

Crescenta Valley History of the Alma Mater from Shirley Nute (written in 2019)

Good Afternoon John,

Here is my report regarding the CV Alma Mater created in early spring 1961, in the machine shop (now Drama Room), because there was nowhere else to go because they needed to take our bungalow which was situated on the ground which is now the girl's gym (Current Art Center) and the Auditorium & Music Wing was just being built. How's that for a sentence. I'm glad my high school English teachers are not around!

I selected the Alma Mater tune which is "Carmen Ohio". My criteria was to find something with a melody in a range comfortable for most students.

Here are some responses from members of the class of '63 regarding the school Alma Mater:

(John Aguinaldo) Shirley -- I remember the mixed chorus cobbled the text of the alma mater from scratch. Don't remember listening to any sample verses. To this day I remember the words and am happy to say we created a composition that will last for generations. How many high school students have the opportunity to compose their school's alma mater.

(Merry Shelburne) - My recollection is that you got some ideas from us, but you put it all together.

We were clueless kids, so an adult who was actually a musician needed to finish the job. I couldn't sing it now if my life depended on it, because I don't remember the words, and because I'm now a baritone. :) The only thing I know for sure is that your memory is far better than mine!

However, when you described the movable chalkboard, I could almost see it. I think the song leaders were involved, as well as the choir. You wrote down ideas and made suggestions and somehow it all came together. I suspect most of us were shy about offering anything, but we all agreed on the finished product.

(Lora Taylor) - We talked about this at the reunion, and I remember exactly what you remember but as I mentioned before that Trudy (Winther) Sommer contributed some lyrics or ideas from the school she had attended in Utah.

(Denise Hetherington) Interesting that pretty much everyone has the same story except Trudy!

Is there anything else you need to set up your report on the Alma Mater? Don't hesitate to let me know. I want this information to be carved in stone before you retire.

I hope your semester has begun in a positive manner.

Shirley