

El Segundo High School
Class of 1954
50th Reunion

Always an Eagle



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Thoughts

As I write this piece, I think about the effort that many 1954 grads went through to attend this event. Some came from far away, some were local. But the key to the success of it all was the camaraderie of the attendees renewing friendships, recalling the times that we had together and the fun and crazy things we did long ago.

Remember how wide our vision was in those days at ESHS? How far our horizons? We thought about our tans, our cars (or dreams to get one), our next football/basketball game, water polo game, our boy/girl friends. The away games were really the fun ones, if we could find transportation or somehow get a couple bucks together to FILL the gas tank to make it happen. Some of us thought about college, the Army/Marines, etc. Some thought about getting married. We studied hard at the library (or we told our parents we did). We went the Hamburger Handout, the Clock drive-in Westchester, Patmar's, the Paradise, 5th Avenue or Loyola Theatres, LeeAnne's malt shop for grub after school. And there were many other hot spots.

Have you ever thought about what we learned from Mr. Hazeltine that helped us understand our finances? And about how things in life fit together mathematically – Mr. Tilton? Or the physics and chemistry mysteries unveiled by Doc Wessels? Then there was Professor Real, who taught us fervently about formal Castilian Spanish.

Then there were the things that we liked – hand made surf boards in Mr. Schuyler's woodshop, car gizmos in Mr. Harlow's metal shop, and special cultural trips away from school. I remember a few – Huntington Library and so on.

Those were the days. When I see American Graffiti, I often think of some of the things we did, and the dreams we had. Remember how some of us tried to irritate Mr. Swingley? Or how we somehow were less than perfectly nice to English teacher, Mrs. Gudmunsen? Somehow these are humorous in the later years, but I'm sure the teachers were not pleased with our antics.

Do the Four Freshmen, McGuire Sisters, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra or the Platters bring back memories? We were pre-Beach Boys and pre-Beatles by 7-8 years! But, we did have great songs. How about *Blue Moon* for the last dance at most dances?

And then there was El Porto where we used to sun and surf. Great beach burgers there too. There were the beach parties at Playa Del Rey. There were grunion hunts too. There was always the great view of the city lights from high in Palos Verdes, or watching the airplanes from Playa Del Rey - great date spots.

Do you remember your first date, your first dance, and your first prom? What about the Backward Dances?

Those were the days, and they were OUR days to grow, experience and struggle as we matured. It seems so long ago in some ways, but sometimes just a brief time back.

Many of us have been far from ESHS for the 50 years that have elapsed between graduation and this Reunion, but most can remember the faces and especially the smiles of those we shared these high school moments with - those memorable years. We are saddened by the loss of many of our classmates and hopefully can remember them and their contribution to our history at our fine school.

E.S.H.S CLASS OF '54 DECEASED

DARWIN ANDERSON

DEANNA CAROLE TYLER

BEVERLY JEAN BILLINGS

THOMAS RAY VARNER

JOHN CLINTON BURGESS

ROBERT GARY VINSON

DOUGLAS BRUCE CAMPBELL

EMMET EARL WASSMAN

NANCY LEE CRAWFORD

FREDRICK POWELL HERDRICH

JAMES NORRIS JOHNSON

SANDRA LEE JOHNSTON

WILLIAM DAVID KENT

EUNICE MAE LAW

BEVERLY JANE MANN

JOYCE ARLENE MOORE

BETTY MAE McCONNELL

JOHN EARNEST McELROY

ROBERT LOWELL PARK

EDNA McINNIS TICHARD

BOYD VERNON RUNNINGS

Our Reunion Agenda

Friday, October 29, 2004:

3:00 p.m. 'til 6:00 p.m.

- **CHECK IN AT REUNION RECEPTION CENTER – DOUBLE TREE HOTEL**
- **WELCOME AT THE ESHS REUNION/75th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION CENTER – FRONT OF SCHOOL**
- **DISCUSSION OF NEW ESHS PROGRAMS**
- **TOUR OF HIGH SCHOOL NEW FACILITIES**

8:00 p.m. 'til 10:00 p.m.

- **FOOTBALL GAME WITH CENTENNIAL HIGH (ESHs WON!!!)**
- **VICTORY CELEBRATION – STICK 'N STEIN**

Saturday, October 30, 2004

10:00 a.m. 'til 5:00 p.m.

- **TOUR OF TOWN AND LOCAL SPOTS**
- **FREE TIME**

6:00 P.M. 'til MIDNIGHT

- **RECEPTION AND SOCIAL AT DOUBLE TREE HOTEL**
- **DINNER AND MINGLING, HONOR OUR GUESTS**

Sunday, October 31, 2004

12:00 'til 3:00 p.m.

- **PICNIC – EL SEGUNDO RECREATION PARK**



OK, this is a test.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? The usual suspects? From the 'Gundo Post Office WANTED posters?

ANSWER:

This was a tour of the Standard Oil refinery by the ESHS Physics Class, Mr. James Riewer, approx. March 1953 (?).

Bob Clark Ed Cravens Bob Schannep Dale Well Wally Hapke George Lane Mr. Riewer Gary Minar Jay Kennedy Bob Jones
Charles Lewis Clarice Culham Kathleen Carlyon Betty McConnell Deni Klassen Bev Mann



Our Town – Main St. entry from Imperial Hwy



Our El Segundo High School Tower



Lots of new construction now at ESHS in 2004!



Both fun and learning done here



Great swimmers met & swam, swam, swam



Steam generating plant at end of Grand Ave.

Remember these places?



Methodist church at Main & Mariposa



ESHS from the park



Our shop building, being reconstructed



Car wash, corner Main & Mariposa 10-30-04



75th ESHS Anniversary Cake 10/29/04



Santa Monica Bay & mountains from coast rd.

More memories