

**Charles Sadnick**

**From:** Charles Sadnick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 10:02 AM  
**To:** 'Diana Zertuche'  
**Cc:** Bratten Thomason  
**Subject:** RE: San Felipe High School and San Felipe ISD historical markers

Diana,

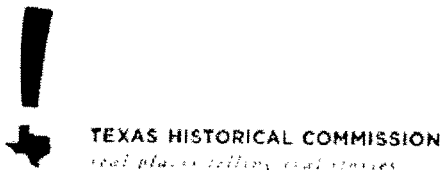
Thank you for the reply. We'll try our best to continue with the larger marker for the school as well. Answers to the following questions will help us add important details to the marker:

1. What grades attended the high school? Our information says that grades 6-12 attended school in the building – were they all attending San Felipe High School, or was there a split in schools within the same building?
2. Are there any noted individuals who graduated from the school? Did any individuals make significant contributions on the local, county, state or national levels?
3. Were there any noted administrators or teachers at the school? Did any make a special impact on the students and/or community?
4. What happened to the students after the school closed? Which high school did the students now attend?
5. Did the students or faculty have any particular traditions?
6. Was the school a centerpiece for Hispanics in the community? How so? Did any events or activities take place at the school, besides those associated with education?

Please let me know if you have any questions. If your IT expert is unable to open the files, please let me know and I'll get them to you through another method.

Sincerely,  
Charles

**Charles T. Sadnick III**  
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**From:** Diana Zertuche [mailto:dszertuche@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 7:17 PM  
**To:** Charles Sadnick  
**Subject:** RE: San Felipe High School and San Felipe ISD historical markers

Hi Charles: Thank you for your correspondence. I am estatic that you are able to accomodate us with your approval of the District text. I am happy to know that we can do a marker.

7/1/2009

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History Programs Division RECEIVED

JUL 23 2009

THC-Purchasing

To Charlie:

From: Diana Sotelo Zertuche  
San Felipe High School Questions

Hi Charlie: I will try to answer each question by number. Also we had a "town hall meeting" where I invited the leadership of the Barrio of San Felipe to help me answer the questions needed for our marker.

The response was over whelming as the President of the San Felipe Exes Association, Guadalupe B. DeHoyos (Lupe) helped in the organization and calling of the meeting.

I will try to answer each question by number as you have asked:

#1 The San Felipe High School campus housed several buildings along with the new High School. For obvious and economic reasons, the buildings that housed 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> were located just behind the High School building. The lower three grades mentioned were housed in some old Army barracks. The same Principal initially ran all the grades.

So yes, there was a physical split.

#2 Yes, there are many noted individuals who graduated from "San Fe" who have contributed to the National, State and Local levels.

**National Contributions:**

San Felipe every year honors all of their fallen soldiers with a memorial service held at the SAN FELIPE EXES ASSOCIATION MUSEUM.

This museum is the product of the spirit of San Felipe that has survived against all odds and continues to survive as one of the most charitable organizations in Val Verde County.

San Felipe High School has several recipients of the Medal of Honor from the U.S. Government. One such recipient is: "El Sancudo"-----  
-----Gutierrez

*Diana*

He was awarded one of the most prestigious designations by a Joint commission representing Russia and the U.S.

San Felipe in its short life has well over 18 PhD's; Ten medical physicians; several hundred registered nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians, about a thousand teachers and other educational disciplines, 6 Superintendents of Schools, over 100 Principals, 20 or more attorneys, 10 FBI agents, 3 City Mayor (Dr. Alfredo Gutierrez, Efrain Valdez, Roberto Chavirra), many City Council and School Board members, architects. 12 engineers and many successful business men and women located all over the United States and the country.

Alfredo Gutierrez, M. D. was the first Hispanic American to become one of the city's longest tenured Mayors, who was a graduate of San Fe, and a direct descendent of one of the advocates for the San Felipe Independent School District.

Efrain Valdez, our current Mayor is a descendant of one of the first School Board Members and the son of a long time educator from San Felipe High School. Mr. Valdez is a direct descendant of Doña Paula Losoya Taylor, the donor of the land on which the San Felipe High School was built.

#3 Noted administrators were those who diligently and courageously fought to keep this school financially afloat by donating many hours of work. Pro bono activities were the usual for San Felipe High School instead of the opposite.

The Barrio of San Felipe was very poor and taxation was very difficult to collect. Construction of buildings and all other structures was done by community carpenters, electricians etc. The beautiful San Felipe Stadium was built one dime at a time. Bricks were sold for one dime. Everything else was donated including all the labor.

**SAN FELIPE HIGH SCHOOL WAS A TRUE LABOR OF LOVE!**

The Barrio was so proud of their educational institution that when a PTA meeting was held only standing room was available. Moms and dads attended...it was mandatory! San Fe High was well known for parental involvement.

The San Felipe Mustangs were a football team that had the spirit and motivation that is today unmatched. The colors purple and gold still bring tears of great sentiment to all the alumni, as does the school song. The San Felipe Exes Association is responsible for keeping the spirit and the memories alive in Del Rio, Texas.

The San Felipe Exes Museum houses every thing that is of value to the Barrio and to visiting alumni. It is open to the public and is financially supported by its large membership.

San Felipe High School was ahead of its time. It encouraged and expected parental classroom involvement. Teachers were held in high esteem and were honored and recognized in most public functions that were usually held at the stadium.

The San Felipe High School Auditorium was used for all social and historical festivities. ~~It was customary that all Barrio parades began on the Campus and ended at the Plaza Brown (Historical Marker).~~ Purple and Gold continues to be the Barrio colors for all public functions and affairs.

#4 When consolidation of the two school districts occurred, then the San Felipe High School became San Felipe Middle School. The children from the Barrio of San Felipe all began to attend the Del Rio High School in the northern part of Del Rio, Texas. Discrimination continued for many years but today things are getting a little better.

#5 Traditions continue to be the focal point for the community of San Felipe. The San Felipe Exes Organization is one of the largest in the nation and **is one of 14 Exes associations whose Alma Mater is no longer in existence.** The Exes Associations claims members from all over the nation and several countries.

#6 The school was used to help educate adults in voting rights and responsibilities. During several floods, the High School building was used to house displaced families whose homes were destroyed by the many floods that the Barrio of San Felipe endured. All parades begin and end at the High School Building. The High School building has always been a voting place and it continues to this day.

San Felipe High School reunions continue to this day and without fail the groups always begin their celebrations after all meeting and rejoicing in front of the school along with the normal picture taking.

The **Mighty Mustangs** continue to celebrate their logo and purple and gold is always displayed along all of the Barrio of San Felipe. Garza Street is about a one and a half mile stretch and for all festivities the people join in displaying their colors of purple and gold.

One of the notable events that is remarkable about this school and the people who supported it, is that they had a beautiful yearbook with all the frills and fancies. The first book was done in 1933. Local community members who knew the publishing business and how to crop pictures donated their time to teach the students and the entire community had fund raisers to help pay for the publishing of the yearbook so that all the children would get a copy.

In 1957, four young men won the State Gold Championship when playing at our local golf course was prohibited for “Mexican Americans.” They used sticks to practice and holes in vacant lots as their golf course. Each young man became caddies and the “Anglo” golfer would let them practice and soon began to be allowed to

play under certain conditions. This accomplishment has made several books and some of the paraphernalia is at the SAN FELIPE EXES MUSEUM.

I have just had a meeting with the leadership of the Barrio of San Felipe and I agree with them that they do not want to glorify or single any one person as being a special contributor, etc. The community wants to have the building as a **“remarkable building that housed remarkable people who graduated and who have given back to society much more than they received.”** This is the legacy they want remembered and not one person or another.

Charlie, please help me comply with the wishes of the people. They are not interested in glorifying any one special, in spite of the many contributions that have been accomplished in the state, federal and local levels.

The SAN FELIPE HIGH SCHOOL IS THE SYMBOLIC CENTERPIECE OF THE BARRIO OF SAN FELIPE BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE’S COURAGE, TENACITY, LOYALTY AND THEIR GREAT DESIRE TO SUCCEED AGAINST ALL ODDS!