

# The 1960's

Everyone knows there were really two distinct parts of the 60's—the early 60's and the late 60's—and life at Blair was reflective of both parts. The early 60's were a continuation of Blair's successes in scholastics, sports, arts and science, communications, and community leadership. In the latter half of the decade, as the Vietnam War, social unrest, the hippie movement, and student protests took center stage, Blair embraced change and continued to move forward, giving students a chance to express themselves while excelling in school.

During the 1960's Blair produced an unbelievable array of students who became successful in virtually every part of American society. Business leaders, world renowned scientists and physicians, civic leaders, world championship athletes, Pulitzer Prize winning authors, Academy and Emmy Award-winning entertainers and

journalists, and educators at every level were products of this one public high school in a quiet suburban setting in one short 10-year period.

What was the secret to so many students who accomplished so much coming from one school in just one decade? Many people say it was the teachers. Blair had always been blessed with outstanding teachers and administrators, but it seemed that during the 60's the blend of experienced teachers (a few of whom had been at Blair since its earliest days), forceful Principals like former Blair

teachers Richard Wagner and Ivan Fitzwater, and an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect created what many remember as the "Blair Spirit."

It was also during this time that Sylvia Wubnig and a new group of young teachers began replacing the older ones who were retiring, and these new teachers would carry on the tradition of strong teacher-student cooperation.

In sports, Blair's 1964–1965 football team became the last undefeated football team Blair would have. The team rolled through most of its schedule, winning an epic battle with arch-rival Richard Montgomery to keep the unbeaten season alive, and finishing with a demolition of traditional rival B-CC. The 1962 school year featured championship teams in football, basketball, and baseball, and the 1969 basketball

team ended the decade with yet another state championship.

In an era of unbelievable changes, Blair somehow managed to keep focused on its students, its commitment to providing top-quality education, and its community responsibility. The constants in Blair life, the teachers and administrators, molded a decade of amazing graduates who touched the lives of millions of people.



*Funny Girl* opens to record breaking crowds

The Broadway hit *Funny Girl* came to Blair, delighting and amusing audiences during the last week in March. The comic-tragedy of Fanny Brice's remarkable rise to stardom, despite her "skinny legs" and slum background, was directed by Mrs. Barbara Johnson in cooperation with Mr. Stuart Marder and Mr. Lee Klopp. Fanny struggled to become the World's Greatest Star while pursuing the suave playboy, Nicky Arnstein. At last, as the show-stopping star of the Ziegfeld Follies and mother of Nick's child, her sincere attempt to save her marriage brought the play to a dramatic finish. The hours of hard work by both cast and crew, the frustrations of rehearsal, and the extra efforts by all those concerned with the show paid off, as shown by the large audiences who clamored to see the drama of *Funny Girl*.

Fanny (Nancy Lewis) wonders "what is gonna be dessert" at the cozy dinner given by seductive Nicky Arnstein (Roy Katten).

Mrs. Brice (Brenda Magarino) has every reason to brag to noisy Mrs. Strakosh (Diana Lynn) about her daughter's rise to stardom.

The Ziegfeld models and dancers portray "Modern American Brides."

Jenny (Barbara Bland) rehearses for the "Kat-tan-ut-tu" number with the photographer, Eddie (Dave McInerney).

The inimitable Fanny Brice prances and crows as "Private Schwartz from Kockaway."

