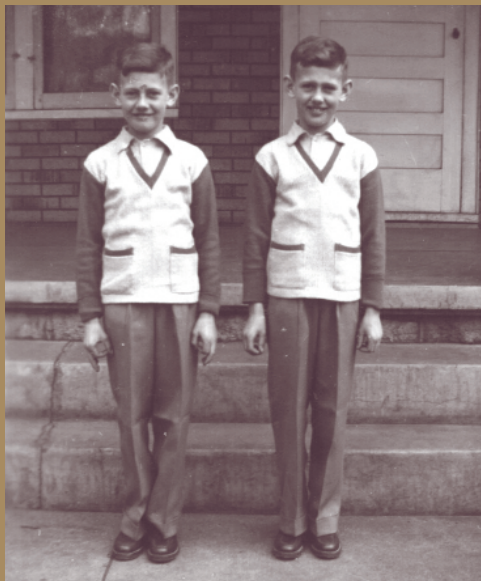




Ron and Don



Ron and Don



Don and Ron - Confirmation

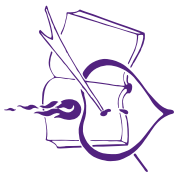


Ron and Don



Don and Ron with Fr. Glenn on Vasey Patio

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The Mission of St. Augustine High School



Our Mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education
for young men in an environment that promotes the development of
mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition. By helping to form
loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world
the gospel values of community, truth and love.

Saints Endowment Fund Update



PASSING THE SAINTS EXPERIENCE TO
THE NEXT GENERATION



St. Augustine High School
3266 NUTMEG STREET
SAN DIEGO, CA 92104

A TRIBUTE TO RONALD WEISMANN '54 A LASTING LEGACY

By Edwin J. Hearn

President St. Augustine High School

In the latter part of 2019, I answered my phone and the voice on the other end of the call identified herself as Karen Weismann. She informed me she was administering the Trust of Ronald Weismann who died on February 28, 2019, of a massive infection that caused acute renal failure which shut down his body. She announced that Ronald had bequeathed \$250,000 from his estate to be used in the Saints Endowment Fund to provide underserved boys with financial assistance to attend Saints. As Karen and I continued our conversation, I discovered Karen was Ronald's sister-in-law and was married to his twin brother Donald. Ron and Don were Saints graduates of the class of 1954.

Prior to this phone call, I had never heard the name Weismann. In our conversations since Ronald's death, it was interesting to discover that neither Ron or Don had ever attended a class reunion even though for most of their lives they resided in East County. So what was the connection for this generous donation?

It seems the music program at Saints re-established their quiet relationship with the school. Ron and Don never played an instrument but as it turned out, their niece, Celeste Woestman and her husband Joe had three sons, Augustus (Gus), Konrad and Ivan, who attended Saints. Although Gus was not involved in music, he played football and lacrosse for Saints. Konrad wanted to be a part of the music program and was a very active member of the orchestra and 32nd Street Jazz Band. He learned to play several instruments while at Saints including the oboe and drums. Younger brother, Ivan was a percussionist in the orchestra and 32nd Street Jazz Band. Ron, Don and Karen would attend the music concerts. On these occasions, they observed that the musicians were polite, engaging, happy and confident and the Woestman boys were benefitting from their association with Saints.

Ronald's story is Donald's story in large part. Through the course of their lives, they had rarely been apart and were best friends through life. Their story began in Cold Spring, Minnesota on February 16, 1936, the day of their birth. They were born into a large Catholic family of four girls and five boys. When Mary, their mother, first started feeling the beginning of labor with what she thought would be her tenth child, she had no idea she would have twin boys that day and she definitely did not know whether her baby would be a boy or a girl. The big surprise occurred right after Donald's birth when the doctor discovered another baby boy, Ronald!

Although the boys were identical twins, at birth Ronald was smaller and was not expected to live. With great worry and more care, Mary nursed her baby to health and the twins were off and running. Mary dressed the twins alike and while they might have rebelled, they did not. The boys spent their first 14 years living in Cold Spring and St. Cloud, Minnesota, where they attended Catholic schools through their freshman year of high school.

There was only one time when there was a problem at school. It turned out Don was punished for one of Ron's misdeeds, which caused Don to have to stay after school. When Ron came home alone his mother asked where his brother was causing Ron to burst into tears when he blurted out that he had gotten his brother into trouble. Being truthful and honest were personality traits that would play out throughout Ron's life. He was a gentle giant with a compassionate heart and a strong desire to help others.

In the summer of 1951, Henry and Mary moved their family to Spring Valley, California. Henry, their dad, was a carpenter and cabinet maker. He built their house near Santa Sophia Catholic Church. Henry was one of the original Catholic men involved with building Santa Sophia Catholic Church in the early 1950s. The crucifix above the altar was made by Henry and is still the largest crucifix in any church in the Diocese of San Diego.

Although the twins wanted to attend public school, their parents would not hear of it and as a result Ron and Don started at Saints as sophomores. (They missed the beanies and all that comes with being a freshman at Saints.) For the twins, the commute back and forth to school precluded them from playing after-school sports, but they played intramurals and were kept busy by their father's business as he always had things for them to do. Daily they were dropped off south of South Park where Highway 94 now runs and had to walk the rest of the way to Saints. Ron and Don were studious, did their homework and stayed out of trouble. Their connection to Saints was limited. As transfers migrating to San Diego from Minnesota and living in Spring Valley made it difficult to form friendships with teachers and other boys.

Don did remember Fr. Danaher as his English teacher who liked walking his boxer dog on campus. Don's love of using proper grammar resulted from Fr. Danaher's teaching and would lead to Karen allowing Don to edit all of her papers when she returned to college to complete her business degree. Both Karen and Don are graduates of SDSU.

In reminiscing about their time at Saints, Ron and Don realized their teachers gave them a sense of purpose, were held to high expectations for academic achievement that was established for the rest of their lives and their faith strengthened from their Saints Experience. The rigor of the school forced the development of disciplined work habits. When they graduated, Ron was 9th in a class of 109 graduates, while Don was number 8. It should be pointed out a mistake was made with Ronald's name in the 1954 yearbook. His middle name was listed as "Matthew" instead of "Mathias." After all these years, let the record be corrected.

After graduation, both Ron and Don entered the Air Force in May 1955, under the "Buddy System," which meant they would be stationed together throughout their time in the Air Force. Basic training was at Parks AFB in northern California. They went to Technical School at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois where Ron became a Radio Operator Technician and Don became a Radio Maintenance Technician. Eventually, they were stationed at Griffiss Air Force Base in Rome, New York, and as one might assume, they roomed together. They also played baseball for the Griffiss Flyers, the AFB baseball team.

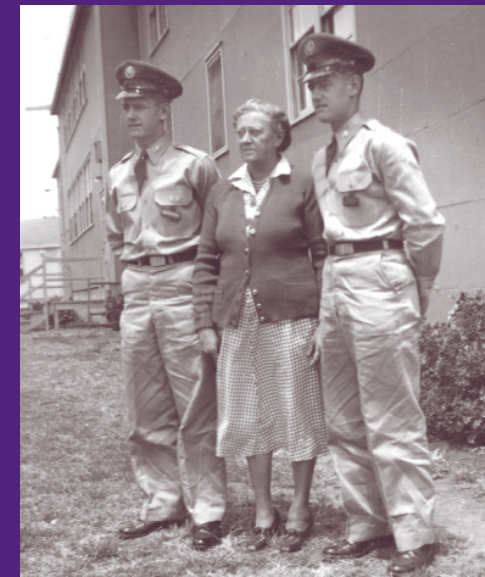
When their Air Force commitment ended, Ron and Don returned to San Diego where they worked at various jobs, pursued higher education, and eventually went to work for San Diego Transit as bus drivers. In time, Ron was promoted to Routing Director and Don became Manager of Transportation. They both married and then divorced about the same time. Ron did not remarry. Later in life Don met Karen and they have been married 31 years. Neither of the twins had children. Ron moved into the home his dad had built years before in Spring Valley. Don and Karen live in La Mesa.

When they retired from SD Transit, Don went to work at The Home Depot and Ron became the "go-to" volunteer handyman at Santa Sophia. They also formed a business, Cold Spring Investments, with their older brothers. This partnership invested in apartment buildings. The brothers fixed and rented the apartments. Ron and Don supported each other, were frugal, invested wisely over the years and lived simply.

At the time Ron was working on his Trust, there were conversations between Ron and Don about where the funds would do the most good. Both Ron and Don had respect and admiration for their nephews, Gus, Konrad and Ivan, watching them grow from young boys into mature young men. They also recalled watching Konrad, Ivan and the other Saints boys performing at music concerts where they witnessed the display of good manners of the musicians toward their peers as well as their teachers. These moments helped them recall their high school days at Saints where their value system was strengthened, and the sacrifice of their parents to provide a Catholic education was understood. After years of graduating Saintsmen, their alma mater had stayed true to its values of "accepting boys and graduating men." Saints is a school that transforms lives and Ron wanted to see it flourish long into the future to continue the work that was the basis of his success.



Ron and Don



Don, mother Mary and Ron



The Seven Weismann Brothers

Please let our Advancement Office know

if you have named Saints in your Estate Plan.

We would like to include you in our Core Unum (One Heart) Legacy Society.

This group gathers annually to attend Mass and have breakfast together.

If you are considering a gift to St Augustine High School and have any questions, please contact the Advancement Office.

(619) 764-5541 or ccallery@sahs.org