

Cecilia O'Neil:

Teacher / President of National Retired Teachers Association

An Essay

Presented to

the California Pioneers
of Santa Clara County

by

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Acknowledgments

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Introduction

Cecilia O'Neil was a hardworking and generous individual who dedicated her life to help others and make the world a better place. She was a tremendously talented woman. After graduating from San Jose Normal School she became a teacher at San Jose High School. She was a teacher for many years and had a great influence on her students' lives. She taught for nearly forty-four years of which thirty-eight were spent at San Jose High School. She started out as a physical education teacher and worked her way up to Dean of Girls. After Cecilia's retirement in 1952, she went on to try to help other people like her. While many people's lives slow down after retirement, Cecilia's life sped up. She began and founded various organizations that help and give benefits to retired persons. Her work in these organizations benefited many people as well as herself. She was a member of the California Retired Teachers Association and co-founder of the National Retired Teachers Association. She was able to go to Washington D.C. and meet with President Nixon. Cecilia O'Neil spent her whole life helping and making other people's lives better and loving every single minute of it. Her career and retirement posed great efforts to helping others and today she will be remembered for the many things she had accomplished for Santa Clara County.

The Beginning of an Extraordinary Woman

John O'Neil, born in Ireland in 1822, and his wife Mary Green, also a native of Ireland and born in 1810, had a baby named Timothy O'Neil in 1852. The three of them packed up and moved to San Jose, California. They settled near present day downtown where John O'Neil established a grocery store which was located on South Market Street in San Jose. John O'Neil died on September 17, 1873, and his wife later died on March 29, 1917. They both died in San Jose.

In 1860, John J. Devine and his wife Catherine Corkery moved from their native land of Ireland to the present day San Jose. John Devine had been born in Ireland in 1829, and his wife in 1837. They married and decided to move to California to start a new life. The two settled down and started a family. They had at least one child named Mary Francis Devine who was born on July 13, 1863, in San Jose. John later died on January 4, 1923, and Catherine on April 21, 1904. These two families were the first of the Devine's and O'Neil's to settle down in the Santa Clara County.

On January 14, 1886, Timothy O'Neil and Mary Francis Devine were married in San Jose, California. All together they had nine children. There were two boys, John and Raymond, and seven girls, including Cecilia O'Neil. Timothy worked as a stone cutter for the city of San Jose and he laid stone for many of the buildings in San Jose.

On January 27, 1888, a girl named Cecilia O'Neil was born. She was born in San Jose and lived there her entire life. Little is known about her childhood except that she and her family lived at 195 Devine Street. The street was named after her Grandfather John J. Devine. In 1902, Cecilia began high school and she attended the original San Jose High School. In her senior year, the huge earthquake of 1906 leveled the school and they were forced to move into the Lincoln Grammar School for the remainder of the year. She graduated from San Jose High School in 1906, two years before the new school was built

in 1908. After high school Cecilia attended and graduated from San Jose Normal School, now called San Jose State University, in 1911. After graduation, Cecilia attended the University of California and Stanford University.

A Career as a Teacher

Cecilia O'Neil began a career that lasted for forty - four years and became the basis for the rest of her life. Just out of college in 1908, she began her first career as an educator in the San Bruno Park, California, Elementary School. Cecilia also taught in the San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties at elementary schools as a Physical Education teacher. Six years later, now the supervisor of physical education for all the elementary schools of San Jose, Cecilia began the job that would last a life time. She started at San Jose High School in 1914, as a physical education teacher and then worked her way up to become the Military and Physical Culture / Athletics teacher. For about five years she held her position until around 1919, when she moved back into teaching Physical Education at San Jose High School. In her early years of teaching at San Jose High School, Cecilia enjoyed teaching Physical Education at University of California Summer sessions. Now teaching Physical Education, in 1920, Cecilia organized the Girls' Peninsula Athletic League. She served as its President for many years, and even though she retired as President, the league stayed together and is still existent today. In 1921, Cecilia became the Dean of Girls at San Jose High School. That position was a position that she held for thirty years until her retirement. Cecilia was also the Vice-Principal for the school from 1942 to 1952. In 1928, students wrote of her, "Miss O'Neil: We give you our dean of girls, patient and kindly, who makes our Girls' League a success and gives an incentive to every high school girl."⁽¹⁾ While in the thick of her teaching career, Cecilia's parents died. Her father, Timothy O'Neil, who had come from Ireland, died on February 23, 1938, in San Jose. Her mother, Mary Francis Devine died on November 19, 1938, of the same year, also in San Jose.

In 1952, Cecilia O'Neil retired after forty-four years as a teacher. She retired from San Jose High after teaching there for thirty-eight years. She had taught for forty-three

years in the San Jose school system and at the time of her departure she was both the Dean of Girls and Vice-Principal of San Jose High School. The eve of Cecilia's departure from San Jose High School was also the eve of the move from the school's old location to the new school on McKee Road and 24th Street of San Jose. In 1958, Cecilia was named Teacher of the State of California by the International League of California, composed of the state's student body presidents. Now into her retirement, however, Cecilia was just getting started.

Retirement: A New Beginning

Cecilia did not take retirement lightly, "Retirement is a shock. No person likes to think of their active days ending when working days are over," she once stated to a news reporter.(2) Her original plans for retirement were to settle down and work in her garden, possibly travel, and take care of her family heirlooms and antiques that filled her old family home. These plans were part of her life, but she wanted more. She wanted to spend her time helping others and helping herself. After a few months into retirement, a dinner was held in her honor. The dinner was held at the Hawaiian Gardens of San Jose at 6:30 p.m. on June 3, 1952. Cecilia's friends and family attended, including her sisters and nieces and nephews. At the dinner, the Principal of San Jose High School at the time, Ben Sweeney, toasted in her honor.

Cecilia enjoyed her retirement. She founded various organizations and belonged to numerous others. Cecilia founded the Holy Family Guild of Santa Clara County and was its President for many years. She was also a founding member of the American Association of Retired Persons and the National Retired Teachers Association. She was extremely involved with the community and the organizations associated with it. Cecilia was quite involved with the Santa Clara County Welfare Commission and the County Civil Service Commission. Cecilia was also a member of the Santa Clara Welfare Commission as a school representative for twenty-five years. She was the first woman since the commission was organized to have filled a place on the board. She served as a chairperson from 1921 to 1965. During that time she acted as President for twenty years. Cecilia was a member of the County Civil Service Commission. Within that organization, she took the place of Frank C. Mitchel when she was appointed a seat by the Board of Supervisors. Along with her membership with those two groups, she was also a member of the San Jose Welfare Public Solicitation Commission.

Cecilia was also involved with the California Teachers Association. She was a member of its state council and then became the President of the California Teachers Association Bay Section. In connection with the CTA, Cecilia also became a member of the California Retired Teachers Association. She started out as vice-president of the organization from 1953-1957, and then moved to become President of the CRTA's Alpha Kappa Chapter in Santa Clara County. Cecilia also became a member of the Board of Directors of the International Platform Association. After Cecilia's good friend, Ethel Andrus, who co-founded the National Retired Teachers Association with Cecilia, died, Cecilia helped start the Ethel Percy Andrus Memorial Fund. Cecilia helped raise over two million dollars for production of the Ethel Percy Andrus Memorial Fund Gerontology Center at the University of Southern California.(3)

Throughout Cecilia O'Neil's retirement, she received many awards and honorable mentions for the work she had accomplished. At an awards ceremony, Cecilia was singled out for the Teacher Remembrance Day Award by the Senior League of California. She was awarded the "Horace Mann Apple of Gold" award in Los Angeles and an engraved commendation from Mayor Sam W. Yorty of Los Angeles. Cecilia also received the President Eisenhower Gold Key Award. At the annual convention of the Delta Kappa Common of California, Cecilia was named an Honorary member of the state of California. To top off her awards, a scholarship in her name, Cecilia O'Neil, was established at the University of Southern California.(4)

Although Cecilia O'Neil had retired from San Jose High School, she still was involved with some of the school's activities. Cecilia was asked to help organize the May 18, 1963, banquet for the '62-'63 centennial at San Jose High School. She helped plan and set up the banquet which brought over 1900 people to the San Jose Fairgrounds for the celebration. Cecilia loved to live and she enjoyed doing everything she could to help others. She also made numerous appearances on the radio and the television to discuss

issues about retired people and teachers as in one episode of the NRTA's TV program, "The Golden Years," where Cecilia discussed the topic "Teachers in Retirement."(5)

While in her later years, Cecilia O'Neil loved and enjoyed swimming. Whenever she had spare time, she would swim. Cecilia used to take her nieces and nephews to the Santa Cruz beach. There she would swim and jump off the pier. She was a loving and caring person. She loved her family and her family loved her. She used to stop by her sister's house after dinner and take the children out for ice cream. Although her sister may not have always agreed, how could she stop them. Cecilia was a happy woman who enjoyed her life. Cecilia had a wonderful retirement and she was glad she could do everything she had done.

NRTA: President and More

The National Retired Teachers Association is an association that aids in providing benefits and other services for retired teachers. Miss Cecilia O'Neil and her long time friend, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, decided to create an organization that would help people like themselves. Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus was a retired teacher and school principal at Lincoln High School who also founded the Grey Gables Retired Persons Home. The two women got together and soon after, the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA) was born in 1967. Dr. Andrus took the position of first President and Cecilia O'Neil, at the age of seventy-nine, was the second acting President as the organization got underway. Soon after, the two women got together again and discussed the proposal for an association for retired persons in general. So once again, the two women co-founded another organization, The American Association of Retired Persons. Cecilia became a member of the Board of Directors.

On July 13 of 1967, Dr. Ethel Andrus passed away in Long Beach, California. When Dr. Andrus passed away, Cecilia took over her position as President of the NRTA. She, along with the new AARP President George W. Schluderberg, helped continue the many plans Dr. Andrus had for both organizations. On June 7 1968, Cecilia went to the Long Beach Institute of Lifetime Learning. She attended a ceremony where she presented diplomas to all those at the institution who had finished five or more courses. All the recipients of the diplomas were over the age of fifty-five. Cecilia spoke and noted that the retired persons at the institute "were doing more to uphold the truly democratic way of life than the world ever thought possible."(6)

Cecilia took various trips to the White House over the years. One time Cecilia met in Washington D.C. for the second Area Leadership Conference on June 24-25, 1968. Another time she visited the White House was when Cecilia went to the Washington D.C.

Rose Garden to meet Richard Nixon on June 24, 1969.(7) President Nixon invited Cecilia to the White House so that he could tell her and 20, 000, 000 other older Americans that he was naming a Special Assistant to the President on Aging. The president chose a man by the name of John B. Martin Jr. Cecilia commended President Nixon on his proclamation of a National Program for Voluntary Action and pledged full support for the NRTA and the AARP. President Nixon was a native of California. He had grown up in the city of Whittier, which is located just East of Los Angeles. Cecilia and Mr. Nixon reminisced of old times in California. The two talked about San Jose and how Nixon remembered an old candy store which Cecilia knew about and had been to. Cecilia and Nixon had a lot to talk about and reminisce. She gave him a copy of "The Wisdom of Ethel Percy Andrus," and President Nixon took her to meet his wife. Also in 1969, Cecilia was sent to Washington D.C. as a special guest of Older Americans Inaugural Reception. She attended the reception along with president elect Katherine Pearce. At the Inaugural Ball, Cecilia met with then Governor, Ronald Reagan. In the year 1970, Cecilia received the Golden Key Award from President Nixon at the White House during the American Education Week. In the summer of 1971, Cecilia and George W. Schluderberg, President of the AARP, went to the White House to request that there should be a conference on aging to President Nixon himself. Soon after their trip, President Nixon called for a conference on aging at the White House in November of that year. Cecilia attended the conference in November. Cecilia attended the White House on many occasions after being requested for consultation on problems of aging and other matters concerning aging.

1970 was a busy year for Cecilia O'Neil. On June 2, 1970, Cecilia was present at the dedication site of the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center at the University of Southern California. The Cecilia O'Neil Scholarship was established by the NRTA in 1970. She spoke at the National Education Association's annual convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In 1970, Cecilia also received the Golden Key Award of San Jose from Norman Mineta. In 1970, there was a Biennial Convention at Fort Worth, Texas.

President Leonard Davis said, "As incredible as it may seem, the teaching careers of the people in this room have embraced everything from the first horseless carriages to the first space ship to the moon." (8) He also congratulated the leadership of the outgoing NRTA President Cecilia O'Neil. On that same night Cecilia O'Neil turned her position as president over to the new acting president Katherine Pearce. Cecilia was President of the NRTA for three years. Also in 1970, Cecilia attended a Leadership Conference of the Republican National Committee in Washington D.C. She talked about her topic "The Republican Party and Senior Citizens." Cecilia asked for both major parties to realize that the nation's older citizens had become a unique group of voters. She encouraged them to recognize the senior citizens as a "potent voting force." (9) Cecilia also had efforts to focus attention on America's older retired teachers. She wanted to inform lawmakers of what was happening so that they could help fix the problems. She asked the NRTA members to check out the homes of retired teachers they knew and to see if they could live in the conditions they were living in.

Cecilia was a vibrant woman who stayed active in both the NRTA and AARP for the rest of her life. She made many valuable contributions to both organizations and continued the legacy of her friend, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.

The End of an Era

In her final years, Cecilia had been living with two of her sisters, Agnes O'Neil and Olivia Brady in a house at 385 Patton Avenue in San Jose, California. Eventually she became bed ridden from old age and was put into the Casa Serena Convalescent Hospital in San Jose to live her final years. On April 18, 1980, at the age of ninety-two, Cecilia O'Neil passed away.

Cecilia O'Neil lived an extraordinary and very full life. For many people, their lives seem to diminish and are not as exciting when they enter retirement. On the other hand, there is Cecilia O'Neil. She taught for forty-four years, thirty-eight years at San Jose High School. Upon retirement, she joined various organizations and founded a few of her own. She became president of the National Retired Teachers Association and was involved in the organization for many, many years. Cecilia O'Neil's life was one of dedication and hard work throughout her career at San Jose High School and later during her tenure as the President of the National Retired Teachers Association where she constantly strived to make the lives of older citizens better and more secure.



Appendices





Cecilia O'Neil

MISS O'NEIL

We give you our dean of girls, patient and kindly, who makes our Girls' League a success and gives an incentive to every high school girl.

MR. LATHROP

When planning a career, choosing a course, or just making out new programs, we may depend upon Mr. Lathrop, our registrar, to give us the advice we need.

MR. SHIPP

To his many duties in guidance and curriculum, our vice principal brings dependable execution and a dash of that personal touch.

MR. DENT

In his first year as dean of boys, Mr. Dent put over many successful Boys' League activities. His technical crew has provided a whole year of classroom programs through movies and transcriptions. Because he makes himself one of them, Mr. Dent is a favorite of all the boys.

T R A T I O N

HOWARD LATHROP
Vice-principal



FREDERIC SHIPP
Vice-principal



JAMES DENT
Dean of Boys

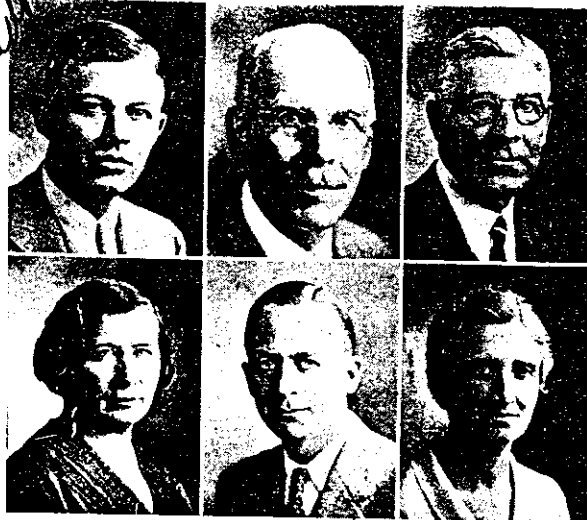


CECILIA O'NEIL
Dean of Girls



ADMINISTRATION

Forrest G. Murdock



Forrest G. Murdock Charles B. Gleason Howard B. Lathrop
Cecelia O'Neil Frederick L. Shipp Lela O. Gillan

THE administration offices of high school consist of those of the principal, two vice-principals, educational counselor, and two deans. These offices transact all the business of the high school, arrange programs, and help students in general.

Mr. Murdock, as principal, has general charge of everything. In this capacity he has been serving for one school year. Mr. Gleason and Mr. Lathrop divide the work of program making and advise the students in all matters of scholarship. This work is so divided that Mr. Gleason arranges the classes for the juniors and seniors and Mr. Lathrop does the same for the sophomore class. Miss Gillan, educational counselor, has charge of the educational measurements of the three classes.

Miss O'Neil, dean of girls, serves as an advisor, friend, and helper of the girls. She is also sponsor of the Girls' League.

Mr. Shipp, in his capacity as dean of boys, does much the same for the boys. He is also sponsor of Boys' League.

Cecilia O'Neil Named to Serve On Civil Service Commission

Miss Cecilia O'Neil, dean of women at San Jose High School and member of the County Welfare Commission, was appointed to a seat on the County Civil Service Commission by the Board of Supervisors yesterday.

Miss O'Neil's appointment was recommended by Supervisor Joseph M. McKinnon, and seconded by Supervisor E. O. Wool. It is the first time since the Commission was organized that a woman has filled a place on the Board.

She succeeds Frank Mitchell, banker, who resigned a month ago due to press of business affairs.

At the same time the Board re-appointed Mrs. Mabel Gussefeld, Mrs. M. A. Paslaqua, Mrs. Edith Ayer, Miss Madeline Keith and Supervisor Wool to the County Welfare Commission.

Endsley Will Head Sunnyvale Legion

SUNNYVALE, July 15.—James P. Endsley, World War II veteran, was named commander of Sunny-

MISS O'NEIL ON CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Appointment of Miss Cecilia O'Neil, Dean of Girls at San Jose High School and prominent in educational and welfare activities, to the County Civil Service Commission was made today by the Board of Supervisors. The new Commissioner will fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Frank C. Mitchell for business reasons.

Self-confessed rapist Mack Richardson, 46, of Mountain View, was wanted to...

An Apple for Teacher --And It's Golden

Retired teacher Cecilia O'Neil, of 195 Devine St., has been singled out for this year's top Teacher Remembrance Day Award by the Senior League of California.

She will receive the "Horace Mann Apple of Gold" award today in Los Angeles in a league program honoring outstanding California teachers.

Last week she received from Governor Knight a copy of a

proclamation issued by him for the league's seventh annual "Apple of Gold" award.

Miss O'Neil retired in 1952 after 44 years as a teacher, 43 of them in San Jose schools.

After graduation from the old San Jose Normal School, she taught physical education in San Jose elementary schools and after 1914, in San Jose High School.

She became dean of girls in SJHS in 1921, holding the position 30 years. She also was vice-principal of SJHS.

She is president of the California Retired Teachers' Assn., past president of the Bay Section, California Teachers' Assn., and a member of the CTA state council. She was vice-president and parliamentarian of the CRTA in 1953-57.

In addition she was president of the County Welfare Commission 20 years, a member of the County Civil Service Commission and of the Public Solicitation Commission of San Jose.



CECILIA O'NEIL
... Taught 44 years

S.C. Looking For Urban Renewal Chief

Winner To Fete SJS Girls' Dean

Women's Faculty Club of San Jose High School is sponsoring a dinner June 3 honoring Miss Cecelia O'Neil, dean of girls since 1914 and a member of the faculty since 1909. Miss O'Neil is retiring next month.

The dinner will be held in Hawaiian Gardens, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Ben Sweeney, San Jose High principal, will be toastmaster. A program will be put on by faculty members and will be in charge of Mrs. Bernice Logue, speech instructor. Appearing on the program will be Miss Celia Denues, who will give a dramatic sketch, and Miss Diana Gard, soprano.

Invitations have gone out from the Faculty Club to all persons in San Jose's school system and to all retired teachers whose whereabouts is known, according to Miss Jewell Godfrey, general chairman. Anyone formerly connected with the schools here who has not been reached is asked to call Miss Emile Reiff at San Jose High and make reservations, Miss Godfrey urges.

Girls' Dean At S.J. High Will Retire

Cecilia O'Neil, dean of girls at San Jose High School and for 38 years connected with the school as teacher and counselor, has announced she will retire in June.

Miss O'Neil has been dean of girls at the high school since 1921. Six years before that she had started in the school as teacher of physical education. For a time she supervised girls' physical education for the entire school system. In 1920 she organized the Girls' Peninsula Athletic League, an organization that is still in existence. She also served as its president for many years.

She is a native of San Jose and granddaughter of John J. Devine, who came here in 1860.

Cecilia O'Neil Reveals Plan To Retire At San Jose High

By PATRICIA LOOMIS

Miss Cecelia O'Neil, beloved by two generations of San Joseans, is leaving San Jose High School after 38 years spent in teaching and counseling there.

Miss O'Neil is retiring at the end of this school term in June to work in her garden, travel, and take care of the family heirlooms and antiques that fill the old family home on Devine St.

She expects to be busy, but never too busy to talk and work with people who need her. She likes people and, in turn, Miss O'Neil has hundreds of friends among San Jose High alumni who are now prominent in the civic, business and political affairs of the city and State.

On the eve of her departure from San Jose High, where she has been dean of girls since 1921, and on the eve of the move into the new school at McKee Road and 24th St., she recalls the many changes that have taken place in the school and in education in general.

She was a student in the original high school when the 1906 earthquake leveled the buildings and forced students to move into the Lincoln Grammar School, now the School Administration Building on Almaden Ave.

"We had double sessions then, too," Miss O'Neil recalls. The old Lincoln School was one of only two schools left standing in the quake and fire which followed, and classrooms were considerably more crowded than they are today.

In 1908, the year the high school was rebuilt, Miss O'Neil began her teaching career in an elementary school. She had just graduated from the San Jose Normal School, now San Jose State College. After six years she moved to San Jose High to teach physical education.

In those early years of her teaching career, she supervised girls' physical education for the entire San Jose school system, and also taught physical education at University of California Summer sessions.

Those were the days of the below-the-knee bloomers.

"We used to send east for those bloomers. We had them made especially for us, and the more pleats and fullness they had, the more stylish they were," Miss O'Neil remembers.

She also recalls the consternation and great to-do caused when a teacher or student first appeared in pants with "rolled stockings."

In 1920 Miss O'Neil organized the Girls Peninsula Athletic League, which is still in existence,



Five more weeks and Miss Cecelia O'Neil, dean of girls at San Jose High School, will leave her desk to retire after 44 years of teaching and counseling, 38 of them at San Jose High. Hundreds of San Joseans, many of whom are now prominent leaders in the community, have discussed their problems and plans for the future with Miss O'Neil across this desk. She has been at San Jose High since 1914. No "world traveler," she says, Miss O'Neil nevertheless plans to take short trips, work in her garden and keep up her active life in the community after retiring next month.

and she served as president of the league for many years.

Miss O'Neil also represented San Jose teachers on the Bay Section, California Teachers Association, for 14 years, and was its president in 1946-47. She served on the State CTA Council for six years.

She was a member of the old Santa Clara County Welfare Commission as school representative for 25 years, until the commission went out of existence with the new County Charter last Summer. She is now a member of the San Jose Public Welfare Solicitation Commission.

"Education is more democratic

now," Miss O'Neil believes. "used to be that only a select few went through high school, and not every youngster has the opportunity."

The education program has also undergone a gradual change, she believes.

Instead of only the three R's the youngsters today are given wide variety of courses of study and learn to live and work with each other in the world after graduation.

Miss O'Neil is a native San Josean and a member of a pioneer family. Her grandfather was John J. Devine, who came to San Jose in 1860, and for whom Devine St. was named.

Teachers and administrators form a team whose goal is to train the student in the classroom, to provide for other school year experiences, to guide the student into constructive channels of activity, to help him find his way through selecting courses, planning careers, and finding jobs. A key figure in this process is the counselor, at times a classroom social studies teacher, at times a full-time trained specialist.

The name of your teacher, often forgotten with the passage of years, conjures up memories of classroom experiences, of successes and attempts at success, of classmates, of subject matter, and of human foibles. In the bordered boxes on this and subsequent pages, is an all to incomplete and imperfect list of past teachers. Some of the ladies married while still teaching or later, so names may not always be familiar.

PAST FACULTY MEMBERS

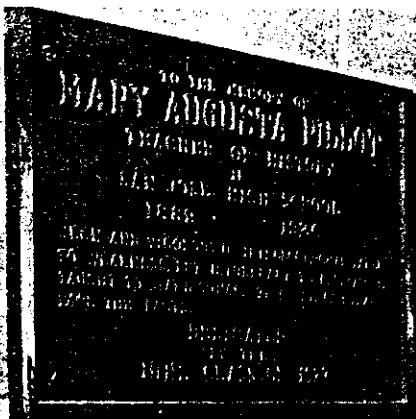
Ruth Adamson	(1957-1958)
Edith Acworth	(1910-1937)
Irene Alexander	(1916-1927)
Herman Allison	(1939-1955)
William Allman	(1923-1927)
Selven Anderson	(1957-1960)
Fred Anibal	(1942-1942)
Constance Arbaugh	(1930-1957)
Larry Arnerich	(1944-1950)
Robert Arnold	(1937-1947)
Jack Avina	(1957-1962)
Janet Axline	(1961-1963)
Herbert Badgley	(1946-1957)
Hazel Ball	(1920-1925)
Margaret Bareuther	(1941-1942)
Lucille Barker	(1942-1942)
Robert Barrett	(1956-1957)
Alma Baum	(1918-1920)
Henry Baylor	(1946-1950)
Paul Becker	(1950-1954)
Raphael Belluomini	(1955-1956)
Nancy Berry	(1927-1928)
Robert Berry	(1946-1950)
Ollie Bishop	(1939-1945)
William Black	(1936-1937)
Lotta Bland	(1916-1932)
Emma Blauer	(1916-1943)
Kenneth Blue	(1948-1953)

An administrator and often a good friend, the vice principal plays a vital role. Sometimes a planner of courses, as curriculum director, an adviser to the student body and its many activities, a disciplinarian, as dean of boys or girls, a helping hand to steer a straight and smoother road in the same role, the vice principal's face is one familiar to all students. Following is an alphabetical list of vice principals.

Vice Principals

Cornelia M. Farley	(1921-1931)
Charles B. Gleason	(1898-1937)
L. Helen Gobar	(1952-1955)
H. Edward Gordon	(1957-1960)
Laurance J. Hill	(1944-1946)
Edward M. Jefferson	(1950-1959)
Robert B. Kennedy	(1946-1950)
Howard B. Lathrop	(1926-1941)
Robert V. Mercurio	(1960-1961)
Phyllis Morris	(1960-)
Cecilia O'Neil	(1942-1952)
Karl O. Pedersen	(1959-)
Jean Ridley	(1961-)
Frederick T. Shipp	(1939-1942)
L. R. Smith	(-1898)
Edna Thill	(1955-1960)

Renner, Delbert	Carmichael, Jack
Romano, Sarah	Carranza, Elizabeth
Rossetta, Joseph	Carreno, Virginia
Rushane, Allen	Caruso, Josephine
Sanchez, Eloise	Cassetta, Janice
Santoro, Patricia	Cattello, Charles
Sargent, Roy	Cervelli, Leo
Seehuetter, Georgia	Chaffin, Mary
Selstad, John	Charlton, Lois
Shields, Gail	Christian, Thomas
Shreve, Patricia	Christina, Rose
Silva, Lionel	Clavarelli, Irene
Silva, Raymond	Clark, George
Smith, William, Jr.	Clements, Robert
Spadafore, George	Cline, Archie
Spatola Vivian M.	Cline, Dorothy
Spatola, Vivian T.	Cochrane, Margaret
Spoon, John	Coffaro, Mayme
Stanley, Jacqueline	Cogliandro, Rudolph
Studdert, Susan	Cole, Robert
Sturges, Richard	Conyers, Jr., Francis
Summaria, Orlando	Cook, Charlene
Sweet, Gregor	Cook, Vernon
Teeters, Donald	Cornett, Moyna
Telesky, Raymond	Cortese, Richard
Tribulato, Angelo	Cox, William
Tuttle, Robert	Creamer, Marion
Vallandigham, David	Crossley, Carol
Velasco, Mirian	D'Acquisto, Antoinette
Warf, Gene	Davis, Jack
Watts, Merle	De Anda, Julian
Williams, Waldo	Deason, Corrine
Wolff, Dolores	Dias, Madeline
Woodfin, Kenneth	Dimmitt, Lee
CLASS OF 1948	
JUNE	
Abasolo, Rose	Dockery, Richard
Adams, Audrey	Dodds, Darline
Adams, Lois	Dominguez, Joy
Adrian, Charles	Donahue, James
Alaimo, Michael	Dooley, Glenn
Alvarez, Gilbert	Doudell, Raleigh
Anderson, Herbert	Downey, Charles
Andrade, Louis	Downing, Evelyn
Andrews, Nicholas	Drummer, Donald
Andrews, Robert	Duarte, Esther
Andrews, William Jr.	Duke, Sarah
Ardagna, Frances	Dunbar, John
Ardagna, Nellie	Dunlap, Georgia
Arena, Ann	Ellis, Dolores
Atkinson, Robert	Ellis, Gordon
Balistreri, Vincent	Emerson, Clifford
Banuelos, Ralph	Erickson, Richard
Barton, Lois	Ervin, Robert
Bates, Richard	Escobar, Betty
Beach, Floey	Estes, Dan
Bell, James	Evans, Donald
Bennett, Ralph	Ezaki, Grace
Benoit, Barry	Fain, Carol
Benskin, Ronald	Fazzio, Joseph
Bertucci, Leroy	Fender, Bonnie
Bo, Luigi	Ferriera, Lorraine
Bodwell, Maurice	Fischer, Christina
Bohlin, Margaret	Fletscher, Marion
Boillard, Julia	Florence, William
Bommarito, Thomas	Flores, Roberto
Boncore, Tina	Fontana, Albert
Bone, Marilyn	Foscaltina, Lillias
Bongiorno, Elaine	Fox, James
Bougeau, Bonnie	Francis, Beverly
Bowers, Beverly	Frausto, Armida
Brancato, Lawrence	Freitas, Richard
Breckler, Leslie	Frost, Beverly
Brill, Charles	Fukumoto, Dorothy
Bruno, Louis	Fujino, Mollie
Bryant, Harmon	Garcia, Glendora
Bueno, Mel	Garrison, Ilene
Burns, Geraldine	George, Clarence
Cadena, Alonzo	Giammona, Salvatore
Cain, Doris	Giese, Byron
Cannon, Greta	Gieselmann, Ruth
Cardona, Carl	Gish, Kent
Carlson, Robert	Gomes, Melvin
	Gomez, Delia
	Gomez, Doris





Cecilia O'Neil, dynamo of energy in the 1962-63 Centennial celebration and in helping organize the May 18 banquet which drew some 1,900 to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, was herself a 1906 San Jose graduate. She joined the faculty in 1914, pioneering play and corrective work in girls' physical education and serving as a model for teachers throughout the state. She was dean of girls from 1942 until her retirement in 1952.

"The industrial arts courses at San Jose High itself give many students a chance to learn about modern industry in a practical way," Mr. Miller writes. "Here at High we have the only Federal Communications Commission — licensed amateur radio station in any of the district's senior high schools. This station, K6PGH, has been on the air since 1955, and various student operators have talked to amateurs through the U.S., Canada, Central America, and Hawaii."

PAST FACULTY MEMBERS

Mary Louise Thompson	(1948-1962)	Kathryn Williams	(1912-1941)
Oscar Thompson	(1956-1957)	Lillian Williams	(1909- ?)
William Threlfall	(1938-1951)	Walt Williams	(1922-1947)
Henry Tillman	(1920-1938)	Shirley Willis	(1939-1942)
Grace Tomkinson	(1944-1957)	Alice Williston	(1911-1925)
Clifford Transeeth	(1947-1951)	Olive Willoughby	(1921-1927)
D. R. Triplett	(1930- ?)	Mary Willson	(1942-1950)
Frances Vaughan	(1927-1928)	Mabel Winter	(1931-1942)
Louis Vogt	(1918-1937)	Shirley Witt	(1931-1931)
Lydia Walker	(1922-1923)	Harry Wolters	(1921-1929)
Blanche Walters	(1920-1921)	Carrie Wood	(1938-1950)
Cora Walton	(1913-1944)	Charles Wood	(1960-1962)
Henry Waltz, Jr.	(1921- ?)	Elsie Wood	(1919-1944)
Jessie Warren	(1922-1950)	Grace Wood	(1918-1945)
Frank Watson	(1921-1939)	Ruth Wood	(1921-1953)
P. M. Weddell	(1915-1939)	Katherine Woodhead	(1921-1926)
George Weller	(1956-1958)	Donald Woods	(1931-1950)
Russell West	(1942-1946)	Frances Wright	(1924-1927)
James Wheelahan	(1953-1959)	Eliza Yocum	(1916-1934)
Otis Whiting	(1924-1930)	Velma Young	(1958-1959)
Carol Wilcox	(1962-1963)	Edwin Zahn	(1916-1938)
Carrie Williams	(1923- ?)	Christine Zoffman	(1912-1942)

Valenti, Janice
Velenz, Jr., Clement
Vitale, Rose
Vitek, Carolyn
Vitek, Donald
Wainwright, Hartwell
Wallace, Barbara
Walker, Peggy
Warf, Bonnie
Warren, Sherry
Webb, Lloyd
Williams, Russell
Wilson, Leslie
Woelfer, Crispin
Woods, William

CLASS OF 1955

JUNE

Abasolo, Fausto
Acosta, Ruben
Acquistapace, Constance
Adock, Anita
Alameda, Albert
Alarcon, Marie
Alesandro, Mary
Alexander, Lupe
Allen, James
Amaral, Ernest
Andrade, Jr., Antonio
Andrade, Margaret
Arnaiz, Anita
Arrigo, Frances
Asanuma, Martha
Atkinson, Edward
Banuelos, Lyda
Barone, Gloria
Barraza, Joe
Bastian, Constance
Belka, Jr., Fredrick
Bettencourt, Nereida
Boehme, Jeannette
Brandonier, Roberta
Brooks, Carolyn
Brown, Alfred
Bunheirao, Walter
Burk, Virginia
Burton, Nancy
Burton, Jr., Walter
Byers, Carol
Cachopo, Manuel
Cannon, Charles
Cardoza, Arlene
Carranza, Priscilla
Carroll, Patricia
Casaletto, Leone
Castro, Irene
Catania, Philoene
Chaffin, William
Chavez, Madeline
Chavez, Rachel
Chavez, Virginia
Childress, Barbara
Christensen, Janis
Clark, Conious
Clark, Ethel
Cole, Betty
Coley, Shelda
Collins, Janis
Corp, Jr., John
Cortez, Dolores
Cota, Robert
Cusimano, Toni
D'Arpino, Emilio
Davis, Charles
Dearing, Jr., Roy
De Dios, Richard
Dell'Era, Danita
Diaz, Robert
Dieterle, Robert
Douglas, Jean
Dubois, Billy
Dunning, Billie

Durand, Dorothy
Ekdahl, Gerald
Enos, Gerry
Enos, Garth
Enos, Gloria
Esparza, Esther
Espino, Paula
Esquibel, Susanna
Fahey, Robert
Faleschini, Walter
Ferea, Jr., William
Figone, Frank
Figueroa, Virginia
Flores, Alice
Flores, Angelina
Flores, Armando
Flores, Fred
Fukumura, Katherine
Garcia, Paul
Geitz, Franklin
Genrich, Daphne
Giannini, Betty
Givens, Shelby
Gonzales, Benjamin
Gonzales, Irma
Goodenough, Robert
Graham, Eleanor
Grijalva, Erlinda
Guardino, Edward
Guerra, Barbara
Guerrero, Jr., Jesse
Guinta, Philip
Hanson, Jr., Robert
Harriman, Kay
Harrison, Bruce
Harrison, Frank
Harty, Richard
Hassler, Travis
Hays, Lee
Heinrichs, Leroy
Hernandez, Angelita
Hernandez, Daniel
Hernandez, Rachael
Hicks, Barbara
Hill, Robert
Hulick, Gerald
Ingram, Gloria
Ishikawa, Robert
Ito, Roy
Jamison, Nancy
Joiner, Dixie
Jones, Gladys
Jones, John
Jones, Shirley
Katsinis, Theodore
Keli, Harold
Kephart, Violet
Kimura, Elisabeth
Knoth, Alan
Kong, Randall
Lambert, John
Lee, Ernest
Lee, Robert
Lillo, Joseph
Lovejoy, Donald
Lucchesi, Charles
Mangin, James
Maral, Bonnie
Marichalar, Antonia
Marino, Marian
Mark, Patrick
Marsh, Jean
Martin, Bradford
Martin, Richard
Martinez, Mary
Martino, Ronald
Mastrini, George
Matsuura, Vernon
Mattoon, Charles
Mazzola, Mary
McClusky, Ruth
McGrath, Richard
McKinn, Donald



D. Portal W. Burch E. Blum W. Cox E. Engleman

January Class

OFFICERS		
President	DEWITT PORTAL	
Vice-President	EPHRAIM ENGLEMAN	
Secretary	ESTHER BLUM	
Treasurer	WILLIE BURCH	
Supervisors	WILBUR COX	

THE graduation of the January Class of 1927 was a distinct loss to every activity in school. Dramatics, debating, and athletics all lost stellar performers.

Under a capable administration, the energy and skill of the class manifested itself in the presentation of one of the most successful Senior Shows ever given. In the presentation of a Senior Ball that for beauty of decoration and music will long remain unsurpassed, and in the initiation of a fund for turling Reed Field.



Cecilia O'Neil "decorates" Walt Williams.

White, Maxine
Williams, Gary
Yepiz, Juan
Yoshida, Arline
Yuki, Carolyn
Zamzow, Henry

CLASS OF 1959 JUNE

Acosta, Joe
Adams, Esther
Adams, Lynda
Alarcon, Sally
Alcantar, Joseph
Alexander, Christine
Alvarado, Emelinda
Amaral, Roberta
Anderson, Robert
Anderson, Wayne
Andrade, John
Angelari, Marie
Aquino, Vincent, Jr.
Arcoraci, Diane
Arena, Louis
Armstrong, David
Baker, Herbert
Balistreri, Barbara
Balistreri, Carmella
Balsells, Dolores
Barale, Ronald
Barnes, Judy
Bartlett, Jack
Bartmess, Carol
Beasley, Claudia
Benanti, Stephen
Benitez, Robert
Bentley, Patricia
Bergman, Bruce
Bernard, Billy
Bettencourt, Edward
Bibb, Eleanor
Billings, James
Bishop, Edward
Bittel, Daniel
Blaser, Carolyn
Blaser, Marilyn
Blonde, Marilyn
Blouin, Lenora
Boldt, Siegfried
Bondi, John
Boteilho, Rodney
Bottema, Thomas
Brommer, Joyce
Brose, John
Brown, Clarlene
Burnetti, Francis
Bruns, Jr., Arthur
Bullock, Jr., Aaron
Bunker, Charlotte
Cadamartori, Shirley
Calcagno, Lidia
Calibozo, Gregory
Campagna, Dennis
Campbell, James
Campo, Valerie
Cancel, Aixa
Cannon, Ronald
Carbajal, Ofelia
Carrillo, Tony
Castillo, Jr., Nicholas
Castillo, Santiago
Cates, Leroy
Cervantez, Roberto
Champion, Gordon
Chavez, Lucy
Chivers, Virginia
Cilia, John
Cimoli, Frederick
Cimoli, Gilbert
Clark, Shirley
Conetto, Alphonso
Consentino, Santa
Cook, Barbara

Corpuz, Joseph
Corriea, Henry
Cortese, Lynne
Costa, Harriet
Covell, Gary
Crompton, Ronald
Cuellar, Ricardo
Dali, Don
Daly, Mary
Daniels, Laura
Daugherty, Patrick
Davenport, David
De La Vega, Dolores
Del Valle, Neida
De Prmia, Anthony
Diaz, Marie
Di Giorgio, Jeannette
Disperati, Yolanda
Divittorio, Michael
Dixon, Williard
Dobashi, Linda
Durazo, Joseph
Ebeling, Sally
Elardo, Salvatore
Emehiser, Wayne
Engles, Charles
Enos, Beverly
Escobedo, Georgia
Faraone, Elizabeth
Faria, Renee
Faughn, Sharon
Ferro, Anna
Fillingeri, Anzelmo
Flores, Jane
Flores, Robert
Folden, Mark
Forneris, Louis
Fraker, Deanna
Franchi, Cherie
Franco, Yvonne
Futamase, Brenda
Gagliano, Elizabeth
Gamez, Naomi
Garcia, Eleanor
Garcia, Ernest
Garcia, Jose
Giafaglione, Patricia
Gonzales, Barbara
Gonzales, Louis
Goss, Darlene
Greeley, Larry
Green, David
Greenleaf, Charles
Guerrero, Ralph
Guiffida, Angela
Gutierrez, Aurelia
Gutierrez, Daniel
Gutierrez, Elvira
Guzman, Noelia
Guzman, Ruben
Halder, Carol
Hampton, Patsy
Harris, Robert
Hartman, David
Heinrichs, Earl
Hernandez, Josephine
Hernandez, Richard
Herrera, Bartola
Hewald, Marie
Hewitt, Harold
Hitchcock, Leota
Holland, Kenneth
Holmes, Terry
Honda, Michael
Horn, Linda
Huff, Willene
Hughes, Linda
Hulick, Kenneth
Hurd, Mary
Ikemoto, Bruce
Iness, Shirley
Inouye, Melvin
Inouye, Ralph

Iwama, Jr., Frank
Jamison, Bruce
Jew, Kaye
Jimenez, Mary
Jimenez, Ruben
Johnson, Mary
Johnson, Jr., Ralph
Jones, Judith
Jones, Spencer
Kawamura, Bernice
Kelly, Rosalie
Kelso, David
Kennedy, Irene
Kennedy, L. T.
Kerner, Linda
Kingsley, Deanna
Kogura, Albert
Kong, Alice
Kong, Carolyn
Kulcycka, Eleanora
Landi, Sharon
Leon, Louis
Leonard, Nancy
Lester, Janice
Lewis, Bonda
Lewis, Merion
Lillard, John
Linn, Barbara
Littrell, Douglas
Lopez, Benito
Lopez, Henry
Lopez, Joel
Lopez, Joseph
Love, Vincent
Luna, Noel
Macias, Rosalie
Magliocco, Joseph
Maniglia, Andrea
Margason, Sandra
Martin, Ellen
Martin, Georgia
Martinez, Albelardo
Martinez, Joyce
Martinez, Raymond
Mayorga, Joseph
Mazzurco, Jeraldine
McDonald, Marsha
McKusker, Linda
Melton, Donna
Mersereau, Jr., Egbert
Metzger, James
Mijares, David
Miller, Verona
Montez, Carol
Montez, Dolores
Moreno, Charles
Moreno, Frances
Moreno, Ricardo
Morgado, Gene
Morihiro, Joyce
Morihiro, Shirley
Mounts, Sharold
Murakami, Wesley
Murry, Bobby
Navarro, Simon
Nevarez, Emitteria
Newby, Minnie
Newman, William
Newton, Phyllis
Nunes, Jr., Mathews
O'Connor, Robert
Oldfield, Linda
Olea, Arnold
Oliver, Deanna
Oliver, Joan
Ortiz, Catalina
Otis, Geraldine
Pagliaro, Ronald
Palacios, Gloria
Palma, Cecilia
Paradiso, Jerry
Park, Maxine
Pecoraro, Carolyn



'To Serve . . . Not Be Served'

An affectionate hug from a man well known for his admiration for teachers was bestowed upon Miss Cecelia O'Neil in the White House Rose Garden last week. Miss O'Neil, president of the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA), came from San Jose, Calif., to pledge the

support of her organization to help achieve the objectives of President Nixon's National Program for Voluntary Action. After 44 years as a teacher, Miss O'Neil's idea of retirement is "To serve — not to be served."

NC Photo

Photo by Miss Con



President Richard M. Nixon greets Miss O'Neil at White House at time of her recommendation of appointment of John Martin as President's Special Assistant on Aging.



Miss O'Neil makes keynote address
at National Education Association
annual convention, Atlantic City,
New Jersey.

Citizenship
nea
national education association



SITE OF THE
ETHEL PERCY ANDRUS
GERONTOLOGY CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MADE POSSIBLE THRU THE GENEROSITY OF
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS AND
THE NATIONAL RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Miss O'Neil at dedication of site of Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center, June 2, 1970.





March 22, 1998

Mr. Eric Douat
2723 Gerald Way
San Jose, CA 95125

Dear Eric:

We have researched the archives of NRTA and AARP for references to your great, great aunt, Cecilia O'Neil for copies of articles related to her presidency. Enclosed are references to Miss O'Neil in the NRTA News Bulletin from April, 1966, when she became president of NRTA, until May, 1970, when she resigned. She remained active in retired educators' causes after that date, testifying before congress in 1972.

In addition I have enclosed a copy of *The Wisdom of Ethel Percy Andrus*, which was published this year to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of NRTA. I hope this material will be useful in the preparation of your essay.

When you have completed your essay perhaps you would send us a copy so that we at NRTA might see what you have written. It has been an interesting assignment on my part to review that period of NRTA history.

Good luck with the contest.

Sincerely,

Helen Alexander
Assistant Director
National Retired Teachers Association

Enclosures

helen.alexander@nrtat.org

Bibliography

"A Challenge from Cecilia O'Neil." NRTA News Bulletin. Vol. 11, No.3, February 1970.

"An Apple for Teacher -- And It's Golden." San Jose Mercury-News. p. 4, Sunday, June 1, 1958.

Alexander, Helen. Assistant Director if the National Retired Teachers Association.
Researched Infomation at the NRTA and AARP Building in Washington D.C.
April 1998.

"Cecilia O'Neil Named to Serve On Civil Service Commission." San Jose (Calif.) Mercury Herald. Tuesday.

Douat, John. Retired Baker. Interviewed at 161 Chateau La Salle Drive, San Jose, California. Sunday, March 8, 1998.

Douat, Patricia. Homemaker, Wife, and Niece of Cecilia O'Neil. Interviewed at 161 Chateau La Salle Drive, San Jose, California. Sunday, March 8, 1998.

"Funeral Rites Scheduled Tonight for Retired Teacher Cecilia O'Neil." San Jose Mercury. p. 4B, Monday, April 21, 1980.

Loomis, Patricia. "Cecilia O'Neil Reveals Plan to Retire at San Jose High." San Jose Evening News. p. 17, Thursday, May 8, 1952.

"Miss Cecilia O'Neil Succeeds Dr. Andrus as NRTA President." NRTA News Bulletin. Vol. 9, No. 1, October, 1967.

"O'Neil Cited at Convention; 1,000 Set Attendance Record." NRTA News Bulletin. Vol. 11, No.7, August 1970.

"President Nixon Welcomes NRTA President To White House." NRTA News Bulletin. Vol. 10, No. 6, August, 1969.

Resume of Miss Cecilia O'Neil.

"The Gavel Passes." NRTA Journal. May-June, 1970.

End Notes

1. Members of San Jose High School Yearbook Staff, The Bell (1928), page of Administration.
2. San Jose Mercury News (Monday, April 21, 1980), p.4B.
3. Copy of Miss Cecilia O'Neil's Resume.
4. San Jose Mercury News (Monday, April 21, 1980), p.4B.
5. NRTA News Bulletin (National Reired Teachers Association, 1970), Vol. 11, No. 4, April, p.3.
6. NRTA News Bulletin (Long Beach, California, National Retired Teachers Association, 1968) Vol. 9, No. 6, August, p.4.
7. NRTA News Bulletin (National Retired Teachers Association, 1969) Vol. 10, No. 6, August, p. 1.
8. NRTA News Bulletin (National Retired Teachers Association, 1970)Vol. 11, No. 7, August, p. 1,4.
9. NRTA News Bulletin (National Retired Teachers Association, 1970) Article- "Miss O'Neil tell politicians elderly are potent voting force."

Willow Glen High School

Advisor: Mrs. Kathryn C. Philp