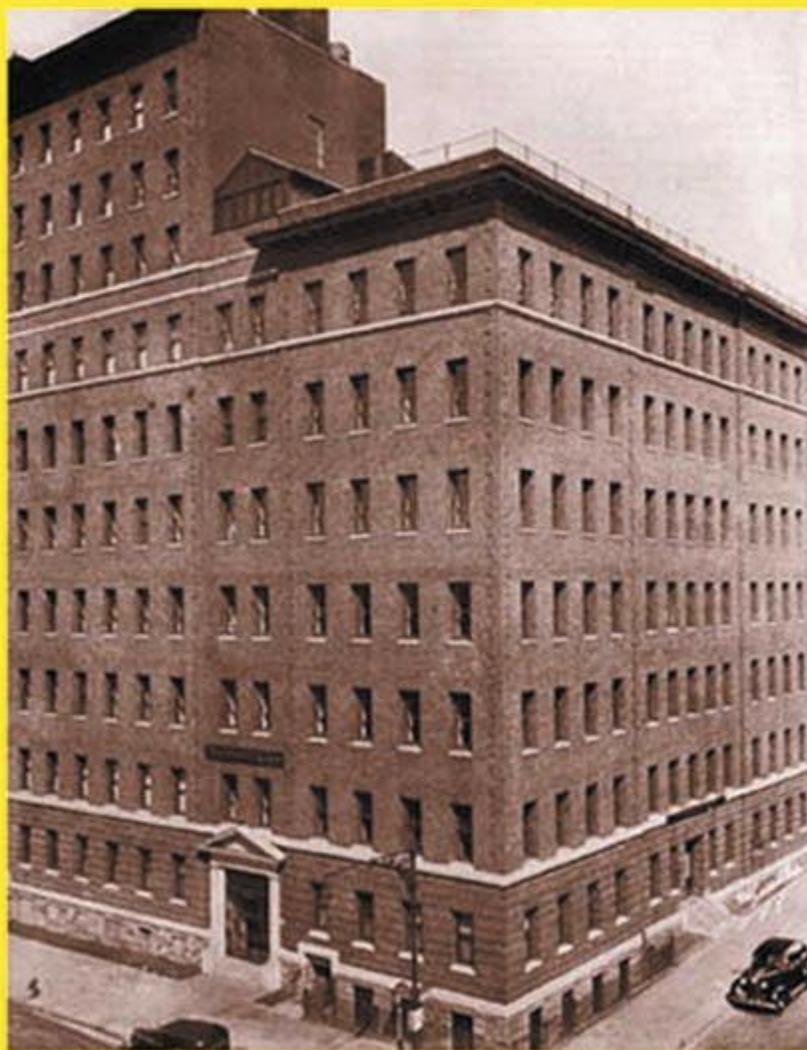


POWER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY



A Chronology of Events
from 1931 up to 2003



Power Memorial Academy

A Brief Chronology

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The Power Story

The Prelude

It all began in 1909, when Monsignor Power of All Saints Parish petitioned the Christian Brothers of Ireland to come to New York and teach the boys in his parish in a new parochial grade school. He asked for them since he felt that other teaching orders knew little about Ireland or Irish history, and he reasoned that they would be unsuitable since all his parishioners were of Irish birth or Irish descent.



Three years later the good Brothers were requested to open a High School in the Parish. After careful consideration, a building was secured at 15 West 124th Street and the new school was named All Hallows. The school was fabulously successful and the attendance increased every year, and finally it occupied 5 adjoining buildings. Finally, in 1931, the Brothers moved to their new building at 164th Street and Walton Avenue.

Enter Power Memorial Academy

Many voices requested that that they make use of the old buildings at 124th Street. So insistent were the requests for decent education, the Brothers listened. With the approval of the Archbishop of New York and the Superior-General of their order, a new community took residence there.

On September 16, 1931, Brother E. F. Ryall led the pioneering community and as a fitting memorial to the great man who invited the brothers to this country, they named it Power Memorial Academy after Monsignor Power, who had died in 1926.

On Monday, September 21, 1931, Power Memorial opened its doors for the first time to thirty-one first year students who had wisely chosen their new High School.

A Piece of Power Memorial History



Here is a remarkable piece of Power Memorial Academy History. Having opened its doors in 1931, the first graduation class would naturally be in 1935. This, then, is the actual diploma of a student in that glorious first graduation class in the history of Power Memorial Academy. This document belongs to Robert Shearn, Class of '35...who, incidentally, was in the Position of Honor in "Power's Return" in the 2003 St. Patrick's Day Parade, and Robert also successfully completed the entire march.

Following this event, the first Graduation in Power Memorial History, there would be no stopping 'The Purple and Gold' from going on to bigger and better things.

Imagine the pride felt by one and all...Student Body and Faculty at the end of the wonderful day, May 31, 1935.

Power Needs Larger Quarters

Eventually, the same fate befell Power that had befallen All Hallows...the walls were too small to hold the new enrollment.



Where could they go? Day by day the situation grew more desperate until finally a piece of property on the West Side was brought to their attention, which belonged to a hospital and was no longer being used. In 1938, the Brothers purchased the hospital and moved into their new quarters at 161 West 61st Street, which is the building the majority of us recall with so much pride. Quite a few of the students were born there in its hospital days, and even some of the Brothers. (The buildings Power vacated eventually housed Rice High School.)

The Luck of the Irish



To go back a few years, the scene is now set at March 17, 1936. Power Memorial is represented by its entire student body who are about to march for the first time in the annual *St. Patrick's Day Parade*, which still is, as it was at the time of its beginning a demonstration of faith in God and of loyalty to the traditions of the Irish. Power Memorial did very well in that very first effort, since **His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes** subsequently wrote concerning them: *"The young men were a real inspiration and their excellent appearance in the march was the occasion of most favorable comment."*

Power was represented in the St. Patrick's Day Parade every year after that right up until its closure with one notable difference...thereafter, only the Seniors marched on that great day.

A Sad Day in the History of Power Memorial

"Mad gunman kills boy here, wounds six before capture," screamed the front page of the Times. As students at Power Memorial Academy practiced on March 15, 1948, for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, a deranged man, Marko L. Markovich, opened fire killing one, Thomas Brady, wounding four other students and two non-students.



Evidently, it was Markovich's hate of Catholics that provoked the tragedy. Following his arrest he stated, "The Catholics, the Italians and the politicians, they killed my boy, they killed my Jovan." In a later interview, he told police, "That word Catholic makes me mad, I start to shoot." Markovich's son had died four years earlier from a brain hemorrhage "from natural causes."

The incident began as Power students were walking in front of the 12th Regiment Armory then located at 61st and Columbus Avenue (currently the site of Fordham University Law School). The slayer had asked who these people were and learned they were boys from the local Catholic school. He pulled a gun and started firing, hitting several victims. In the chaos that followed, he confronted others, but his gun misfired. He pulled out another and shot Thomas Brady dead.

With a hostile crowd in pursuit, he headed north toward 62nd Street, then to 63rd. Police joined the chase, and he ran into a brownstone at 31 W. 63rd St. He raced to the roof where he was met by a volley of police gunfire. He ran down the stairs and was, after vicious resistance, captured and cuffed. The crowd outside the building had grown very large and angry; the fugitive was quickly put in a police car and rushed to the station on West 54th Street. He was booked and recommended for a mental examination at Bellevue Hospital.

In the days that followed, The New York Times writer Meyer Berger provided information to news-thirsty New Yorkers.

On March 16, a Memorial Mass was celebrated for Thomas Brady in St. Paul the Apostle Church on Columbus Avenue and 58th Street. The entire student body of Power Memorial marched to the church. At the mass, Paulist Father Francis McGough asked the students to pray for the healing of those injured and for Brady's soul. "Hate is no solution to any problem," he told them. He also revealed that the deceased was the last boy to have his confession heard before the group walked to the armory; minutes later he was dead. Brady had intentions of entering the religious life; he has been called by some a martyr.

At the service it was announced that the academy's seniors and juniors would march in the parade but without the music. Their flags and drums would be wrapped in black to remember their fallen comrade. Markovich continued his irrational behavior in Bellevue. Some detectives believed he had long staked out the academy and took advantage of the moment when he came upon the parade practice.

Sun and mild weather greeted more than 1 million spectators and 80,000 parade marchers, as did President Harry S Truman and Gov. Thomas E. Dewey. The celebratory atmosphere of the parade turned somber as the sound of the muffled drums announced the arrival of the Power Memorial Academy contingent at the reviewing stand. The school's principal, Brother William A. Hennessy, C.F.C, approached Truman, who expressed his condolences and wishes for those wounded. The unit moved on.

Power Memorial's Amazing Success at Basketball

The start of Power's Basketball successes. The 1930s to the 1950s

In the late 30's, Power Memorial began fielding Varsity Basketball teams that had become very competitive. Reflecting the abilities of the phenomenal **Ezersky** brothers, two championships came Power's way, the All-City in 1937 and again in 1941. In 1942, the Panthers bared their fangs again and captured the *Metropolitan Championship* with **Mort O'Sullivan** as the star Panther.

After that, the Power Basketball program and team became fairly insignificant until the "Hoop Hopes" returned in the 1950-51 season. That year a pair of sophomores came out of the dark and found places on the Varsity team. This duo, who seemed as if they were destined to complement each other, was **George Yarwood** and **Dick Percudani** (who, incidentally, was the youngest varsity player in the city.) Moreover, Dick Percudani was later to become a part of Power Basketball history many years later.

The 1950-51 season actually turned out to be a rather mediocre season after all. Power entered the *K of C Tournament*, and surprised everyone by winning 4 of 5 games, losing only in the championship game by a 44-41 score. On the plus side, Power won the *Regis Trophy Game* for the second year in a row. This showing raised a lot of hopes for the 1951-52 season.

After a 15-9 season in 51-52, the Panthers again set their sights on the *K of C Tournament* championship.

The woes continued...as with the 1950-51 team, they lost in the final game to St. Ann's by a score of 74-72. Oh to be so close, yet so far. On the bright side, Power took on the traditional *Regis Trophy Game*, which the Panthers were determined to win for possession of the cup. Win they did, accomplishing the feat for the third consecutive time and thus retiring the trophy.

In 1952 George Yarwood made All-City.

The New Gym

For many years, the Power Basketball team had called the 12th Regiment Armory on 61st Street home and played many of their games and practice sessions there. Then, at long last, the time finally arrived, sometime in the mid-fifties, when the ground was broken for the long-awaited **Gold-Star Gymnasium**, appropriately named after *Power Memorial WWII veterans* Many Alumni who had spent their 4 years at PMA selling chance-books and attending "Gym Building and Fund-Raising Pep Rallies" had never even gotten to see the final edifice to their bull-dogged tenacity and loyalty at fund-raising activities.

But, nevertheless, the wonderful Gymnasium was completed. It definitely had an effect on the type of basketball talent Power could attract to its new Freshmen Classes each year. The quality of the PMA Basketball showed a marked improvement as a result of having easy access to a practice court and a *real* home court

A Tall, Skinny Young Man Enters PMA



1965
Alcindor stuffs a dunk

In 1961, a very tall young man enrolled as a freshman in the Class of '65. He was already known for his talent on the basketball court and getting him was a coup for Power. His name was Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor...better known as **Lew Alcindor** (and later to be known as **Kareem Abdul Jabbar**).

Already a local basketball legend, Alcindor was heavily recruited by many of the local New York preparatory schools. He chose *Power Memorial Academy*, and his 6'-10" height gave **Coach Jack Donohue** no alternative but to place him on the varsity squad, a rarity for a freshman. He spent the year building his coordination.

As a sophomore averaging 19 points per game, Alcindor led his team to 27 straight victories en route to the 1963 *New York City Catholic High School* championship. Power Memorial's unbeaten streak continued the following year, as Alcindor averaged 26 points a game and led Power to another *City Catholic High School* championship. As a senior he averaged 33 points per game, and although **DeMatha HS** of *Hyattsville, Maryland*, snapped Power's unbeaten streak of 71 games, they again won the **New York City CHSAA** championship by going undefeated the rest of the season. His presence was felt almost immediately. For sure, he captivated the country for the next four years and was also an excellent scholar, a not all-too-common combination.

Power Memorial Dominates High School Basketball



— Headline from the *Purple and Gold*, March 1963 —

Never before in the history of the *CHSAA* has a school distinguished itself as much as the **1962-63** Power basketball teams. The *Varsity*, the *Junior Varsity* and the *Freshman* squads all achieved outstanding records with the *Varsity* completing a perfect slate. And thus, these champions achieved the coveted

Triple Crown, plus fame and glory for Power Memorial...we were on the map all across the country.

1963-64 -- In spite of replacing three starting players, Power completed its second consecutive undefeated season. The season was highlighted by defeating DeMatha High School, 65-62, with Lew Alcindor scored 35 points, in what is viewed as the greatest high school basketball game of all time. It was a testament to the talent of the student-athletes, and the outstanding coaching ability of Jack Donohue, Richard Percudani and Jack Kuhnert.

1964-1965 – *Power Memorial Academy*, led by Lew Alcindor's 35 points, defeated **DeMatha** 65-62. However, in a rematch on Jan. 30, 1965 before a sell-out crowd, they beat Power 46-43 in the most publicized high school basketball game of all time. DeMatha ended Power's 71 game win streak, holding Alcindor to 16 points. It was the lone loss of Lew's high school career (116-1).



Lew Alcindor & Dad

Lew Alcindor (later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) was the kind of player that graces a sport once in a lifetime. The basketball world may never again see an athlete who could dominate a sport for as long as Jabbar did. From the time he stepped on the court at Power Memorial Academy, to the time he retired as the NBA's all-time leader in nine statistical categories, he established himself as basketball's most talented and recognizable figure.

After earning three All-American selections at Power, where he led the team to a 95-6 record, he became part of one of the greatest teams in the history of college basketball. He was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995.

In those three seasons, 1963 through 1965, Power dominated the High School Basketball picture in the Country. Art Kenney, teammate of Lew Alcindor and member of the 63-64 Team that was named the "#1 High School Team of the Century" has graciously given us some insights into the team. [The following is in the words of Art Kenney.]



Art Kenney

"Kareem did not have an immediate impact on the team in his freshman year, but the progress he made was not arithmetic, but geometric from freshman to sophomore year, and from sophomore to junior year. I assume that (non-linear) progress continued into his senior year, but I was at *Fairfield U.* by then.

"At the start of Kareem's sophomore year, the team began its undefeated streak which lasted about 2 1/2 years, and ended when **DeMatha** beat Power by 3 points at *Cole Field house* on the *University of Maryland* campus (we had beaten them by 3 points in the same venue when I was a senior).

"The '63-'64 Team (my senior year/ Kareem's junior year) was named "**The #1 High School Team of The Century**" by *USA Today*. The '70 team of **Len Elmore, Searcy** and **Trimble** had 3 *All-Americans* under **Coach Jack Kuhnert** (he was *Freshman Coach* in my senior year, and **Dick Percudani** was the *JV Coach* and *Varsity Assistant Coach* to **Coach Jack Donohue**. **Chris Mullin** also played at Power at the end of the '70s before transferring to Xaverian."

Coach Percudani is the same Dick Percudani who helped bring basketball successes to Power Memorial back in the 1950-1953 seasons as a member of the JV and Varsity teams. He was at that time the youngest Varsity player in New York City High School basketball.

The following is a short excerpt from Art Kenney's wonderful and moving eulogy delivered at Coach Donohue's memorial service

"The best thing about *Power Memorial* was the wonderful people it attracted, and the academic and athletic standards it set. **Coach Donohue** had an assistant, **Richard Percudani**, who had played for Power, and was "cut from the same cloth." That tandem, became the best coaching TRIO ever to coach high school when **Jack Kuhnert** came to Power and joined the staff... In 1963, Power won the Freshman, Junior Varsity, and Varsity *CHSAA Championships* -- the only time that that has ever been done! The following year, in spite of replacing 3 starting players, our team continued through a second undefeated season, and a few years ago, was named "**The High School Team of The Century**." It was a testament to the teaching, developing and coaching ability of those three, special men.

"Looking back on those years, I realize how fortunate my teammates and I were, to have had Coach Donohue as our high school coach."

[Thank you very much Art, for your insights into the "High School Team of the Century". Your comments are very pertinent being that they are coming from one who was a member of that highly-honored and dominating team...a true inside perspective, so to speak. – Vic '52]

PMA players, teams and coaches and their many Basketball honors

<u>ALL-CITY</u>	<u>CHSAA CHAMPION</u>	<u>RUNNER-UP</u>
1936 Martin Burns		
1937 Tom Holohan		
1938 Tom Gorman		
1939 Ed McCabe	Power Memorial (Br. Loftus)	
1941 John Ezersky		
1952 George Yarwood		
1959 Waverly Davis		Power Memorial (Jack Donohue)
1962 Johnny Hayes		
1963 Lew Alcindor (Kareem) George Barbezat	Power Memorial (Jack Donohue)*	
1964 Lew Alcindor (Kareem) Jack Bettridge	Power Memorial (Jack Donohue)**	
1965 Lew Alcindor (Kareem)	Power Memorial (Jack Donohue)	
1966 Norwood Todmann	Power Memorial (Jack Kuhnert)	
1969		Power Memorial (Jack Kuhnert)
1970 Jap Trimble Len Elmore Ed Searcy	Power Memorial (Jack Kuhnert)***	
1972	Power Memorial (Brendan Malone)	
1973 Bob Misevicius		Power Memorial (Brendan Malone)
1974 Bob Misevicius		
1976 Larry Petty	Power Memorial (Brendan Malone)	
1977 Larry Petty Eddie Moss		Power Memorial (Brendan Malone)
1981 Mario Elie		Power Memorial (Steve Donohue)
1982 Gus Santos		Power Memorial (Steve Donohue)
1984 Mel Kennedy		

* **1963** Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity win the **CHSAA** City Titles.

** **1964** Varsity named "**Number 1 High School Team of the Century**"; inducted into the **CHSAA Hall of Fame** in June of 2000, and into the **NYC Basketball Hall Of Fame** in September, 2000.

*** **1970** Varsity named "**Number 1 Team in the Nation**"; places 3 members on *All-City Team* and *All-American Team* (Len Elmore, Jap Trimble & Ed Searcy).

[Special thanks to Art Kenney for supplying the CHSAA Timeline chart reproduced above]

The Coaches Who Led Power to the Top

The following lineup of four coaches were probably the greatest coaching staff ever assembled in any one High School in the United States, or the World for that matter.

Jack Donohue – Varsity Head Coach 1959-1965



Coach Jack Donohue

It was his years at *Power Memorial High School* (1959-1965) for which **Jack Donohue** may be best remembered. During his tenure at Power, the basketball team had an impressive 163-30 record. At one point, the team won 71 consecutive games, due in part to the phenomenal playing of a young man named **Lew Alcindor**, better known to us now as **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**.

After leaving Power, he coached for several years at **Holy Cross College** in *Worcester, Mass.*, Donohue moved his outstanding skills as a basketball coach north of the border. In 1972, he became the head coach of the *Canadian Men's Basketball Team*.

Over the next 17 years, Donohue established himself as a legend in Canadian basketball and Canadian sport. In his first four years as head coach, the team moved from an eighth-place finish at the 1974 *World Championships* to sixth place at the 1975 *Pan Am Games*, and then to a fourth-place finish at the 1976 *Montreal Olympics*.

At the 1983 *World University Games* in Edmonton, the Canadian team defeated the United States in the semifinals and Yugoslavia in the finals to capture the gold medal

Soon after his career he was inducted into the **Olympic Hall of Fame**, as well as the **Canadian, New York and Ontario Basketball Halls of Fame**. Coach Donohue passed away in April 2003. It will be a long time before we see one of his kind again.

Dick Percudani – Junior Varsity Coach & Assistant Varsity Coach 1959-1965



Coach Dick Percudani

After graduating from **Power Memorial Academy** in 1953, **Richard Percudani** entered **Georgetown University** and played college basketball there.

Upon his 1957 graduation from *Georgetown University*, Dick Percudani returned to *Power Memorial Academy* to become an *Assistant Varsity Coach* and *JV Coach*. He also taught *Earth Science*. With Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) at center, Power became the nation's top-ranked team in 1965-66.

His contributions to New York's basketball scene were recognized in June 1997, when Percudani was inducted into the **New York Catholic High School Basketball Hall of Fame**

In 1966, Percudani became the first American head coach in the *Italian Pro Leagues*, where he was named *Rookie Coach of the Year* with *Milan*. In 1970, he returned to the United States as an assistant at **Fairfield University** and helped lead the squad to its first-ever berth in the *National Invitational Tournament*. He was then an assistant at **Sacred Heart University** and helped lead the club to the *NCAA Division II* Final Four in 1976-77.

He eventually became the *Director of Scouting* for the **Phoenix Suns** of the *NBA*, where he had an 18-year tenure, until his untimely passing in 2001.

Jack Kuhnert – Varsity Head Coach – 1965-1970



Coach Jack Kuhnert

Jack Kuhnert joined the mathematics department of *Power Memorial* following his 1961 graduation from **Manhattan College**. He entered the Power coaching ranks in 1962 as an assistant and took over the head coaching reins in 1965. He compiled an incredible 89-18 (.831 winning percentage) record in 5 seasons and continued Power's dominance of basketball in *New York City*. Jack coached Power to 4 division titles and the 1970 city championship victory over *Archbishop Malloy* was one for the ages. The 1970 team completed an undefeated (22-0) season and garnered the **#1 national ranking** with the *All-America* trio of **Len Elmore, Jap Trimble and Ed Searcy**.

Kuhnert declined the offers to coach at the collegiate level after the dream season and followed his love of teaching and coaching high school to *Freehold, NJ*, where his young family had relocated in 1967. While at *Freehold High School*, Kuhnert won a state championship, 7 division titles and a record 10 *Freehold Regional Holiday Tournament* crowns. The *Holiday Tournament* was renamed in Kuhnert's honor following his sudden passing on October 6, 1997.

Coach Kuhnert was repeatedly recognized for his commitment to the student athlete, high standards of sportsmanship and the coaching profession both during and after his career. Honors included the **National High School Coaching Gold Award, Governor's Teacher Recognition Award, New Jersey Interscholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Freehold High School Hall of Fame** and **New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame**.

Brendan Malone – Junior Varsity Coach 1967-1969 & Varsity Coach 1970-1976



Brendan
Malone

Brendan Malone coached three years of junior varsity and six years (1970-76) of varsity basketball at **Power Memorial Academy**, leading that school to three city championships (one with the JV) and a combined 110-38 (.743) record.

While at *Power*, Malone was a three-time *New York City* "**Coach of the Year**" in basketball, as well as earning two-time "**Coach of the Year**" in baseball.

Coach Malone's successes at *Power Memorial* led to assistant coaching stints at **Fordham University** (1976-77), **Yale University** (1977-78) and **Syracuse University** (1978-84), before becoming a head coach at the **University of Rhode Island** (1984-86).

In 1997, Coach Malone was inducted into the **Basketball Old Timers of America Hall of Fame**. His record at Power earned him enshrinement into the **New York City Catholic Sports Hall of Fame** in 1993

Coach Malone served as *Bench Coach* with the **N.Y. Knicks** twice...in 1986-88 and again from 1996-2000. He has returned to them again this year after three seasons with the **Indiana Pacers**.

An 18-year NBA coaching veteran, Brendan Malone led the expansion **Toronto Raptors** as their head coach in their inaugural season, 1995-1996. He spent 7 years as an assistant with the **Detroit Pistons**, and was a member of **Don Chaney's** staff from 1993-1995

The Dark Days of 1984

This is a copy of an article by columnist Bill Reel that appeared in the New York Sunday News on January 13, 1985. (It has been edited for brevity.)

The Congregation of Christian Brothers sold Power Memorial Academy for \$13 million. That's what the old school brought in the booming Manhattan real-estate market

The buyer, Carol Management, will demolish the brick schoolhouse and build an expensive high-rise residence for the rich on the site overlooking Lincoln Center on the fashionable, affluent West Side. In summer, residents will sit smartly on their terraces and sip highballs and enjoy the outdoor concerts in the park below.

All you hear when you walk by bleak, abandoned Power Memorial today is wind whistling. Oh, in your imagination, you hear teenage boys yelling and laughing, or you visualize them bent over books in classrooms. You stand in the silent cold outside the drab gym, and your memory recalls sounds that made the blood race --basketballs bouncing, coaches shouting, sneakers squeaking on a varnished court.

Carol Management plans a luxury building, 280 to 300 units, apartments or condominiums, on the 25,000 square feet of choice real estate on Amsterdam Ave. and 61st St. Demolition of Power Memorial is about to begin. A board fence has been erected around the brick building to contain debris. The front door is padlocked. After bursting with vitality for 52 years, Power looks awfully desolate awaiting its demise.

*"I went back one day last fall," **Rich Coppolino**, who taught chemistry at Power for 21 years and worked tirelessly to prevent its closing, said Friday. Rich now heads the guidance department at St. Francis Prep in Queens. "My key still worked, so I went in. I walked around. There was stuff strewn on the floors. Broken windows. Emptiness. It was depressing. Let me get out of here, I said to myself, and I left."*

*A **Save Power Memorial Committee** proposed tearing down the dilapidated old schoolhouse and erecting a beautiful new Power Memorial Academy on the valuable site, building it into the first few floors of an office or residential building, just as Cathedral High occupies the lower floors of the Catholic Center on First Ave. and 55th St. Power Memorial's neighbor, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, graciously offered the use of classrooms during the period of construction. Rich Coppolino and the Save Power Memorial Committee appealed to **Archbishop John O'Connor** for a stay of execution.*

But nothing could be done, and Power closed in June. The students, a beautifully integrated group representing all five boroughs, scattered to other schools last fall, Faculty members scrambled for jobs; Power Memorial, R.I.P.

Well, maybe saving Power wasn't practical. Maybe the \$13 million looked too good. The Christian Brothers gave an awful lot to the church and the city over the years, [53 years to be exact, and a great deal of sacrifice given] but the order is aging and dying off now. The brothers need money for retirement and convalescent facilities, a spokesman said Friday.

The Catholic Church, booster of family life, certainly lost this round to so-called secular values. Score one for Planned Parenthood. Amsterdam and 61st is barren as can be today. If Power Memorial can be sacrificed to real-estate interests, is anything sacred?

The Class of '85 – The Class that Never Graduated.

The Class of '85 – Some thoughts supplied by Vinny Bonomi '85

"Power was a great place, we would take the train from Boro Park Brooklyn to west 4th and meet up with the guys from Chelsea...we would go every day to the bagel store on the corner, right around the corner from Lincoln Center...and we were late almost every day, had to call the transit dept. to find out if trains were delayed so we can say we were on that train and that's why we are late and not get detention.

"I went back to that bagel store about 7 years ago...the guy remembered me! It was great. I tell you even he cried when it closed.

"My brother was 2 years older than me and I would travel with him and our friends, laughing all the time, Kids just having fun...we laugh about it till this day, My brother has since passed on due to cancer, and when we friends get together, we reminisce about the fun we had on the trains.... traveling at 3 am to hockey practice.... driving to Boston to play a game in minus 3 degree temp. The many trips to Riverdale hockey rink...or the baseball trips to Secaucus with Br Costa and Mr. Donahue...The time I worked there in the summer with Br. Costa cleaning the gym benches or painting the locker rooms...how many students would travel to their school today in the summer to change the combinations on the lockers? We did. I have 3 bricks in my attic from the old school...I read the article from Rich Coppolino, the one that says he went back into the school after it closed, and it was a wreck...well I would give anything to walk the halls of that school again. I don't know if I'm trying to undo my past and do it right...or just that Power left that much of an impression on me."

What were the feelings and insights from the student body and the faculty, both lay and religious?

"SAD...very SAD...like I said, till this day I feel sad about it...sometimes when I get the time, I visit the site...I speak with people all the time about Power, they all say, "What a shame!" I can imagine how the teachers felt now that I am older...they had jobs, but they also had a love for Power.

"I still see some of my old teachers...I live on Staten Island. Br. Costa is here, Br. Hannon, and a respected basketball coach here on the Island is Br. ...no, sorry, Mr. Gannon. He is no longer a brother. Actually, I used to work in South Beach Psy Center and one of my patients was an ex-teacher, one who had taught me Chemistry. Another ex-teacher lived 3 houses down from me and I never knew he taught at Power till his funeral.

"I will say this, the teachers and the brothers tried to be helpful in finding new schools for us, and sending letters out.... but it really wasn't organized, it was more like chaos.... being a teenager, having all the problems that come with that, and then having to leave a school you really loved, and enjoyed going to.... it wasn't right.



"But in looking back, what could they have done. Build a new school? That was not going to happen. Merge with another school, well then your doing the same as closing...there was nothing that could have been done...they needed the money, times were changing, the school was in need of repair. It was just a sad time for us.... I think if you ask the students now, yes, we all wanted it to stay open, but we all wanted it to stay open as it was...not a new building, not merge, not in the basement, or lower floors of an apartment/office building...we wanted Power as we knew Power...and that was just not going to happen."

Were there any obvious problems visible in 1984 at Power that could forebode a closing?

"To be truthful I didn't see any problems at Power that were out of the ordinary everyday life of a bunch of teenagers from all across NY. Power was a bunch of middle class, kids having fun and learning at the same time.

"Yes the school was old, in need of repair, the elevator was...well it was running. The walls probably had lead paint all over them, the windows were old, the classrooms were out-dated, but that was the joy of Power. It didn't matter to us if it had a leaky roof, or missing tiles on the floor. As long as it was there for us and our friends and teachers. And of course the sports...that was very important.

"I have to tell you, I only attended for a few years, Power closed in 84 and we the students had to find other schools. That closing, to this day, changed my life...I didn't finish high school until 8 years later."

[Thank you very much Vinny for your very moving insights into the traumatic events of 1984. It would be very difficult for someone who was not there and involved to realize the deep trauma that this event was capable of causing. You have given all of us a small taste of what you must have endured. Thank you again for sharing those thoughts with the rest of us. -- Vic '52]

The Search for Power Memorial

Alumni Hopefully Seeking Out Other Power Alumni

After that fateful day in 1984, when Power closed its doors for good, a huge void was created. There were no Alumni Addresses or Records, other than those addresses in the Graduate section of the Yearbook each year. Of course, as the years passed, those addresses became mostly meaningless as the alumni married, entered the service, moved to new addresses, new cities, new states and, yes, even new countries. Lacking a common registry, alumni lost contact with each other and the future of the alumni as an active group looked bleak.

Onset of a New Power Era

The Beginning of the New Era – *The Reunions*

Mr. Rich Coppolino put together a reunion back in 1989, and it eventually grew into the larger Annual Reunion that we all know today. *The following is in the words of Mr. Richard Coppolino, Faculty.*



Mr. Coppolino

"As far as the reunions are concerned: The first one took place in a small pub on the West Side of Manhattan in 1989. I had been encouraged by a few alumni friends to try to get some people together. Most of it was by word of mouth, since I had a very limited number of addresses. We had secured their private room for the evening. Over 200 PMA alumni showed up, packing the place so tightly that we spilled over to their bar, and pretty much took over the whole place.

"I couldn't have organized this without the help of **Joe** and **Sean Crowley**, and **Pat Torney**. It was an overwhelming experience to see all these people show up because of their loyalty to their high school, which had closed five years earlier.

"There was so little room, that when some of the alumni presented me with a plaque to thank me, I had to stand on a table to be seen and heard. I realized at that point that we would have to find a larger place for future reunions, and besides the pub closed that year. We moved to the Armory and have been there ever since.

"As far as the succeeding reunions are concerned, there are not too many things to say. They grew and shrunk from year to year, always having a loyal number of alumni who were interested in getting together.



PMA Reunion, 2001 candid shot

"**Peter Vallone** showed up one year while he was Speaker of the City Council of NY.

"We have raised money to make donations to the *Jack Bruen Scholarship Fund*, the *Jack Kuhnert Scholarship Fund*, the *Family and Children's Fund of the FDNY*, and the *Firehouses Funds* of those PMA alumni who lost their lives on 9/11.

"We also held a special reunion/reception at the time the 1964 PMA basketball team was inducted into the CHSAA Hall of Fame as the team of the century.

"One year, one of the alumni took a cab to the reunion. When his cab driver dropped him at the Armory, he found that the driver was also a Power alumnus who was glad to hear of the reunions.

"A small number of former teachers have attended the reunions from year to year: **Br. D'Adamo**, **Br. L. Murphy**, **Br. Hanney**, **Br. Haynes**, **Br. Gammara**, **Mr. Grimmeyer**, **Mr. Cooney**, **Mr. Torney**, **Mr. Reyes**, **Mr. Kuhnert**, **Mr. Jack Donohue**, **Mr. Steve Donohue**, **Mr. Grasso**, and **Mr. Long**.

"It has always been a great deal of enjoyment organizing these events, since it is great not only to keep the spirit of Power alive, but also great to see what Power alumni have accomplished in their lives. Many of my friends and colleagues are continually amazed that the spirit of a school that has been closed for twenty years draws alumni back from literally all over the country each year, as grads are always finding out about the reunions each year."

[The Reunions were obviously the single most important steps in the "Return of Power," since it supplied a ready-made alumni base to allow us to build upon and make the websites fabulously successful. We thank you very much for caring, Mr. Coppolino, and we are anxiously looking forward to the 14th Annual Reunion in October of 2003. – Vic '52]

The Next Important Step – A Power Website

The PMA website created by Chris Novack. *The following is in the words of Chris Novack.*



Chris Novack

"It was probably sometime in Spring of 1999 when I started the site. After so many years distant from PMA, New York and a lot of friends, I was curious about what happened to them. I searched for any information about PMA on the Internet. There were numerous mentions on sites about Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and an occasional mention in the bio of an alumnus, but nothing about the school or any reunions.

"I had created a number of web sites so I was familiar with HTML and what it takes to create a web site. I decided to set up a PMA site with a service that offered free hosting (which is why the original site had "8m" in the middle of it). The site initially had an aerial picture looking down on Manhattan from above Lincoln Center (with an empty lot at W.61st and

Amsterdam) and a guest book. I then submitted the site name to all of the search engines, contacted any alumni whose names I came across in internet searches for "Power Memorial". I then posted a message on Classmates.com and on Reunion.com.

"From those postings, I made contact with a lot of alumni and they put me in touch with **Rich Coppolino** who gave me info on annual reunions. As the site was picked up by search engines (and word-of-mouth), more and more alumni who visited the site were very gratified to find that Power had a presence in cyber-space after all these years."

"Jose Rivera was one of the PMA alumni I was able to locate early on from his community websites. I emailed him to announce the site (as I did with as many other as alumni I could contact). Some months later he secured the domain name **powermemorialacademy.com**. He told me that he had put together an alumni site and we agreed to collaborate with any news, email addresses, and pictures, all in the spirit of getting Power Memorial Academy out on the Internet. That spirit of teamwork was exemplified by providing mutual links to each other's page from Day One. "By 2000, José Rivera had created a new Power Site under its own domain name. With this, his site became the "official" PMA site.

"Since then Jose has taken the initiative to provide one of the finest alumni informational sites on the web, to which I will gladly take a back seat.

"But I am proud of have been a part of putting PMA on the web...it is very satisfying to have been a part of bringing together so many friends from the old days to relive memories. Couldn't have done that if someone hadn't decided to start the **Power Memorial Academy Website**."

[Thank you Chris, for without you and your Power web site, we could never have come from this far back. Many Alumni started checking the Power Site every day, just as if they were checking their email. It began to make Power a household word again as the site grew. Many Alumni who no longer had their Yearbooks, were pleasantly surprised to see their pictures and pictures of their classmates on Chris' website. Add to that, the ability to contact classmates on the internet as a result of the email address list and it became a must place to stop – Vic '52]

Further Progress -- A Second, More Versatile Website

A new, interactive website by José Rivera complete with a discussion forum which has opened up communications and made possible much of what we are doing now. *The following is in the words of José Rivera*



José Rivera

"During 1994-1995 I tried to create a community newspaper/newsletter. After one initial printing, I quickly figured out that it would take more money and support than what I was getting. I asked my community friends for funds, and received exactly \$50.00. This would have printed 50 issues of what was then a newsletter. Printing the number of newspapers I wanted to print cost too much. So I gave up on that idea for the time being.

"In 1995 I was first introduced to the Internet as it then existed. By the winter of 1995 I was introduced to my first web page and I immediately knew that was the way to publish community news to East Harlem. I storyboarded it as the way I would like it to appear and then went ahead and learned **html**.

I launched the **East Harlem.com** web site on February 26, 1996 with four html pages on the community. The site has since grown to over 300 pages.

"I first visited **Chris Novack's Power Memorial web site** during 1999 or 2000. I loved the idea of being able to communicate with old school mates. On one or two occasions the site was down when I tried to get to it. For the most part, it was always up and available. Every time I went to the site the thought occurred to me that if I could put more time into making it look more like a High School site and that if it had the features that East Harlem.com has grown to have, the Power site could become a thing of beauty and usefulness. (Not that the original site wasn't useful, but I could add many more features).

"On a lark, I decided to create the site locally on my hard drive. Meaning, not accessible on the Internet. Within two days during the summer of 2001, I had exceeded my own expectations. I looked up the domain with the domain register and saw that no one was using it, no one owned the name so I snapped it up on June 20, 2000. Not really knowing Chris Novack, I did not dare ask him to redo his site. So with mixed feelings, I created the other site. All I really wanted to do was to rework the design of the site. Again, I was reluctant to ask Chris to change his site.

"I let my feelings overtake me and put the site live on the Internet. I needed to know if the design worked, not thinking that after people said yes, that I'd be running that site. The rest is history. Since that first day, I have added a discussion board, photo gallery and new Guestbook.

"To the best of my recollection, I put the site up live and e-mailed the alumni during July 2000. Initial reaction for the new Power site was overwhelmingly positive. About three people wrote asking me why we needed two sites. I didn't really have a good answer for them. I felt bad doing this to Chris." *[As it turned out, Chris had his hands full with his job and couldn't give the time to the site that he would like, added to the fact that Jose's site had it's own domain name, he offered his cooperation to Jose to make that the "official" Power Memorial site. – Vic '52]*

"I run a total of 6 databases, which I can't allow anyone to access to edit. I wish I could find a way to include him in the current Power site. I have no regrets having created the site. It seems the new look could have contributed to a new way of the alumni seeing themselves, and the discussion board has helped to facilitate communications between alumni members. This may have helped in some small way with being in the parade*. The real work of the parade came from those who approached the Parade Committee and made it happen."

*[*José, this helped in a very LARGE way to return to the Parade...in fact it was directly responsible for the Return through the access provided by the Guestbook plus the Discussion Forum, which, in turn, was responsible for igniting the entire movement and its successful culmination. Having an alumni section with email addresses available in a choice of either Alphabetical order, or by Class-Year order, made private communications with long-lost friends possible and practical. The Picture Section is a wonderful addition and it can do nothing but grow in the future as more pics become available. Thanks a lot José for caring like you do. – Vic '52]*

The Final Pieces Fall into Place

The Great Return of Power

The 2003 St. Patrick's Day Parade

These are the events that give birth to legends.

The *Power Memorial* website of **Jose Rivera** began to buzz with traffic, first on the *Guestbook*, and eventually the *Discussion Forum* became the first choice of the running conversations between alumni. Many new friendships were forged here among alumni from widely separated class years...age was no factor. Running repartee was carried on between Alumni from the '40s all the way up to the '80s, and all with the same common connection. . . *we are Power Alumni*.

One day, a chance comment posted in the *Guestbook* by *John H. Ihle, '62*, to the effect: "Wouldn't it be nice if some of the old Power Band personnel could get together one more time and march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade recalling Power Memorial Academy's glorious Parade past."

A few more comments, similar in nature, followed in the *Guestbook* and became a popular subject.

It was subsequently picked up by the *Discussion Forum* and caused a flurry of responses and suggestions. The chatter on the *Forum* in reference to the Parade grew in binary proportions while displaying great a sentimental drive for *Power Memorial's Return*.

Heralding the full return of Power Memorial Academy

The return of Power Memorial as a force in the Parade was unknowingly underway. There were suggestions that we petition some of the other Christian Brother Schools to be allowed to march along with them. But through the untiring efforts, dedication, and generosity of **Terry McAdams '52**, there began to be progress made toward that end. He first petitioned the St. Patrick's Parade Committee for permission, and he was pleasantly surprised when they extended an invitation to return to the Parade as "**Power Memorial Academy Alumni and Faculty**".



Terry remarked that he remembers that first meeting of the Parade Committee vividly. It was December 10, 2002, a little over 90 days before the parade. It was a cold night with a torrential rainfall. Appearing before the Chairman, *John Dunleavy* and the Executive Secretary, *James Barker*, a drenched Terry started to wonder how he ever got involved in this cockamamie idea. He had no idea of how many marchers he could produce - he was only really sure of not more than ten; no idea of how much money was involved; whether he needed a band or not; whether flags, banners and sashes could be provided.

But Power Memorial Academy's enormous prestige and history prevailed. Messrs. Dunleavy and Barker both had fond memories of Bro. Hennessy, PMA's principal during Terry's years. They remembered Power's many marching awards. They remembered the wonderful Irish Christian Brothers. Then they announced that Power would return to the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2003. What an emotional moment.

The fee? \$125.00. We were on our way!

To quote Terry McAdams: "*When we started this project back in November we thought we would be lucky to get 100 Alumni marchers. The list grew to almost 200 names. Due to travel costs, schedule conflicts, health problems and other reasons our final number of marchers will be between 140-150. Along the line of march on St. Patrick's Day a number of our alumni who were not aware of our return to the parade will see that the spirit of Power Memorial Academy lives on. The TV commentators will have been briefed about Power's rich history and the outstanding accomplishments of our proud alumni and hopefully that will attract other Power graduates for future parades.*"

"Gentlemen, you are making history. No other group from a school that no longer exists has ever returned to the St. Patrick's Day Parade."

Other Important Members of the Parade Committee



Committee Members prior to the Parade



There were many others involved in the mix who were also responsible for bringing about Power's Return to the Parade:

Chick Pisani '70, with an able assist from **Vinny Bonomi '85** put the final touches on "*The Return*" with his diligence in procuring a new

PMA Banner, Sashes and designing and having made beautiful new Power Memorial Academy Pins.

Tom C. Murray '52, who was in charge of PR for Power, got much recognition and ink for Power Memorial on "*The Return*" by sending press releases to many media sources. Tom's press releases were directly responsible for the feature story on Power and the Parade by Dennis Duggan, which was published in Newsday on March 9, 2003.

Dion McKenna '56 and **Chuck Cunningham '57** added their touch by setting up the very successful *After-Parade Celebration and Dinner* at the **Harp Restaurant**.

Tom McGuire '49 added to the size of the return by his advertising of the event...he placed ads on local Radio Stations and in Newspapers to make Internet-Deprived alumni aware of the Parade and used his own phone number in those ads as a contact. I'm sure he felt he was operating an "answering service". He was responsible for adding many marchers to the Parade and alerting others of the existence of the Alumni group.

Art Kenney, '64, a member of the "*Team of the Century*", started rounding up former athletes and classmates from the Class of '64 and other classes and provided so much enthusiasm it became contagious.

Vic Kaplan, '52 helped to keep everything on an even keel, was our sounding board on everything, and our biggest cheerleader who never let us forget our goal.



Bros. Killelea and D'Adamo



Br. P. C. Leavy

We were also proud to welcome **Br. D'Adamo** and **Br. Leavy**, both past members of the Power Faculty and **Br. Killelea**, a past Principal of *Power Memorial Academy*. This truly made it an *Alumni and Faculty Association*. The *2004 Parade* should see Rich Coppolino marching as part of the Faculty.

Hopefully, for the *2004 Parade*, we will attract more Faculty to the line of march...we would certainly be proud to have them march under the Power Banner where they rightfully belong.

2003 Post-Parade – High Compliments Paid to Power

The tight ship run by *Power Parade Committee*, enforcing those same rule of dress and decorum demanded by the **Irish Christian Brothers**, was fully responsible for the great reviews *Power Memorial* got from *NBC-TV*, the print media, the bystanders at the Parade itself, and most importantly, from the **NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee**.

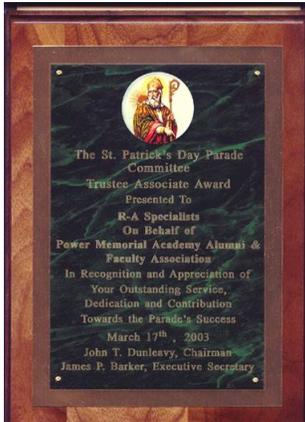


Power Tradition and Pride...Notice how well-dressed the marchers are. Also notice the fine formation, how well the ranks are dressed. These are Power Memorial standards, not an accident.

When *Power Memorial* passed in review, it brought tears to many eyes, including yours truly, to see the wonderful dress code and the precision exhibited in the line of march. This exhibition was in stark contrast to some highly respected units represented in the Parade of whom a lot more was expected. The *Power contingent* looked every bit as respectable that day as they did when marching as *Power Seniors*. Hopefully, this

will continue to be a hallmark of the *PMA Alumni Association* for as long as they take part in future Parades. It's a matter of pride in one's Alma Mater.

A Post-Parade Report -- *Hopefully the First of Many More*



Plaque awarded Power Memorial by the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee

Dion McKenna, '56, and Terry McAdams, '52, attended the Parade Committee meeting on June 25, 2003. The *Chairman of the NYC Parade, John Dunleavy* himself, singled out the **Power Memorial Academy Alumni** contingent for its historic return to the parade after a nineteen-year absence and also for our alumni's generosity in financially supporting the 2003 parade. Our alumni individually contributed over \$5000 to the parade committee. It was the largest contribution of all the other marching contingents and was only exceeded by contributions from very large corporations and trusts. We were also complimented about our dress code and demeanor during the parade. No, we didn't win the best marching award but we sure did **Power Memorial** and ourselves proud. Next year, we are assured that we will not have any limit on the number of marchers and we may move up a notch or two in the line of march.

Shown here is a scan of the plaque sent to Terry McAdams by a grateful **NYC Parade Committee** showing their thanks for Power's participation and support of the *2003 St. Patrick's Day Parade*.

The Power Memorial Alumni Association Registry

A few pages back, under the banner "*The Search for Power Memorial*", I was bemoaning the fact that there was no "*Power Memorial Alumni Registry*" available. Now, it can be said that is no longer the problem that it once was. Thanks to the diligence, novel application, and just plain hard-nosed work by *Dion McKenna '56*, this shortcoming has been rectified...[*The following is in the words of Dion McKenna.*]

"I started working on the collection of alumni data in May 2003 as a result of the desire expressed by so many participants in the St. Patrick's Day Parade 2003, to have a formal Alumni Association.

"Since the first meeting of the Alumni Association Steering Committee a strong interest has been in promoting a PMA Scholarship fund along with the desire to have a means of keeping the membership informed of all activities involving PMA Alumni.

"I felt we would need a database that would facilitate keeping in contact with the members, as well as providing a vehicle for tracking charitable contributions & any fees or dues that the Association might impose to meet these goals.

"The initial group of names and email addresses came from Terry McAdam's List of Marchers in the parade, participants in the Post Parade Party that I had organized, and Tom McGuire's list of non-email alumni. I cut, pasted & manually entered these into an Access database of approximately 275 names.

"Added to these was **Art Kenney's** list of his 1964 classmates as well as my own 1956 grads list. Many other alumni have been most helpful in supplying emails or addresses of friends and relations who are also PMA alumni.

"I have been pursuing an ongoing recruitment effort through postings on the *Power Memorial* website & the *Classmates* website, as well as a direct email campaign sent through *Classmates'* limited Power Memorial registry. As a result of all of these efforts we are now approaching 400 members.

"**Rich Coppolino**, the person most responsible for keeping the PMA name alive since the school's closing, will be supplying his list of alumni garnered from his Reunion Lists for inclusion in the database.

"We will then be able to assist Rich in the monumental tasks he faces in organizing the **Annual PMA Reunion**.

"Unfortunately, since our school is no longer in existence, the *PMA Alumni Association* has a limited growth and life span. With this in mind, I'm hopeful that we will be able to recruit more of the younger Alumni and that this registry will be a useful tool in continuing to promote communication among the Alumni and promulgating the prestige, reputation and name of Power Memorial Academy."

[*Thank you Dion for undertaking to compile the "PMA Alumni Association Registry", which, as everyone is aware, without a Registry, an Alumni Association would be a very weak organization.*

I'm sure all the alumni thank you for your selfless contribution; as it is a very important acquisition for the Alumni Association. – Vic '52]

Looking Ahead to 2004

The groundwork has already been prepared for the Power Memorial Alumni Association's return to the 2004 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Pins, sashes, post-parade celebration and other necessary preparations have begun. At this time there is too little to report other than Power has definitely been invited back and we will proudly march again.

The Alumni Association is a 'Done Deed'

The great success of Power Memorial in the 2003 St. Patrick's Day Parade caused such an up-swelling in the breasts of the marchers to give the Alumni Association real roots, that a movement began to incorporate the Power Alumni group as a non-profit charitable organization. Through the hard work and diligence of Terry McAdams, Art Kenney, Kevin Bollbach and George Smyth, the incorporation was finally and proudly accomplished... The following detailed description of the Incorporation, and the events leading up to it, is in the words of Terry McAdams:

"St. Patrick's Day march was an outstanding success and a very moving emotional experience for our proud Alumni. After the parade, I recall trying to speak to each and every alumnus that marched but sometimes the words were just trapped in my throat from all of that emotion. But I think everyone felt about the same way and no one was ashamed of the occasional tears that filled our eyes. What an experience.

"While we were all huddled in various groups on 87th Street, I was approached by one of the leaders from the **Iona College Medical School Staff**. She said that she had to locate me so that she could commend us for our respectful appearance and obvious pride in our school. She marveled that we were able to muster up so many marchers almost twenty years after the school had closed. She also commented that we surely had a well-organized and proud Alumni Association. Little did she know that we really had no official organization.

"At the post-parade party a sense of pride and accomplishment was very apparent. Everyone at one time or another hoped that we would continue the tradition and maintain our ties to our Alma Mater. Almost exactly like **John Ihle's** dream to march again in the *St. Patrick's Day Parade*, one way or another, the revelers wished that we had a real alumni association with real roots, even though our school no longer existed.

"Most of us who were so active in trying to put the parade effort together almost immediately started to get that same urge all over again. And the celebration wasn't even over yet.

"By March 20th I received 326 e-mails regarding the parade from marchers, those who were unable to march due to health or travel problems, and from Alumni who saw us in the parade and hunted us down via the Internet. Just about everyone wanted to sign up for the 2004 parade.

"We still were patting ourselves on the back when **Tom McGuire, Art Kenney, Vic Kaplan, Chick Pisani,** and **Dion McKenna** came to the conclusion that if we were ever going to step up and form an Alumni Association we should strike while our irons were still hot. Then **Chuck Cunningham '57,** volunteered. Within the next ten days our little steering committee grew to seven, then ten. We held our first meeting of the Steering Committee on April 17, exactly one month to the day, after the historic parade.

"**Tom McGuire, '49,** recapped the meeting with the following report:

"It was suggested that the goals of this organization would be:

Provide a vehicle for interaction and socialization between and among graduates of PMA, and; initiate and support efforts to keep the name and reputation of PMA in the public's awareness.

"Some suggestions to achieve these objectives were:

1. Continue and expand the St. Patrick's Day march and PMA social event
2. Continue to support and expand the annual reunion.
3. Create a "*PMA Scholarship*" to a prominent NY Metropolitan Area Catholic High School
4. Provide support to the PMA Website as the official communications vehicle of the organization
5. Prepare and maintain a contact list of all alumni.

"Some required initial actions were identified as:

1. Create a legal structure to the organization (incorporation/charter)
2. Explore the financial requirements and implications of this structure
3. Explore methods of raising funds other than through dues.

"It was agreed that these ideas should be shared with the entire alumni population in order to solicit their comments, suggestions and assistance with this effort."

"On April 24th, I sent out an e-mail Post-Parade report which included the above report from Tom. The response was most gratifying. Encouragement and offers to help were so overwhelming that we are still trying to sort them all out four months later. Brothers **Killelea** and **D'Adamo** offered to help us get started. **George Smyth, '68**, offered to be our legal counsel. **Kevin Bollbach, '64**, a tax consultant, offered to help with the IRS filings. **Jose Rivera, '74**, our website creator joined with enthusiasm; **Rich Coppelino**, offered to help even though he was still going through chemo and radiation therapy.

"By this time we had sufficient help that we could start setting up committees. Art Kenney, George Smyth, Kevin Bollbach and I would be working on the organizational structure; Chuck Cunningham would work on next year's post parade party; Tom McGuire and Tom Murray would work on publicity and reunion notices; Rich Coppelino, Chick Pisani, Dion McKenna, and Tom McGuire would work on this year's reunion and next year's parade; Jose Rivera started improvements to the security of the website and some exciting new features to keep our alumni informed and to maintain communications between our alumni; Dion McKenna has been working on a new data base and alumni recruitment. Our wonderful Brothers, Killelea and D'Adamo are providing guidance, inspiration, and keeping the other Christian Brothers in the loop.

"Vic Kaplan took on the project of providing a history of Power Memorial Academy and efforts on keeping the name alive and keeping the alumni connected. (You are reading Vic's project right now).

"The pace started to quicken. On June 25, Dion and I attended a *St. Patrick's Day Parade* meeting at the *New York Athletic Club*. At the same time Art and Chick attended a memorial mass for **Coach Donohue**. Art & **Kareem** spoke at the mass. Art and Chick then renewed acquaintances with other alumni attending the mass and brought them up-to-date on our activities.

"On June 26 Art and I met with Bros. Killelea and D'Adamo to get a better idea of what direction we should take and to make sure we had any required approvals from the *Christian Brothers* necessary to begin our venture.

"On July 6th, Art Kenney, Dion McKenna, George Smyth, Jose Rivera and I met to discuss the *NY State* and *Federal* filings necessary to incorporate as a non-profit organization and to start the process of setting up By-Laws for the Alumni Association. Our NYS forms were filed shortly thereafter. We were now on our way.

"On August 6th Art, George, and I met with two representatives of the *All Hallows Alumni* to gain insight into their organization and to learn from their experience. We learned a lot from them and are quite grateful for their willingness to help. Thank goodness for those *Irish Christian Brothers* bonds. We learned a lot about funding scholarships, methods of raising funds, and various other activities that they use to keep the alumni active and involved.

"By the third week of August 2003, we had filed for an IRS Tax I.D. Number and starting working on various IRS-required filings.

"Now, for a while, our attention turned to the 2003 reunion. On August 28th Tom McGuire, Vic Kaplan, Dion McKenna and I met and had dinner with Rich Coppelino. We were astounded by the amount of reunion work he had put out while he was receiving chemo and radiation therapy. The gentleman is indeed inspiring.

"Rich provided us with his mailing list. By the start of the Labor Day weekend Dion and Vic converted all of the 750 names on Rich's mail list to Dion's Alumni database. Tom McGuire and Tom Murray started contacting newspapers and radio stations about the reunion. By Labor Day we completed stuffing over 500 envelopes with reunion notices and had them in the mail by late that night.

"On Saturday, August 29th, George Smyth delivered a proposed By-Laws for the Alumni Association. We converted it to a word file, e-mailed it to the steering committee on August 30th, along with an agenda for our first formal meeting of the Alumni Board of Directors, which would be held on September 8th.

"In anticipation of projects that would be tackled by the *Steering Committee/Board of Directors*, an *Election Committee* was set up consisting of volunteers **Mike Kelly, '55** and **Dr. Phil Bolger, '44**.

They will be responsible for setting up the election procedures to elect future *Boards of Directors* and *Officers*.

"A 2004 Parade Committee was set up with volunteers **Frank Robinson, '64** and **John Torres, '70**.

Yet another historic milestone – *The first Official meeting of the Power Alumni Association*

On September 8, 2003, another historic event occurred. *The Power Memorial Academy Alumni Steering Committee* met at the **Alfred**, the condominium that was built on the former site of our cherished school. As the meeting started, **Brother Killelea** gave the invocation, we reviewed our progress in setting up the *Alumni Association*, adopted By-Laws, and the Steering Committee suddenly transformed into the association's first *Board of Directors*. We elected our first slate of officers – **Art Kenney, President, Chick Pisani, Vice-President, Kevin Bollbach, Treasurer,** and **Dion McKenna, Secretary.**

Our initial officers are youthful, intelligent, talented, and energized.

The dreams that were expressed on St. Patrick's Day had turned into reality six hectic months later. It represents a remarkable achievement to say the least.

Power's spirit never died when the school closed. From Rich Coppolino's Reunion in 1989, and all the annual reunions ever since; to Chris Novack's original website in 1999; to Jose Rivera's website in 2000; to the Parade in 2003; and now, a real, live Alumni Association. Our alumni have accomplished a great deal since last year's reunion.

What a wonderful trip!

[Terry, thank you for your contributions to this Chronology, but more importantly, a thunderous "THANK YOU" from all the alumni and faculty of Power Memorial Academy for all that you did to even make this Chronology necessary and germane. Without your bulldogged tenacity in successfully forming an entry in the 2003 St. Patrick's Day Parade, none of the wonderful events that followed would have ever taken place...namely the formation of an Alumni Association, and finally, the incorporation of that same Alumni Association as a non-profit, charitable organization with very lofty and credible aims. Your achievements have been at least gigantic, and your zeal has been so contagious that it has spread to a very large steering committee all sharing your enthusiasm. I know that in the past you have tried to downplay your role in these accomplishments, but nonetheless, it has to be said: "Without you, none of this would have happened!"

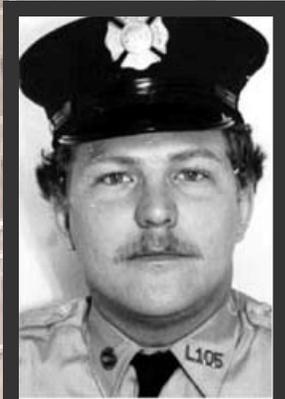
*Who knows? Could a return of Power Memorial Academy be that big of a dream? It probably is, but Hope springs eternal. My thanks all of you who have contributed to this booklet and made a difficult task much easier. **God Bless you all.** -- Vic Kaplan, '52]*

In Memoriam...September 11, 2001

Power Alumni Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice on 9-11-01

Power Memorial was not spared on September 11, 2001 as the World Trade Center was felled in a terrorist attack. In keeping with their Christian values, the following Powermen gave the final sacrifice to help save others. Let us never forget their memories. **God Bless them -- one and all.**

If you look at these photos along with the background photo, you can almost visualize these heroes walking down 61st St. on their way to class those many years ago. They are still here in our hearts.



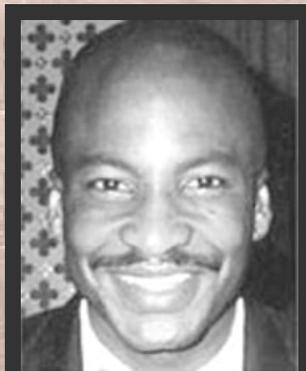
William Lake, Class of '74
Rescue 1 Squad



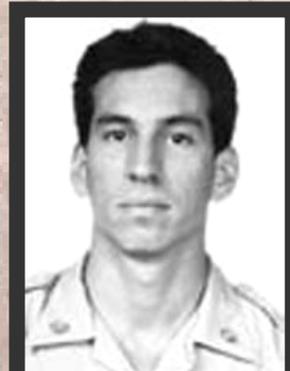
Joseph G. Leavey, Class of '73
Ladder Company 15



Philip Petti, Class of '76
Ladder 12, Battalion 7



Capt. Wm. Harry Thompson
Class of '68
Court Officer



Larry Virgilio, Class of '80
Firefighter, Squad 18