corral; Mauryne's Moronicos Muchachos; Linguae Latinae; Hi-Y; Fire Patrol; Nurse's Aides; Radio Club; Y-Teens; Office Assistants; Library Assistants; Greenhill's Split-Period Half-Wits; Ruthie's Rough and Ready Rowdies; Willie's Worry Warts; Greenhill's Goofy Government Goops; and Safety Patrol. These students had a sense of humor. There were lots of opportunities for participation and these active teenagers were joiners. In addition, Austin had football, cheerleading, basketball, track, baseball, swimming, ROTC, Scottish Brigade, volleyball, tennis and archery. The busy Austinites contributed food and clothing to the Friendship Train.

In 1948, W. E. Moreland was superintendent of HISD and J. O. Webb was assistant superintendent. Austin High School had 24 mid-term graduates that year, and 340 graduating seniors in May. The senior dance was held in the beautiful Crystal Ballroom of the Rice Hotel. The senior picnic was at Lyondell Park, and the traditional Aloha Prom to say good-by to the seniors was held in the Austin Gym. Students danced to the music of Glenn Miller, Harry James, Woody Herman, Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey. Frank Sinatra was a popular singer. Teenaged girls wore penny loafers or saddle shoes and bobby socks. Truett Airhart was senior class president and Carol Flanders was Best All-Round Girl. The coaching staff was Hartung, Dowling and Scott. The Brigade ordered a new plaid for their kilts. The brigadiers put on the "Brigade Follies." The Mustang Band won top honors at the Conroe Music Festival.

In 1949, Mr. A. E. Kotrola joined the coaching staff. Mr. Goerge Loescher died and Mr. James Goettee was named principal of Austin High School. Mr. Pete Dowling was named assistant principal. The 1949 Corral was titled "The Dream Book," and was dedicated to Mrs. Charline Potter, a well-liked history teacher. There were 340 seniors. In 1950, a new wing was added to the original building. It included a girls' gym, and music and art classrooms. There were also new drafting rooms, another biology lab and new second floor classrooms.

Mr. Goettee continued the traditions of Austin High. Mr. Goettee was a graduate of Sam Houston State University. He had been a teacher in Trinity and Waller Counties, and was superintendent in Spring. Mr. Goettee received his Master of Education at the University of Texas in 1937. He was a teacher and principal at Oates Prairie. By going along in his quiet and understanding way, Mr. Goettee helped many students. He was never too busy to listen to their problems. Mr. Goettee made it plain that each student was important to him.

In 1951, there were 112,000 students in HISD. Austin, along with students from all over the district, participated in the first A-Bomb drill. A boys' volleyball team was organized. The boys' coaching staff was Joe Lyle, Jake Alexander, A. E. Kotrola and John Scott. In 1952, the Brigade, the Band, the ROTC and many Austin students traveled to Austin, Texas for a football game with the Austin Maroons. The score was Mustangs 14, Maroons 0. Out-of-town victories are very sweet. The 1952 yearbook was dedicated to Miss Adele Waggamon, a well-liked English teacher. Miss Waggamon was a member of the original faculty at Austin. She was a graduate of Rice Institute and taught at Sam Houston High School before coming to Austin. She sponsored the Bowling and Square Dance Clubs.

In 1953, the school enrollment for HISD was 113, 294. Miss America of 1953, Neva Jane Langley, of Macon, Georgia, visited Austin High School in December. During the 1954-55 school year, the Austin football team again went to the state playoffs. In the last game with Abilene for the state championship, Austin lost in the final minutes. What a heartbreaker! Vince Matthews was the outstanding quarterback for Austin. Babe Dreymla was named "most courageous" football player. William J. Cook was the head coach. Mr. Cook had been a student and played football at Austin in the 1940's. The ROTC was named "most distinguished unit" with a total of 730 points. Eleven members of the Austin Round-Up staff helped to edit and publish The Houston Post Teen Page. The Austin baseball team defeated the Reagan Bulldogs on a soggy diamond to become city baseball champs on May 11, 1954.

During the fifties, HISD enrollment jumped from 122,850 to 167,000. This was the post-war Baby Boom. Dwight D. Eisenhower, a popular general of World War II, was president of the United States. It cost \$.03 to mail a letter. The average teachers' salary for the nation was \$3000 per year. In Houston, the Board of Education gave teachers a salary hike. The pay increase went from \$3200 to \$3600 for a Bachelors Degree, and from \$3400 to \$3800 for a Masters. The annual increment was raised from

\$150. to \$200. Home television was very new and Houston had one channel, KLEE, which "ticker-taped" the news from the Main Street side of the Rice Hotel. Ozzie and Harriet Nelson and their sons, David and Ricky, were the typical TV family. Ed Sullivan introduced a guitar-playing singer named Elvis Presley. Rock and roll was "in" and the big bands were "out." Poodle skirts and hoola hoops were all the rage. Price Daniel was the governor of Texas and Oscar Holcombe, "the old gray fox," was mayor of Houston. The U.S. nuclear submarine, "Nautilus," passed under the North Polar icecap.

At Austin, Mr. Goettee and a faculty of 74 were doing a good job with their students, graduating about 500 in 1957. The volleyball team was city champ. Austin had a Homecoming Game in November to celebrate its twentieth year. There was an Aloha Prom in December, a Bronco Whirl in January and a Valentine Ball in February. The girls' swimming team won the city meet. Miss Beatrice Harrison, English and Drama teacher, moved to the third floor, and the students gave her a "room warming" party. Deanna Bradshaw was selected Texas Skating Queen. Austin speech students received the National Forensic Trophy. The Junior Varsity football team won the city championship. The National Yearbook Association rated the 1959 Corral with a first place award. Austin's "Einsteins" prepared to launch a frog into space. Dr. James Goettee was listed in "Who's Who in the Southwest," and in 1960 he was installed as president of the East Houston Kiwanis Club. Miss Beatrice Lytle became a full time counselor, and Miss Betty Blakely became the teacher/sponsor of the Scottish Brigade.

The decade of the sixties brought many changes. This was the Space Age. The early 1960's saw Alan Shephard make the first U. S. Mercury space flight; Silent Spring was published by Rachel Carson, environmentalist; Hurricane Carla slammed through Houston in September 1961, leaving thousands of homes without telephones or electricity and schools were closed. Dr. Michael DeBakey used a heart-lung machine during surgery. Astronaut Ed White made a 21 minute spacewalk from Gemini 4; Neil Armstrong stepped onto the surface of the moon from the Lunar Landing Module of Apollo 11. Chubby Checker introduced a new dance called "The Twist;" and the Beatles, a singing group from England, mesmerized the young people. Long hair was "in" and long skirts were "out." Boxer Cassius Clay (Mohammed Ali) could "float like a butterfly and sting like a bee." Postage was \$.05 now. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. Lyndon Johnson from Texas was sworn in as president. Young men had to register their birthdates for the draft lottery and there was a strong PEACE movement. "Flower children" chanted "make love not war," but the Vietnam conflict escalated. John Connally was the governor of Texas; Judge Roy Hofheinz was the mayor of Houston; and Dr. John McFarland was the superintendent of schools for HISD. The Harris County Domed Stadium was built. It was named the Astrodome, and Houston's professional baseball team was the Astros.

In 1961, the Austin Mustangs brought the state AAAA basketball championship to Houston. Pat Riley was the coach and Sidney Jones was assistant coach. Players on this great basketball team were David Parrish, Tommy Nance, Ray Vanover, Roger Ballard, Lee Hopkins, Ray White, Richard Kropp, Jerry Brewer, Tim Timmerman, Jim

Damon, Eddie Verner and Frazer Dealy. Anne Bloomquist was "Top Teen in Harris County." Dr. James Goettee became president of the Sam Houston State College Alumni Association. The Austin Round-Up received international honors for excellence. In 1962, Austin had 1500 students. The office staff was Dr. Goette, principal; Mr. A. E. Kotrola, assistant principal; and Mrs. Bertha LeGros, dean. Counselors were Lytle, Hart and Soncrant. Mrs. Elaine Berry and Miss Bertie Sims were co-librarians. Mr. John C. Scott, head football coach from 1937 to 1950, was coaching track and teaching civics and economics. There were 63 teachers on the faculty. The students had 32 organizations. To celebrate Austin's 25th year, the PTA sponsored a Silver Anniversary Open House called "Go to School Night." Sports included Austin's top-notch cheerleading team; a very good football team, coached by Lee Beeson; boys and girls basketball, volleyball, tennis and swimming; baseball, golf, track, softball and archery. There were 396 seniors in 1962. In 1964, the varsity basketball team again won the state title. Starters were Vernon Lewis, Laury Lyles, Richard Vasquez, Ken Spain and Larry Skinner. Center Kenneth Spain was named All State. This energetic team was tops in Texas, and of course, at Austin.

During the sixties, student Sandra Shumate was selected DAR Good Citizen. There were many opportunities for participation in Key Club, Parent Teachers Assn., Future Teachers Assn., National Honor Society, Student Council, Quill and Scroll, American Legion, Distributive Education, National Forensic League, Science Club, Commercial Club, Green Curtain, Sub Debs, Mustang Boosters, Medical Careers, Chorale, Orchestra, Mustang Band, Spanish Club, Radio Club, Gourmet Club, Future Farmers of America, and ROTC. There were 534 seniors in 1965, and the faculty had over 100 teachers.

In 1966, Dr. Goettee, who had been principal at Austin for 16 years, became HISD Area Superintendent for Secondary Schools, and Mr. H. C. Smith became the third principal. Henry Clay Smith was born and raised in northern Texas near the Red River. Mr. Smith earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Sam Houston in Huntsville and Masters in Education from Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches. He taught Physics and Biology, moving to Houston in 1940. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Returning to Houston, Mr. Smith became assistant principal at Milby, then principal at Austin from 1966 to 1968. During Mr. Smith's two years as Austin's principal, Mr. A. E. Kotrola was assistant principal until his tragic death in an accident. Mr. Kotrola was followed as assistant principal by Mr. Ernest Baker, who had been a teacher at Austin since 1953. The B Wing of Austin was completed, attached to the south end of the building, and the process of air-conditioning was begun. The Varsity football team did very well in 1967, defeating its long-time east end rival, Milby Senior High. Miss Mildred Hart was dean, Mrs. Cecilia Alston was attendance clerk, and Mrs. Oma Pearl Lewis was treasurer. Austin's enrollment was growing. There were 1676 students in 1968 and 500 seniors, including Mr. Smith's daughter, Bevil.

In 1968, Mr. Smith was made Director of Secondary Schools for HISD, and Mr. Harmon Watts became the fourth principal of Austin High School. Mr. Watts came from

Jones Senior High, where he had been assistant principal. He was a science teacher, having taught Physics and Chemistry at Sam Houston and Bellaire. During Mr. Watts' tenure at Austin (1968 - 1975), Mr. Ernest Baker was assistant principal. Together, Mr. Watts, Mr. Baker and the large faculty saw the school through many dramatic changes. Mr. Watts describes his experience at Austin as one of good community, good traditions, good students and high standards. The total HISD budget for 1968-69 included \$109 million for instruction and operation, and \$33 million for debt service. With more than 245,000 students, HISD ranked sixth largest in the nation. There were 226 school buildings and a new administration building on Richmond Ave. HISD employed over one thousand additional instructional personnel than the state required. This enrichment cost HISD \$9,390,998 which included 319 Kindergarten teachers for whom there was no state aid. The average teacher's salary in 1969 was \$7,200 with a 4% annual increment. The tax rate was \$1.70 per \$100. valuation based on an assessment equal to 53% of market value. The Houston District administrators expected all schools to be air-conditioned by 1972.

In the late sixties, cultural changes began to take place throughout HISD. The boundaries for Austin High School moved to encompass the area from the Gulf Freeway to Elgin, including most of the Third Ward. To implement racial integration, there was a "crossover" program for teachers. Among the first crossover teachers at Austin were Mr. Isaac Bryant (History), who transferred from Wheatley; Mr. Ollie Idlebird (Spanish), from Key; and Mrs. Dorothy J. Booker (Math), who left Jones Sr. High to teach at Austin. The demographics began to change, too. Whereas Austin students had been 100% white in the fifties; in the sixties they were 90% white, 5% black and 5% Hispanic; and in the seventies, the student population jumped to 50% Hispanic, 40% black, 9% white and 1% Oriental. The Hispanic students were no longer enumerated as white.

The 1970's saw the massive withdrawal of U. S. troops from Vietnam; court-ordered desegregation of schools; astronauts on Skylab spent two months in space; body x-ray scanners were first used in diagnosing illness. America celebrated her bicentennial in 1976. The world's first "test tube" baby, Louise Brown, was born in England. Postage was \$.08, then \$.10, \$.13 and \$.18. We had the Watergate Scandal in Washington D. C. and the first president to resign, Richard Nixon. Sonny and Cher sang the Bob Dylan song, "I Got You, Babe." John Travolta made the film, *Saturday Night Fever*, and DISCO dancing swept the country. Clothing in the seventies featured polyester pantsuits, bell bottoms and chunky shoes. Jimmy Carter, from Plains, Georgia, was elected president. Dolph Briscoe and Preston Smith were governors of Texas during the seventies. Mayor Louie Welch contracted for the building of Houston Intercontinental Airport and Mayor Fred Hofheinz saw the completion of it.

In 1970, the student enrollment at Austin was 2320. Miss Beatrice Lytle, counselor and original faculty member, was serving her last year before retirement. Miss Lytle was the first sponsor of the Scottish Brigade. The Brigade now had 135 members. Anita Sepulveda, a popular Social Studies teacher, came to Austin at this time. Ms. Sepulveda recalls two Austin students, Jaime and Diana Davila, who excelled in high

school, and went on to pursue careers in law and politics. Ms. Sepulveda started the first Austin Alumni Association. The presidents have been Bob Hunt, Richard Vara, and Fred Gerbode. Mr. Bryant sponsored the first Black Americans Club and Debra Forest was its first president.

In 1972, Stephen F. Austin Sr. High observed "Miss Greenhill Day," in honor of a popular government teacher who was retiring. Miss Norma Ruth Greenhill had been teaching at Austin since the opening of the school in 1937. She had come to Austin from Sam Houston High School, where she had taught for 16 years. Miss Greenhill was a graduate of Rice University. She had sponsored the "Mustang Boosters," Austin's largest organization. She received the Valley Forge Foundation Award in 1962, and the Texas PTA Life Membership. Miss Greenhill said, "The real value of teaching lies in guidance for good citizenship, character, integrity, loyalty and patriotism." She had faith in the modern teenager. Principal Harmon Watts said at Miss Greenhill's retirement, "She is just as much with the students today as when she started."

In 1974, HISD enrollment was 210,000 and 40,000 of these students were in senior high. The schools that fed into Austin were Edison and Jackson Jr. Highs and Henderson, Cage, Lantrip (formerly Eastwood), Franklin, Brookline, Burnet, Rusk, Tijerina and Briscoe Elementary Schools. The neighborhoods served by Austin High School were Broadmoor, Kensington, Eastwood, Idlewood, Riverview, Sunnyland, Oaklawn and Ranger.

The fifth principal of Austin Senior High was Mr. Ernest Baker. Mr. Baker had come to Austin in 1953 as a science teacher. He taught Biology and Physics until 1964, when he left the school district to work as a science consultant for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He worked at NASA for three and a half years. Returning to HISD in 1967, Mr. Baker again joined the faculty at Austin. When Mr. Kotrola died, Mr. Baker became assistant principal during the administration of Harmon Watts. In 1975, when Mr. Watts retired, Mr. Baker was appointed principal. During Ernest Baker's fourteen years as principal, Austin had Project Renewal. The building was almost forty years old. Air-conditioning was completed and asbestos was removed. Teachers had to vacate the third floor and move to temporary buildings while these renovations were being made.

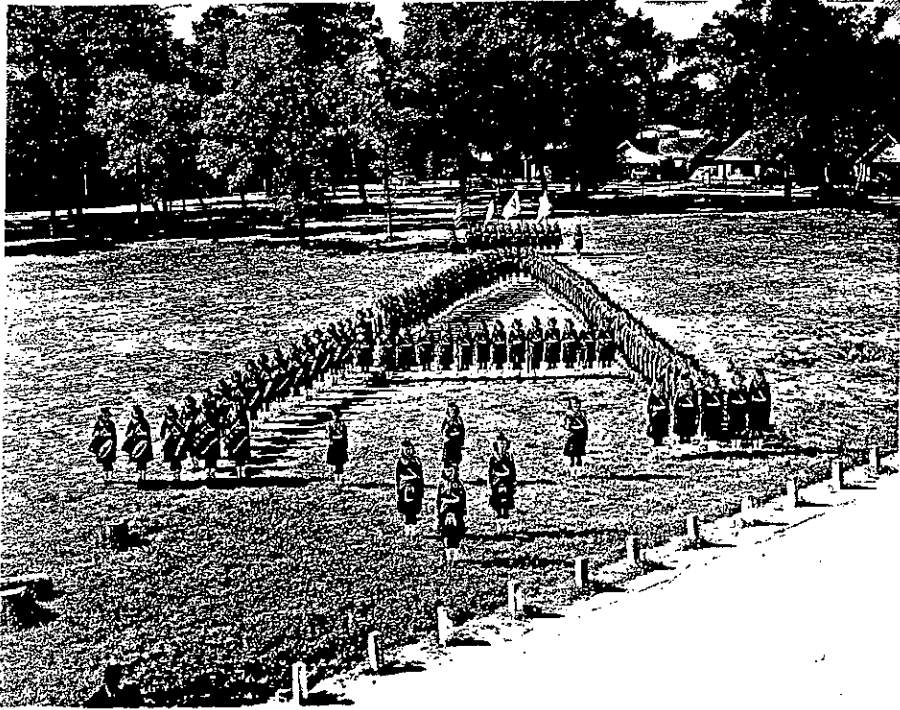
In April of 1977, Elizabeth Reich Armstrong, was elected to the State Board of Education. Mrs. Armstrong, a 1947 graduate of Austin High School, had a long interest in good schools for Texas. Mr. Baker, with a strong emphasis on academics, was guiding Austin students toward a gradual increase in test scores. Mr. Lauro Montalvo, Miss Mildred Hart and Mr. Clem Henley were assistant principals. There were 463 seniors and more than 100 teachers on the faculty. Austin celebrated its fortieth anniversary. Opportunities for student participation included National Honor Society, Student Council, Spirit Club, Mexican-American Club, German Club, Christian Student Union, Number Sense Club, Audio-Visual Club, Cosmotology, National Forensic Society, National Thespians, Key Club, Green Curtain, Medical Careers, Library Club, The Pony

Line, Choir, Radio and Electronics, Auto Mechanics, Future Farmers of America, ROTC, Scottish Brigade and the Marching Band. In sports the Austinites could choose from archery, baseball, basketball, football (Wayne Shoemaker, former Austin student, was now head football coach), golf, swimming, track, tennis and volleyball.

In 1978, the Scottish Brigade was very small because fewer girls were interested in a drum and bugle corps. Miss Parthenia Papuga, sponsor of the Brigade, met with the girls and Mr. Baker. It was decided to have a farewell performance in April 1978, inviting all the past brigadiers and their sponsors. Miss Lytle and Miss Blakely came to the celebration and told about the early years of the Brigade. Former officers gave speeches and the girls presented Miss Lytle, Miss Blakely and Miss Papuga with flowers. Then the Brigade, rich in history, in full dress uniform, led by its colonel, Gwen Westbrook, marched down the aisles of the school auditorium to the cadence of "Semper Fidelis." At the signal, the drill corps danced the Highland Fling for the last time. There was not a dry eye in the place. After the program, an Open House was held in the school cafeteria with socializing and refreshments. Hats, kilts, drums, bugles and bagpipes were sold. The forty year-old Brigade was officially retired, and the Scottish Brigade Alumnae was organized to stay in contact with the school. The Alumnae helped with the Mustang Misses, a new group of girls who performed at Austin events. At the close of the 1970's, the Mustang Misses were well on their way to becoming an accomplished gymnastic group.

During the 1980's, The U. S. Space Shuttle Columbia made its maiden flight; and Voyager Space Probe flew close by Saturn. The computer has become the "machine of our times." Prince Charles of Great Britain married Lady Diana with Tel-Star broadcasting the wedding to millions of viewers all over the world. The University of Houston Cougars went to the NCAA basketball finals three years in a row. Some of their players were graduates of Austin Sr. High. Michael Jackson sang "Beat It," and flash dancing became popular. In 1983, we had Hurricane Alicia. The clean-up took months. Ronald Reagan was in the White House; Mark White was in the Governor's Mansion; and Houston elected a lady mayor, Kathy Whitmire. Video cassette recorders (VCR's) and renting movies to watch at home became a flourishing business. Johnny Carson, Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey were hosts of the TV "talkshow." On January 28, 1986 the space shuttle Challenger with a crew of seven exploded on blastoff, and the world mourned. Halley's Comet returned on its 70 year orbit. Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, visited the United States and talks of peace were encouraging. Young people watched their favorite musicians on MTV.

At the beginning of the 1980's, the student enrollment at Austin was 1973, rising to 2833 in the mid-eighties. In 1982, wings C and D were added to the main building. There was a new boys gym, a large new cafeteria and a brand new library. To accommodate all the cars, a big parking lot with 2900 spaces was created. A new northside entrance on Lockwood gave students easy access to their cars and classes. Austin now housed grades 9 through 12. The annexed area greatly increased the amount of classroom space. The Ford Foundation contributed \$68,950 to fund a project in



THE SCOTTISH BRIGADE



THE MUSTANG MISSES

Houston aimed at finding and keeping qualified teachers in inner-city schools. In the fall of 1983, the first group of 65 students were enrolled in the new School for the Teaching Professions. Austin was the ideal location for this magnet program because of its position inside the loop and close to two major universities. The University of Houston, Texas Southern University, the Houston School District, Houston Community College, the University of Texas Health Science Center and, of course, the faculty and staff at Austin High School, all cooperated to implement this program. They made new evaluation procedures to enhance urban education and teaching methods. Representatives from different sectors of the community served as the Magnet School's directing task force. The overall hypothesis was that if potential teachers were identified at the high school level, they would have daily contact with the environment in which they would eventually teach and Houston would be "growing its own supply" of future teachers. Mr. Baker, Austin's principal, welcomed this new Magnet School, and carefully planned for its success by integrating the High School for the Teaching Professions into the overall curriculum of the whole school.

In 1986, a motion picture crew came to Austin to film a made-for-TV movie, *The George McKenna Story*. Denzel Washington, Jr. played the title role of a principal of an inner-city school. The faculty and students cooperated fully with the producers, director, camera crew and technicians. Mr. Baker moved out of his office temporarily so that scenes could be shot there. Students were selected as extras because of their good grades. Sounds of "rollin'," "cut" and "You're lookin' good!" echoed throughout the building, the catwalk and the area surrounding the school. The movie was aired on CBS.

In 1987, Austin High School celebrated its Good as Gold 50th anniversary. Spirit was high, attendance was up and academic progress was improved. In the yearbook the Corral Staff wrote, "We respectfully and thankfully acknowledge all those who have traveled through Austin's halls during the last fifty years and we challenge those who will follow in the next fifty to live up to and surpass the golden standards which have already been set." There was a feeling of oneness with these teachers and students and a sense of school history. They had a good perspective of the past as it was related to the present and an eager anticipation for their futures. Mr. E. R. Baker was principal. Mr. Baker's assistants were J. B. Azios, N. Cortez, C. Henley and R. Molina. G. Alvarez was dean and L. Rice was magnet counselor. One hundred plus teachers served on the large faculty. Austin had its Legionnaires, Student Council, Band, Mustang Misses, Key Club and eleven cheerleaders. There was a Christian Student Union, a National Honor Society, a Cosmetology Club, Bilingual Club and a Home Economics Club. There were also Future Educators, Black Americans, Mexican Americans and a United Nations Organization. The PTA held a Founders' Day in 1987. Mr. H. C. Smith, former principal, returned to Austin High School for this celebration. In sports, the students could participate in football, tennis, golf, volleyball, basketball, baseball, track and cross-country, swimming and water polo. They could choose to sign up for ROTC, Distributive Education, Auto Mechanics or Mustang Band. There were 281 seniors in 1987.

In 1988, Mr. Baker was transferred to HISD's main office and Miss Otilia Urbina was appointed as principal. She served only a few months. She was a former elementary school principal and she had worked in a health care program for the Harris County Hospital District. In the short time Miss Urbina was principal at Austin, there were massive scheduling problems and a lack of textbooks. Students, parents and teachers were frustrated. They were concerned about falling grade averages. Early in the morning on October 21, 1989, Hilbert Bludau received a call to go immediately to Austin High School. Mr. Bludau is a technical assistant for HISD who works with all principals. He has had experience at McReynolds, Deady, Bellaire and Sam Houston. When Mr. Bludau arrived at Austin, he found a volatile situation. 800 of Austin's students had walked out in protest of confusing conditions at the school.

Superintendent Joan Raymond removed Miss Urbina and replaced her with a task force of Houston administrators to help Mr. Bludau restore order. There were extra counselors, auditors and a vocational director. These administrators worked at Austin in addition to their regular jobs elsewhere in the district. The student schedules were revamped. The teachers were assigned to teach in their major fields. The school's records were examined. Receipts, inventories, requisitions and purchase orders were straightened out. Assistant principals Idlebird, Allen, Lavinsky and Carmona worked tirelessly with the task force to get Austin High School functioning smoothly again. Miss Urbina, whose salary as principal was \$54,231, was reassigned to HISD's External Funding Department. Hilbert Bludau was made interim principal. Supt. Raymond was quoted in The Houston Post as saying, "Miss Urbina's administration at Austin High School was not as effective as I hoped it could be. It is not in the best interest of the community for that administration to stay in place." Austin's kitchen and cafeteria were closed while officials reviewed the finances and restructured the procedures. A reform committee of students, teachers, parents and community leaders was established.

Mr. Bludau served as interim principal at Austin for ten months while the superintendent and the Board of Education conducted a search for a new Hispanic principal. At this time Austin was 92% Hispanic. Of the juniors taking the TEAMS test, 75% were passing in reading and 54% were passing in math. The student dropout rate was 18.8%. Dr. Rogelio Torres of Corpus Christi was made principal in 1990. Mr. Bludau stayed with Dr. Torres for one month as he assumed the duties of principal. Ollie Idlebird, George Schultz and Larry Allen were assistant principals.

The nineties brought much debated issues of ethnic diversity, bilingual education and affirmative action. Iraq invaded Kuwait and we had the Persian Gulf War. George Bush was president of the U. S., followed by Bill Clinton in 1993. Ann Richards was governor of Texas, followed by George W. Bush. Bob Lanier was mayor of Houston, followed by Lee Brown. Space Probe Pathfinder was sent to Mars, and Space Station Mir was manned by Russian cosmonauts assisted by American astronauts. The world bid farewell to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis who died at age 64, and Princess Diana who died in a car crash in Paris. Rocket fever consumed Houstonians as the Houston Rockets won the NBA crown two years in a row. A new team, the Houston Comets, won the Womens

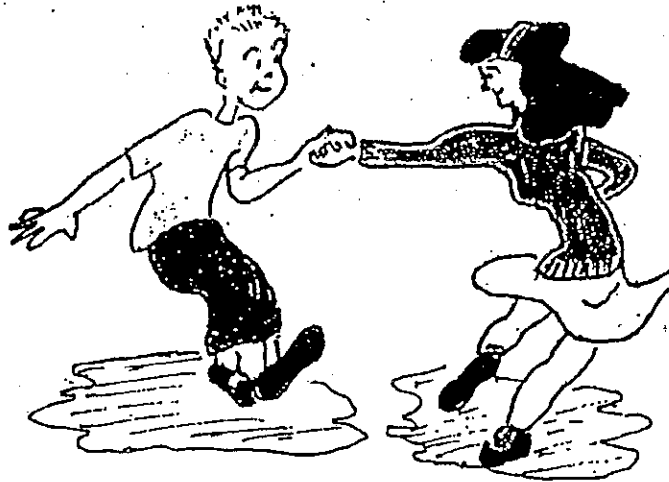
NBA title two years straight. Texas voters approved the state lottery. A sheep named Dolly was cloned. Wide use of the internet presented problems with control of information and marketing practices. The rapid advance of technology outpaced the making of new laws to regulate. Young people were dancing the Macarena and alumni groups from Austin High School were having their 50th reunions.

At Austin Sr. High in 1990, enrollment was very close to capacity. Austin's new principal in 1990 was Rogelio Torres. Dr. Torres told the faculty and staff they could transfer from Austin or reapply for their positions. He stayed for two years. In 1992, Jose Trevino was appointed principal of Austin. Mr. Trevino was born and raised in south Texas. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Texas A & I and Master of Education from the University of Houston. He started his teaching career in Laredo; then he came to Houston and was a teacher at Deady, Terrell and Westbury. He was assistant principal at Sam Houston Sr. High and principal at Edison Middle School.

In November 1993, the 200th birthday of Stephen F. Austin, early Texas pioneer, was observed with a reception at the school which was named for him. A historical display was set up in the library and a portrait of Austin, the "Father of Texas," was presented to the school by the Scottish Brigade Alumnae. Austin's art students have excelled in competition. They have received many honors at the annual art display for the Houston Rodeo and Livestock Show. Alfredo Guzman won the contest for best poster for the Barbara Jordan Memorial Award. The 1994 Hallmark National Merit Art Scholarship winner was Alberto Garcia from Austin High School. Alberto was recognized by HISD Superintendent, Dr. Rod Paige, at a meeting of the Houston School Board, and he was featured in *The Houston Chronicle* This Week section. Art teachers at Austin are John Handcock, department chairman, Cory Jiles, Jerry Bell, Clovis Fouche and Jesse Sifuentes.

By 1994, the student population at Austin was 94% Hispanic, 3% black, 2% white and 1% Asian. As principal, Mr. Trevino instituted a block schedule for Austin students and teachers. The building is kept clean and orderly. Good values and respect for tradition are emphasized. The main office is attractive and spacious with framed awards and achievements on the walls. It reflects the school's spirit. There is a good communication system and friendly atmosphere. Assistant principals and other faculty members can be reached in any part of the large campus complex by portable phones. Assistant principals are Eva Silvas, David Arriaga, Ollie Idlebird, Patricia Russo and Lawrence Allen. Halls, classrooms, walkways, lunchrooms and cafeteria are supervised by visible school personnel. The central office is well staffed by courteous, helpful clerks and receptionists.

Mr. Trevino has brought back the school yearbook, *The Stampede*. *The Monthly Mustang* brings school news to students, parents and teachers. Principal Trevino has encouraged volunteer tutors to help students with math and reading, and Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) scores are higher. Students must pass this test in order to graduate from high school. There is a Teen Clinic at Austin operated by Baylor



HIGH SCHOOL DAYS



50TH REUNION

BOBBIE LEE DAVIS, ARTIST, CLASS OF 1946

College of Medicine with a doctor to help students with health concerns. Mr. Trevino has established an On-Campus GED School where students may elect to receive instruction for taking and passing the General Education Test in lieu of a high school diploma. There is an Austin Charter High School of 200 college preparatory students. This Charter School is off campus and the pupil-teacher ratio is small.

By 1997, the enrollment at Austin was 3904. The school was operating at capacity. HISD had a bond election to help build a new eastside school to relieve Austin and Milby. The bond issue failed and Superintendent Rod Paige started looking for other avenues of financing. A new lease-purchase plan used in tax increment reinvestment zones will generate revenues that will help pay for construction, and Chavez Senior High School is due to open in the year 2000.

On September 6, 1997, Stephen F. Austin Senior High School celebrated its 60th anniversary with a Saturday Open House at the school. Former students registered by years, toured the building, looked at memorabilia and held mini-reunions in the auditorium, cafeteria, library and classrooms. Co-chairmen of this event were Jacque McDonald Royce and Marsha Mathis Eckermann.

In athletics, the Austin students are doing well. The cheerleaders were 1998 Texas champs and placed tenth nationally. In 1998, the football team under the guidance of coach Cory Jiles, was second in District 18-5A, wrapping up the school's second straight year to make the playoffs. The Mustangs had the area's No. 1 offense, and their win-loss record was 8 - 3.

Coach Clifton Jackson is very proud of his Metal Shop students. In 1998, they achieved 133 first place awards on their projects and a certificate for being a 100% Chapter of the National Vocational Industrial Clubs of America. Austin's metal trades were judged best in the state. Members of this talented group of metal workers are Jose Agulan, Gregorio Balderas, Ricardo Bustos, Victor Castillo, Filiberto Chavira, Ricardo Davila, Nancy Diaz, Gonzalo Duque, Cecelio Garcia, Raul Garza, Jose Gonzalez, Jassiel Hernandez, Noe Hinojosa, Armando Martinez, Benito Martinez, Herber Molina, Miguel Morales, David Murillo, Daniel Navarete, Juan Pena, Anibal Rodriguez, Ivan Rodriguez, Edwin Robles, Oscar Robles, Reynaldo Saldana, Gabriel Sosa, Isabel Valdez, Eric Varela, John Villalobos and Gilbert Zapata.

On June 15, 1998, KPRC-TV, Channel 2, gave the morning weather forecast from the beautifully landscaped campus of Austin Sr. High, accompanied by the Agriculture Department, the Mustang Band, Principal Trevino and Alumni Association President Fred Gerbode and his wife, Shirley Eaton Gerbode. Austin's ex-students have started a Walk of Fame to raise money for the school. Former students may purchase bricks at various prices to honor or memorialize a specific class, an organization or individuals. Betty Kieke Browning is in charge of this project. Nancy Thomson Kirkpatrick is chairman of the Scottish Brigade Alumnae. This organization and the Austin Alumni Assn. have a network of contact with the school and with the ex-students. They publish

an Alumni Newsletter several times a year. They raise funds for scholarships and do volunteer work for the school. In 1998, four \$1000. scholarships were granted to outstanding students - Martin Bui, Jenny Cebellos, Yessenia Moreno and Robert D. Wood, Jr. - by the Brigade Alumnae. On the TAAS test in 1998, juniors improved from 70% passing to 90% passing in reading and writing; and from 32% passing to 65% passing in math.

Mr. Trevino's vision for the future is to make Austin High School the pride of the east end, academically and athletically. In keeping with his desire to promote high standards of conduct, performance and respect, a school dress code is in effect. Students look nice in their green or white shirts and gray or khaki pants. Mr. Trevino continues to encourage parental involvement by having Parent Booster Clubs and to be personally in contact with the seniors by holding monthly senior assemblies. Stephen F. Austin Sr. High has been through many changes since its opening year, 1937. It has educated many generations of young people to go responsibly into all walks of life, due to the dedication of its teachers, its administrators and its system of community support. Austin will continue to serve the east side of Houston for many more years. We are all privileged to be part of this endeavor.

POSTSCRIPT

Mr. George Loescher and Dr. James Goettee, the first two principals of Austin High School, are deceased. Mrs. Edna Mae Goettee, former principal of Henderson Elementary and Dr. Goettee's widow, is retired and living in Houston. Mr. Clay Smith is retired and living in Nacogdoches. Mr. Harmon Watts is retired and living in Palestine. Mr. Ernest Baker is retired and living in Pearland. Mr. Hilbert Bludau is School Technical Assistant for HISD. Dr. Rogelio Torres is a Deputy Superintendent in Galveston. Mr. Jose Trevino is the current principal at Austin High. He is looking forward to retirement in the future, and perhaps, doing some ranching.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to the following people who generously shared their time and memories to help me put together this history of Austin High School.

Ernest Baker
Jerry Bell
Betty Blakely
Hilbert Bludau
Isaac Bryant
Dottie Haberle Bullard
Priscilla Camp
Bill Cook
Mary Lee Steinhort Cook
Pauline Crouch
Fred Gerbode
Edna Mae Goettee
Cathy Hurst
Ollie Idlebird
Clifton Jackson
Pat Laster
Ray Laurentz
Lillian Riemen Lovell
Karen Hunt Menges
Fred Mittag
Linda Harris O'Brien
Jean Hill Randle
Jacque McDonald Royce
Anita Sepulveda
H. C. Smith
Jose Trevino
Richard Vasquez
Harmon Watts
Houston Central Library
HISD Pupil Accounting

Carleen R. Laurentz

NOTABLE ALUMNI

Emily Carol Alford, Class of 1960
Retired Principal

Pat Argiropoulous, Class of 1960
Austin High Teacher

Elizabeth Reich Armstrong (Deceased), Class of 1947
Attorney, Texas Board of Education

Elizabeth Batmanis, Class of 1946
Medical Doctor

Michael Batmanis, Class of 1950
Medical Doctor

Betty Blakely, Class of 1948
Austin High Teacher, HISD Administrator

Bevil Smith Bynum, Class of 1968
Principal

Mary Lee Steinhort Cook, Class of 1945
Retired Principal

William J. Cook, Class of 1944
Austin High Coach, Retired Principal

Diana Davila, Class of 1984
Texas House of Representatives

Jaime Davila (Deceased), Class of 1978
Harvard & University of Texas School of Law
The Jaime Davila Elementary School

R. Frazer Dealy, Class of 1962
Principal, Stratford Sr. High

Wayne Duddleston, Class of 1947
Real Estate Developer

Harold Farb, Class of 1938
Real Estate Developer

Hal Hillman, Class of 1938
President, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

Clinton Howard, Class of 1945
President & CEO, Fort Worth Health Care Organization

Bob Hunt (Deceased), Class of 1947
President & CEO, Tower Marketing

Shirley Trowbridge Johnson, Class of 1963
Principal, Westbury High School

Ralph Jones, Class of 1960
Texas House of Representatives

Lloyd Kelley, Class of 1974
Houston City Council

Johnny Klevenhagen, Class of 1958
Harris County Sheriff

Ray D. Laurentz, Class of 1946
Retired Principal

Bobby LeMond (Deceased), Class of 1953
Actors' Manager

Ray Lemmon, Class of 1943
Texas House of Representatives

Mary Lou Trevino Lopez (Deceased), Class of 1968
Teacher at Austin High School

Miron A. Love, Class of 1938
Retired Judge

Jack McKenzie, Class of 1942
Retired Colonel, USAF

Odean Spears McKenzie, Class of 1945
Interior Decorator

Winston A. McKenzie, Class of 1947
Furniture Business, McKenzie Galleries

Betty Kazetsky Minzenmeyer, Class of 1953
Retired Principal & Assistant Superintendent, HISD

Donald Minzenmeyer, Class of 1953
Architect

Suzanne Paige Morris, Class of 1961
Author

David E. O'Brien, III, Class of 1959
Space Engineer

Jacque McDonald Royce, Class of 1959
Retired Teacher, Austin High School

Nellie Trevino Santos, Class of 1980
Houston City Attorney

Wayne Shoemaker (Deceased), Class of 1952
Teacher and Coach, Austin High School

Ken Spain (Deceased), Class of 1965
Basketball All State 1964, All American 1966, U.S. Olympic Gold 1968

Victor Trevino, Class of 1970
Harris County Constable

Richard Vara, Class of 1968
Justice of the Peace

Richard Vasquez, Class of 1965
Principal, Milby Senior High

PRINCIPALS OF AUSTIN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

George A. Loescher	1937 - 1949
James Goettee	1949 - 1966
Henry Clay Smith	1966 - 1968
Harmon Watts	1968 - 1975
Ernest Baker	1975 - 1988
Otilia Urbina	1988 - 1989
Hilbert Bludau (Interum)	1989 - 1990
Rogelio Torres	1990 - 1992
Jose Trevino	1992 - 2002
Linda Garza Llorente	2002 - 2012
Jorge Luis Arredondo	2012



MR. G. A. LOESCHER
Principal



Dr. James H. Goettee

Principal



MR. H. C. SMITH

Principal, Stephen F. Austin Senior High School, Houston



MR. HARMON WATTS, Principal, STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL

Our Principal, E. R. Baker





Dr. Rogelio Torres
Principal



JOSE TREVINO, PRINCIPAL