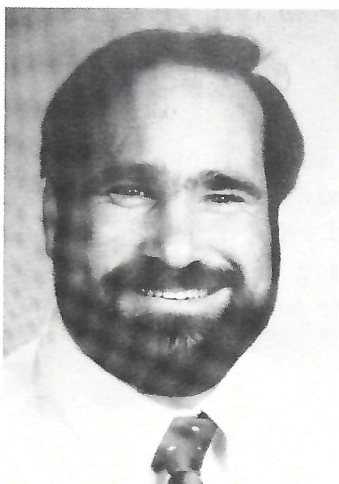


## LANDMARKS



### THE ROCK



One can walk around campus at lunch or between classes and see students gathering around “the rock” that is located next to the quad between the 200 and 300 buildings. That rock was put there for Vice Principal Larry Reid who served at Granada from 1996-1998. The rock is a symbol of Mr. Reid’s character. In fact his favorite song was “Like A Rock” by Bob Seeger.

During his short time at Granada he established a strong rapport with his students often saying to each student who entered his office, “Hey kiddo, what’s up?” As a vice principal he had a soft spot in his heart for kids he thought were struggling, but possessed the strength of character to admit their mistakes and take responsibility for their actions. After his passing, many students, when told they were

missing something on their transcripts often said, ...”But Mr. Reid said.....” That was usually enough evidence to know that he had worked out some kind of deal with a student.

From 1993, Mr. Reid suffered from a rare form of blood cancer (multiple myeloma) but even after a bone marrow transplant, he was back working at school. In fall 1997 he became interim principal for six weeks when Kevin Drake went on a medical leave. After returning, Mr. Drake asked him how he liked being principal and Mr. Reid answered, “I didn’t like it at all. I couldn’t use my favorite line anymore---...if a parent didn’t like what I was telling them---I’d tell them they could go see the principal.”



He also has an administrative rule named after him—aptly The Larry Reid Rule. Basically it is for administrators and says, “If you approve the activity, you supervise it.”





### DON FAZIO

Perhaps you have walked by the front of the school and noticed a plaque with Don Fazio's name on it and wondered about the man it was named after.

Don Fazio was a custodian at Granada from 1972 to his death in 1988. From 1982 he was the Head Custodian.

Simply put, Mr. Fazio was not your typical custodian. Mr. Fazio was raised in Walnut Creek and graduated from Las Lomas High School. He served in the United States Army, leaving just after the Berlin Crisis of the early 1960s. He then went to San Francisco State University (as it was called then), and later took a job at LLNL as a draftsman. Around 1967, he left the lab and was a substitute night custodian for the school district, while taking day classes at CSU, Hayward. Finally, with his degree in hand, he signed on as a full-time custodian in September 1972. According to his wife Margaret, he requested to work at night so he could have his days free to work on wood projects. She added, "Don was his own man. He was a smart man and wanted to be in control of his own time. He was not to be defined by his job."



Don could be seen in the evening taking his dinner in the 300 Building. More times than not, he would have a book in his hand, and it would not be your typical sports book, or some other "fluff." Usually it would be one of the classics.

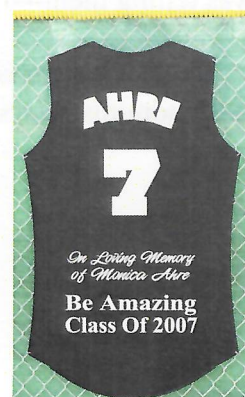
Mr. Fazio suffered a massive heart attack in June 1988, but recovered sufficiently from this during the summer so he could start the next school year. His heart, however, failed again, and he died during the first month of the new school year.



### MONICA AHRE

Monica was a freshmen student at GHS in 2004. She was the Freshman Class President and also a member of the JV softball team.

In the 2004 yearbook Monica related that the JV season was more of a test. She added, "What motivated me to play my best is to keep reminding myself that I must constantly work hard to improve my chance to make varsity next year."





In Principal Kevin Drake's yearbook she wrote, "Mr. Drake. This was my first and best year at Granada! I am gonna miss you next year. Have a great summer!"

Tragically Monica was killed in an accident in the summer of 2004. The entire school was stunned by this tragedy, and while Monica had just completed her freshmen year she left an indelible mark on all staff and students. She was remembered as a person who had friends "all over campus." Jan Freytag remembered her as "being very positive, loved the color purple, and was accepting of all groups of students."

In her memory, a replica of her jersey was placed on the outfield fence of the softball diamond, and a bench sits in Alumni Plaza, as a tribute to her enthusiasm, leadership and love of softball.

### RANDOM SCIENCE



A new science complex was completed on campus in May 2008. The following spring this article ran in *The Independent*:<sup>24</sup>

#### Granada Art and Science Departments Team Up to Create "Random Science"

During Spring Break 2009 a 400-tile ceramic mural was installed in Granada's new science center. The idea for this mural came from Granada ceramic teacher Pam Tabel. She was assisted by art chairperson, Laura Thournir, who along with the science teachers and students developed the concept for the wall.

The idea came to Tabel after she saw U.C. Davis' Nature's Gallery mosaic mural, which comprises 148 ceramic tiles depicting plants and insects found in the Storer Garden in the U.C. Davis Arboretum. The mural was created by the Art-Science Fusion Program at Davis. It was on display last year in the U.S. Botanical Garden in Washington, D.C.



The mural depicts elements on the periodic table, scientific instruments, animals, plants, scientific symbols, constellations, rockets, the food pyramid,





and science icons like Newton and Einstein. A lot of creativity went into coming up with concepts—like the two tiles that depict Michelangelo’s “Creation” from the Sistine Chapel, only God and Adam hold an atom between their hands. One of Tabel’s contributions was a tile of a chicken, egg, and question mark.<sup>25</sup>

The tiles are red iron oxide, carved using every hand building technique available. Some of the designs were made by impressions of leaves or scientific instruments, while others, such as a starfish, were created with molds made by the ceramics students. Another technique was tracing a photo onto the clay, and then filling out the details by hand. One tile features a hand-modeled nose (that one will be hung high on the wall, to discourage practical jokes).<sup>26</sup>

Funding presented a major obstacle. Tabel applied for some small grants, but discovered each grant had specific requirements that were too restrictive. However, at the end of 2007, Granada’s Associated Student Body came through with the entire \$5,000 needed for materials and installation. This generous funding from the Granada students enabled Tabel to start the work on the project. Her ceramic students were required to create a tile as a graded project. Science students were also invited to create tiles. The entire project took one year from the initial planning to the construction of the tiles and finally the installation on the wall.

“We are so excited about the mural,” said Science Chairperson Frankie Tate. “Pam Tabel had a great vision and she made it happen. She is a delightful and talented artist and we are so lucky to have her at Granada.” “I love the collaboration between the science and art departments,” continued Tate, “Although I must say, this was a pretty one-sided collaboration because the work was done by the art department. We are the ones who get to enjoy the work every day as we walk to our classes. The students are very proud of their work. I’m sure they will be thrilled to see their tiles displayed in the mural.”<sup>27</sup>

## *Random Science*

Created by GHS Students and Staff

Inspired by the Vision and Design of  
Pam Tabel

May 2009

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.





**View of Granada High School From Boot Hill**

## **BOOT HILL**

Boot Hill, as it is known to Granadans, was aptly named, as it was the site of Livermore's first cemetery named Oak Knoll Cemetery. William Mendenhall, father of the founder of Livermore was reported to be the first person buried at this site On January 12, 1873.<sup>28</sup> Later in the nineteen century the Oak Knoll Cemetery was the burial ground for many Chinese immigrants.<sup>29</sup>

By the early 1900s a couple of things happened that caused Oak Knoll Cemetery to lose appeal as a burial site. First the 1906 San Francisco earthquake knocked down many headstones, and in 1907 torrential rains caused immense flooding that washed away part of the eastern hillside.<sup>30</sup> For the next half century the ground was in disrepair, until finally in 1963 Oak Knoll was formally abandoned as a public cemetery and dedicated as a public park.<sup>31</sup> Interestingly, Oak Knoll was one of the choices that voters had to choose from in 1960 when they selected the name for the new high school in Livermore. It could be called "Daffodil Hill" today as gardening clubs have planted thousands of daffodils on the western slope, and the hill turns into a colorful spectacle each spring.

Boot Hill has also served as a notorious landmark for hundreds of Granada athletes. In the 1960s and 1970s many an athlete reported running that hill many times, ostensibly for conditioning but also for reported misdeeds during games. Jack Miller ('72) recalls, after a lackluster performance during a football game in 1971, the offense had to run plays up the hill until the coach was satisfied we got the message."<sup>32</sup> Physical Education classes also used the hill for conditioning exercise. Classes were to run down the levy, behind the backstop, and up and over the hill.

In addition, most school administrators could tell countless stories of tracking misguided students around the Boot Hill area.

<sup>28</sup> Anne Homan, *Historic Livermore California*, p. 369

<sup>29</sup> Anne Homan, *Historic Livermore California* p. 369

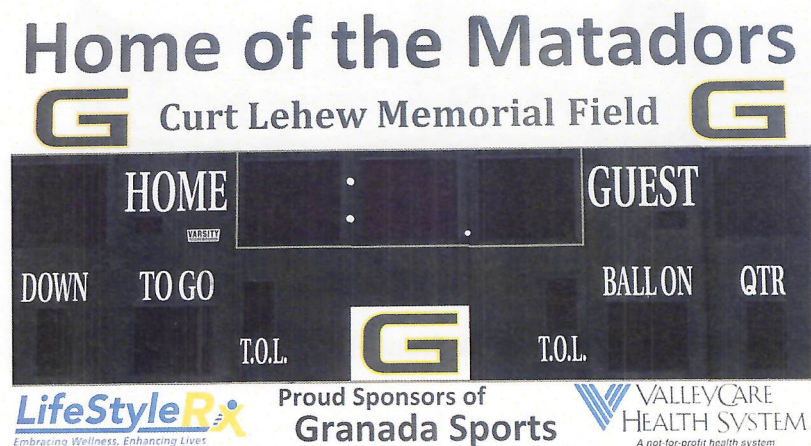
<sup>30</sup> Anne Homan, *Historic Livermore California* p. 369-70

<sup>31</sup> Anne Homan, *Historic Livermore California* p. 370

<sup>32</sup> Conversation with Jack Miller, February 17, 2014



## CURT LEHEW FIELD



Granada starting fielding a varsity football team in 1965. From that date until 1972, they had no field they could call their own. All “home” games were played at Livermore High School. From 1972 until 1977 they were the only team in the EBAL that had to play their home games on Saturday afternoon.

The Granada Supporters Club, (incorporated in January 1969) was the organization that was formed to support all campus groups. The development of a football field was a priority, albeit a costly one. In early 1970, the School District agreed to finance the track, the curb around the track, the perimeter fence, and the grass for the field.<sup>33</sup> The Granada Supporters assumed all other costs. The momentum to build the field was gathering support at least conceptually. At one Supporter meeting, Chuck Greer argued that the field needed bleachers and advocated that the Supporters undertake this project. Soon this idea gathered force and the ball was set in motion to build a stadium on campus with bleachers.

The estimated cost for the construction of a clay track and seeded turf was \$177,149.<sup>34</sup> The Granada Supporters announced in October 1970 that about \$3,500 had been collected for the new stadium. A substantial amount of that figure came from a fund dedicated to Chester King, a decorated halfback on the GHS 1967 football team. After graduation, King attended Chabot College briefly before enlisting in the army. In November 1970, he was killed in action in Vietnam, and his family asked that people contribute to the stadium rather than send flowers.<sup>35</sup>

Additional support was received from Bing Crosby after two years of making requests. On February 27, 1971 Chuck Greer learned that the Bing Crosby Youth Fund was to donate \$6,000 for the field.<sup>36</sup> This money was generated from the proceeds of the annual Bing Crosby pro-am golf tournament held yearly on the Monterey Peninsula. The \$6,000 was the largest contribution ever by the Monterey based organization, and it was the first donation to a school.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>33</sup> George Wilson, April 2, 2014

<sup>34</sup> *Herald and News*, October 22, 1970, p. 3

<sup>35</sup> Ibid

<sup>36</sup> *Herald and News*, February 27, 1971

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.



In June 1971, Granada Stadium had its official groundbreaking ceremony.<sup>38</sup> Among those in attendance that day were R.F. D'Ambra, assistant director of operations for the School District, Chuck Greer, president of the Granada Supporters, Sue Holcomb, Maid of Alameda County and Livermore, and other Granada cheerleaders and athletes.

How did so much happen so quickly to guarantee a bank loan so the project could move forward? According to George Wilson, a charter member of the GHS Supporters, as well as the Head Varsity Football Coach, "To pay for the bleachers alone, fifty families took out second mortgages of \$500 each to guarantee this loan!"<sup>39</sup> To repay the loan, the Granada Supporters went into the bingo business. For well over a decade, Granada bingo games were held at St. Charles Church in Livermore as well as the multi-purpose room at Granada. Even prior to the start of the stadium construction, the Supporters had sponsored dances and even set up a night concession booth on campus to provide food and drink for Chabot College classes, which were being taught on campus.<sup>40</sup> A major contributor was the local Lions Club that donated \$25,000 for a scoreboard to be installed at the stadium.

<sup>41</sup> Parents and volunteers did all of the labor for the field. Work was at a frenzy level over the next year to complete the field for the start of the 1972 season. This included the construction of the bleachers. George Wilson remembers parents coming to the field on Saturdays with their own ratchets to put the bleachers together.<sup>42</sup>

A parallel project was the installation of lights for the field. Bill Robison led a team researching the lighting requirements, and actually had the lights shipped from Southern California. But the lighting project was completed well after the construction of the playing field. The lights for the stadium were not installed and functional until 1977, or five years after the field was ready for use. Starting in the fall of 1972 the GHS football teams were required to play their home games on Saturday afternoons. But they now had a home field sans lighting.

The Supporters were proud of the fact that no district support was given for the purchase and installation of the lights or the bleachers. Again this was a volunteer and grass roots movement. Foundations were dug deeply to secure the light poles, trenching was done to secure all underground electrical, and a press box and scoreboard were completed. Another unique aspect of the light project was that when the bulbs burned out, it was left up to volunteers again to climb the light poles and change out the lights. Parents such as Daryl Waldera and Don Aguiar performed this task, but Don's boy, Louie, and John King, who was the son of another parent, helped them. (John King is pictured at the left).



<sup>38</sup> *Herald and News*, June 30, 1971 p. 2

<sup>39</sup> George Wilson, April 2, 2014

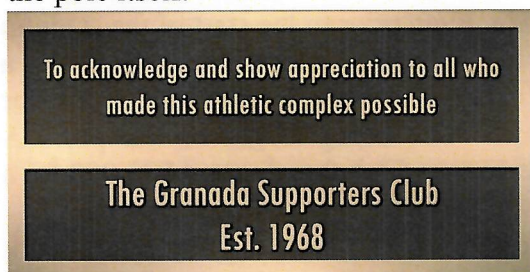
<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.



The new lights did present a challenge before each contest. They were positioned extremely close to the playing field to save money, since taller poles would have been required behind the bleachers. Before each game other Granada volunteers, usually the Athletic Director and his/her staff, had to secure foam padding around the concrete base of each pole as well as the pole itself.



In 1972 the field was dedicated to Curt Lehew for his effort in the organization and implementation of the field construction. The only artifact remaining from the original work was a rock that was set by the home bleachers. A participant of the original construction crew asked Brad Morisoli, who helped install new lights in 2005, if the “rock” was still at the field. Mr. Morisoli said that he knew the rock well

since he had hit it with his truck. He was told that the rock was intended by the original crew to serve as a commemoration of the field, and the Granada Supporters had an intention of placing a plaque on it. Mr. Morisoli remedied this by moving it to the entrance to the stadium and placing an appropriate plaque on it.

To remedy the name dedication, that was slowly vanishing into history, the school had a re-dedication to Curt Lehew (since passed) and his family in October 2013.



**Curt Lehew Family, Rededication, October 2013**

The current stadium looks substantially different from the days the dads were on the field with shovels and wheelbarrows. A new nine-lane all weather track (in meters this time) was installed in 2001, and artificial turf was installed in 2005. Also, as part of the 2005 construction new lights were installed—this time behind the bleachers, and a new scoreboard was also installed.



## NEW CONSTRUCTION

A visitor or alumnus visiting Granada today will see many changes in the quad area. The

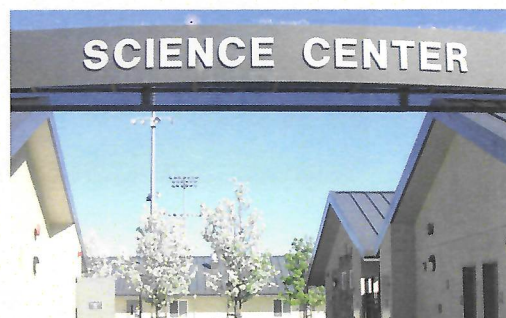


days when a kiosk was the center of the quad were gone. The kiosk, which served as a receptacle for student lockers, as well as a food-dispensing center, was removed at an earlier quad renovation in the mid-1990s. All lockers were removed after GHS instituted a block schedule in 1992, since fewer classes meant fewer books students had to store. Also the raised, concrete stage that was part of the mid-1990 renovation

was demolished with the latest renovation.

A visitor will also notice that there was no more letter “Gs” written on the quad pavement. This tradition had started early in the school’s history, with the “Block G” club in charge of painting the “G” in the quad. Freshmen Beware: The “G” was sacred; you just did not step on it. The senior class was also allowed to paint their grad year on the pavement. Jodi Robison, Class of ’77, recalled painting “77” in front of the 300 building because they wanted their senior class picture taken with them on it.

A closer look at the gymnasium will reveal that an entirely new “small” gym was built adjacent to the original. This project was completed in 1999 and was necessary with the increase of interscholastic sports. Wrestling initially used this gym for practice, and it became useful during the winter months as all basketball teams required gym space.

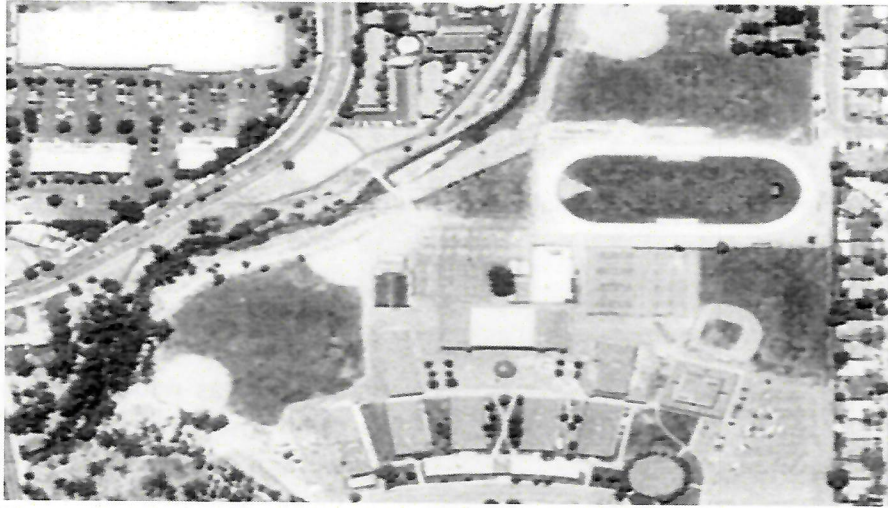


Since Granada instituted a closed campus policy in 2008 it required more facilities for students to use during lunch. Many new benches and other seating areas were built. The renovation plan not only included the quad area, but also the construction of a new science complex. The science center was located where alumni will recall the tennis courts were previously located. These tennis courts were moved to the east side of the football stadium. The original science building, built in 1965, was turned into a media center.



Look on the Google maps on the next page to see the many changes on campus in the last twenty years.

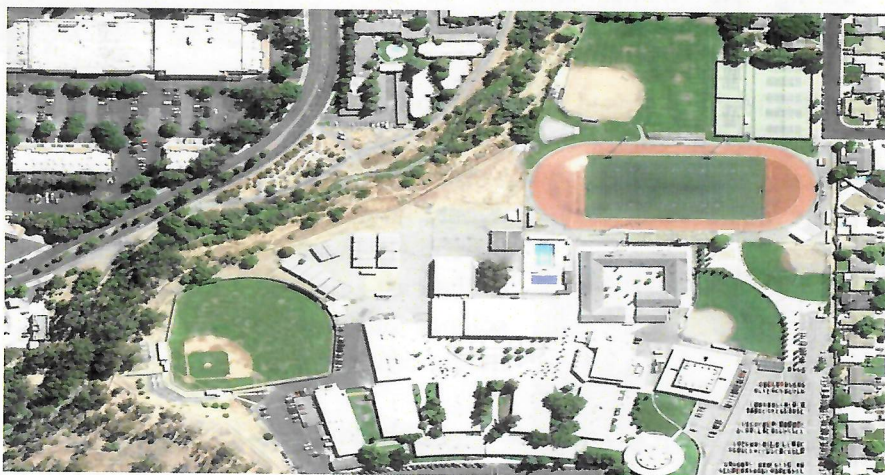




June 12, 1993



August 27, 2005



August 29, 2012



## ECOLOGY CLASS LANDSCAPING

A close examination of Granada in the early to mid 1960s revealed much bare land with little landscaping. One reason for this was that Principal Lee prioritized lighting the parking lot over the initial cost of landscaping. He reasoned that money would be there for landscaping in the future, but not necessarily money for the parking lot.<sup>43</sup>

John Satterswaithe taught a class in ecology at the time, and he initiated a student-driven campaign to help landscape the campus. The above photograph shows his students planting shrubs in front of the school. Another large project undertaken by this class was planting redwood trees along the north side of the 200 wing. Many of those trees still stand today, but slowly some have succumbed to disease and have been removed.



John Satterswaithe



200 Wing Redwoods

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<sup>43</sup> Peg Hauselt, April 24, 2014

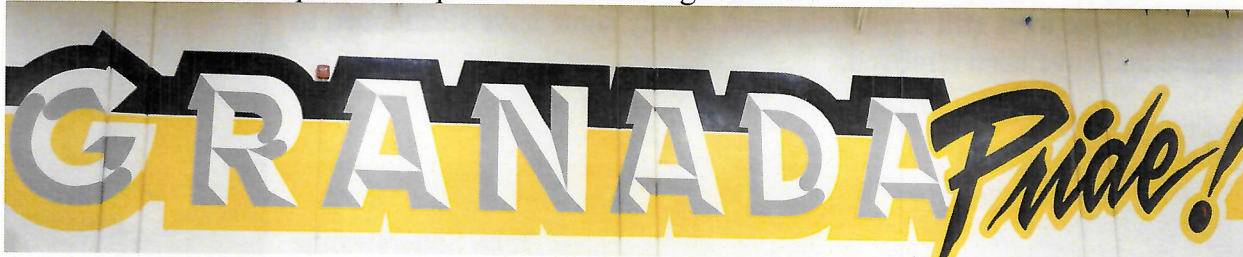


## GYM

The painting of the inside of the Main Gym on campus was the brainchild of Physical Education instructor Jan Freytag. Ms. Freytag had taught at GHS since the late 1960s, and was instrumental in the development of spirit on campus. She is essentially Granada's Head Cheerleader for the past 45 years.

In 1995, sensing that our boys' basketball team was on the threshold of greatness, Jan went to new principal Kevin Drake and basically said, "We need to do something about the condition of the gym." She was then given the task of coming up with a plan to renovate the inside of the gym. Her work and vision resulted in a complete "make-over" of the gym, which reflected the pride the staff and students have had for Granada the past fifty years.

The generosity of The Granada Supporters Club and the Classes of 1994 and 1995 allowed Ms. Freytag's vision to become reality. The gym is a visual reminder of the pride and spirit of Granada High School.



## 300 HALL MURAL



In 2001, a group of mostly senior art students were interested in creating a mural on campus to exhibit their thoughts on the history of the world through the arts. With the help of their instructor Laura Thournir, they worked out a plan to use a space in the 300 Hall for this plan to become reality.

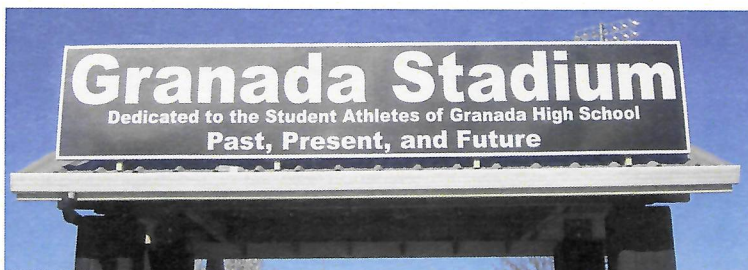
The 300 Hall was selected because it was used mostly for social science classes, and the students thought the location was appropriate. Each student took a theme and, then as a team, put the mural together.

One frame that stands out is American Gothic, but each piece is an example of the interdisciplinary approach of associating art with history.



## ALUMNI PLAZA

An all-weather football field was installed in Curt Lehew Stadium in 2005. That led to a larger project—the total remodeling of the entrance to the stadium. This also included the construction of a new snack shack.



Three people, Chris VanSchaack, Jan Freytag, and Brad Morisoli, were instrumental in the vision and completion of this endeavor.



The entry at the west end of the stadium was the principal entrance to the field. A large plaza was designed and built at the immediate entrance to the stadium. This has become known as Alumni Plaza.

Jan Freytag spearheaded the project to sell bricks to alumni and friends of Granada in this plaza. It was known as Project Pride. All proceeds from the sale of these bricks was earmarked for campus improvements. This project is ongoing.



**Bench dedicated  
to Monica Ahre ("Dwell In Possibility")**

Every year at homecoming the Granada Supporters sponsor a large Bar B-Q for the GHS alumni at the plaza