

John H. Berryhill

Santa Cruz Teacher, Coach, Principal, Superintendent

Inducted into the Inaugural SC Hall of Fame October 30, 2009

John graduated from Boynton High School in Boynton, Oklahoma in 1928. He attended Murray State School of Agriculture (two-year school) in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, and then transferred to Central State Teachers College in Edmond, Oklahoma where he played football (quarterback) and received his teaching degree.

After several years of teaching, he became the Principal of Davis High School in Davis, Oklahoma in 1936. His other duties remained the same: teaching science and social studies and coaching the boys and girls basketball teams and the boy's baseball team. He also drove the team bus to all the away games.

In 1942, John joined the Navy. In 1946, he was honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant. He was especially proud of two personally signed letters he received during that time, one from Harry S. Truman and the other from James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy.

In 1948, John decided to quit blowing up mountains for a mining company near Oracle, Arizona, and signed a teaching contract sent to him by Wes Townsend in Eloy, Arizona, where a brand new high school was being built. Upon driving into town for the first time, Marion wanted to leave immediately, but he said, "I've signed a contract and I will not break it...we have to stay at least one year." They stayed 27 years. He accepted the Assistant Principal position in 1952 and the Principal position in 1956. He remained the principal and superintendent until his retirement in 1975.

John and Marion retired in Casa Grande to be near the grandkids. John always stayed close to school activities as he continued his involvement by timing and judging finishes in track and swimming meets at Casa Grande Union High School. He also became more heavily involved in the Boy Scouts of America.

Special Honors Received:

"Old Monarch" 30-year award presented by the International Association of Lion Clubs

State of Arizona Department of Education Appreciation Certificate presented by Carolyn Warner, State Superintendent of Education

SCVUHS Gymnasium Dedication by the Board of Education..."As of October 3, 1975, the gymnasium will be officially known as The John H. Berryhill Gymnasium."

Arizona Interscholastic Association – Superior Achievement Award for the following honors: Class "A" Representative
A.I.A Board member – 3 years
President of the A.I.A. board

Certificate of Appreciation – Boy Scouts of America Adult Leader award in 1977 and in 1988 -Finance Chairman Award – Boy Scouts of America 1979

(Born: August 18, 1911 - Died: September 7, 1993)