

NORTH SALINAS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964

<http://nshs64.multiply.com/>



IN MEMORIAM

MICHELLE ELAINE HALE



August 1, 1946 – March 29, 2012

Michelle Hale Fontes, 65, of Salinas, passed away Thursday, March 29, 2012, after a lengthy illness.

She was born August 1, 1946, in Fresno.

Growing up, she lived in several cities in Northern California before moving to Salinas to attend North Salinas High School where she was graduated in 1964. Her

true calling was working with children. Michelle was actively involved in her children's lives through scouting, PTA, and school activities. She provided day care in her home for several years, and eventually became a group home counselor. Michelle loved camping with her family. She spent many weekends at Lake San Antonio. Annual treks to Burney Falls were a family tradition.

She is survived by her three children, Christopher Fontes (Patrice Donahue) of La Canada Flintridge, Juliet Olivarria (Paul) of Salinas, and Laurel Hall (Joe) of Fortuna. She was predeceased by her father and mother, Glenn and Lucille Hale and her brother, Jeff. She leaves two sisters, Roberta Duenow and Pamela Bagley.

In addition, she is survived by eight grandchildren.

Memorial services were held on April 7, 2012 , at Struve and Laporte Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Central Coast VNA & Hospice.

Online condolences to www.struveandlaporte.com



COME ON....TAKE A GUESS
WHO ARE THESE GRADS?





Balloon Boy



Here's to you.....



Classmate identities revealed somewhere below





2002 Salinas Car Show, Gabilan Street

EMAIL CHANGE



[Jan Whited, Salinas, qualitydrugtesting@comcast.net](mailto:qualitydrugtesting@comcast.net)

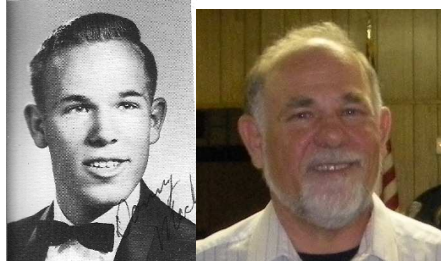


Yer gonna love this

www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html

**find out what happened in the year you were born,
or any other year from 1900 to present.**

Danny Retires



**“Danny has served his time and is being released after 29 years.....
of teaching at Soledad State Prison”
Congratulations, Danny!**



Now you'll have more time for dancing



[Salinas, dr60k@yahoo.com](mailto:dr60k@yahoo.com)

April 27– “I am done!! Just have to checkout on Monday!!!” Danny

“I’ll be attending Danny's retirement party. Hope to see the rest of the gang there.”



[Ernest Randall, Salinas, ernstrandall@comcast.net](mailto:erstrandall@comcast.net)



March Newsletter CORRECTION

Mr Carr's gas station was a Mobil not Flying A, on North Main across from Gary



Pybus's (Blaine TN, tnriver@comcast.net) dad's Richfield station at Curtis and No. Main.

KEEPING ANNA IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



Anna Granillo

31620 Buck Run Ln, Coarsegold CA, 93614

chiliosky@STI.net

Daughter Trisha reports Anna continues her treatment for Stage IV lung cancer. She is unable to speak and is bedridden, but does see her emails periodically.



A GUY AND HIS BIKE
AND A BIG ROAD TRIP

Keith Kindle

Perry GA, hotrodvstar@gmail.com

“Any classmates live around the Tetons?”



“This is my new Yamaha 1900 Stratoliner.”

“Anybody know some good roads to take going north/north west?”



“I will be riding this bike to Salinas on June 1st meeting my brother Paul in Albuquerque on the 3rd. Then we want to head north a bit for some good mountain riding.

For any of my friends and old classmates around Salinas I would sure like to see some of you when I get there.

We are going to hit the mountains for a few days so I should be in Salinas by June 10th or sooner. I will know better as I lock in my scenic route.

Here’s my contact info: I will be at my brother’s house at 924 San Vincente in Salinas. My cell phone number is 478-662-1206. kk”





Salinas as we remember it

CLASSMATE MESSAGES

“Enjoyed the newsletter and pics of the March MINI. Let's have another! “



Roger Lundquist
Salinas, rogerquist@att.net

http://nshs64.multiply.com/photos/album/92/March_10_2012-Mini-gathering_at_Bernardi/Goode's_in_Visalia

“Looks like a grand time was had by all.”



Chuck Postelwaithe
NSHS 65, Clovis CA, cwpostlethwaite@comcast.net

“ Really enjoyed reading all the stories, especially enjoyed the story about Lorraine Diaz, the telephone operator, in the March Newsletter. Sounds like a good time was had at the March mini-reunion at Franco and Kathy's. Sorry we missed it. Still in Chile, but I'm heading home next week for a couple of months. Life is less stressful for me here. I'm taking a painting class and I'm a member of the Santiago Quilters Guild. Each year the group collaborates on a quilt which we raffle off and the proceeds are donated to a local charity. Happy April holidays, Mary Ann”



Mary Ann Lee
fobrox52@yahoo.com

“I take care of my 98+ year old mother 24/7 so it's extremely difficult for me to participate in reunion events, etc.

That picture of the little rodent on the flower is really wonderful.. Any chance you can send that as an attachment to me? thanks, Gail”



Gail Kitaji
Salinas, kitajig@aol.com



Here's another one for good measure



Photo by **Jim Powell**, Salinas, jpowell102@sbcglobal.net



“I leave for Berlin where it will be very cold. Darn that Kate(Kathy Schoch) - since she is a school teacher she has to travel on Spring break and its always cold where we go. Maybe next time it can be Istanbul. Linda”



Linda Satre, Fullerton,
lkayross@aol.com

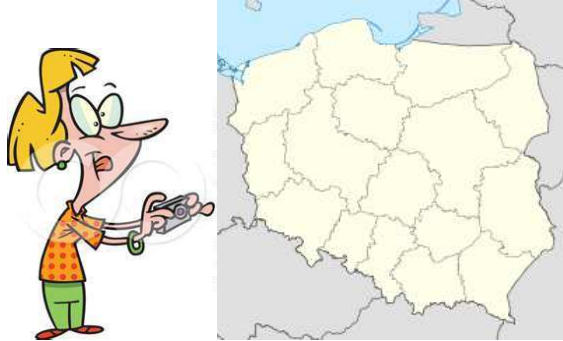


Kathy Schoch, Woodland
schochs2010@yahoo.com



Istanbul is not Constantinople now, and is somewhere on this map

A week later.....'Hello from Warsaw. Kate and I are having a great time.'



Warsaw is somewhere here

HOW ARE THINGS IN MISSOURI?

(Report not approved by Missouri Council of Tourism)



Missouri is here

“This March is currently the 2nd warmest March on record here in Missouri...could end up at #1 if we remain in the 80's the next two days. If that is the case, it will beat 102 year record.

Dreading what summer is going to bring. We're already fighting mice, mud wasps, and beetles. I've NEVER mowed before April 1st and have had to mow twice already. Allergy sufferers are miserable about 3 weeks early this year and the pollen counts have been in the thousands rather than a hundreds.

Thankfully, I'm not one of them.



The mini-reunion looked like fun. Hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Maybe someday I'll be in Calif. when one takes place. I was there in Feb. for two weeks so my timing is getting closer.

Heading to Texas next month for a few days, then to Santa Fe, New Mexico for a week in May. I'm taking my mom on a roadtrip to Charleston and Savannah in June which should be fun as I've never been there either. Probably head back via Destin and up thru Hot Springs Ark. before returning to the Branson area. This summer I have friends coming out to enjoy Branson for the first time....just hope it's not 100 degrees! PJ' (*Refer to map above)



Paulette Shaffer

Saddlebrooke MO, topjbennett@gmail.com

HITTING THE BIG SIX-SIX

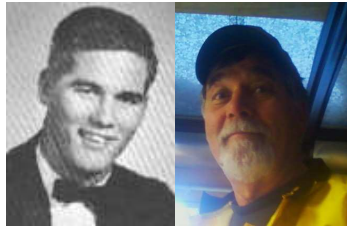
“Guess what! I didn't even feel a thing!!”



Olga Arellano

Salinas, herring6351@comcast.net

“The day started off good, with a free protein shake after spinning class this morning. It looks to be sunny till this afternoon, but life is good and
I am too old to care. “



Jim Small
Rathdrum Id, jim@smallsco.com



Jim lives somewhere here

“BTW, I just turned 65. But, I feel 66!”



James aka Jim Oania
San Jose, jas.onia@sbcglobal.net

“Have been celebrating my birthday for 3 days straight. Not sure if I'll be awake at midnight. I'm such a wimp. Lydia”




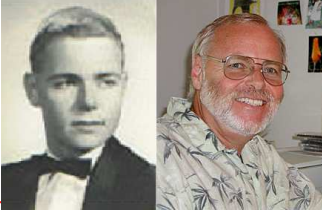

Lydia Castro

Arnold MO, lydia.castro24@yahoo.com

NSHS 64 – MAY BIRTHDAYS



  <p>May 1 – Hilda Wray Balagbagan, Salinas, lockwoodwolfman@yahoo.com</p>	 <p>May 16 – Barbara Britton, Grants Pass OR, no email</p>
  <p>May 2 – Marilee Gene Wilson, Sunnyvale, marileerueb@yahoo.com</p>	  <p>May 17 – Sherry Ostrander, Salinas, steve@javinshadesofgray.com</p>
  <p>May 8 – Mary Ann Lee, Chile, fobrox52@yahoo.com</p>	  <p>May 19 – Paulette June Shaffer, Saddlebrooke MO, topjbennett@gmail.com</p>

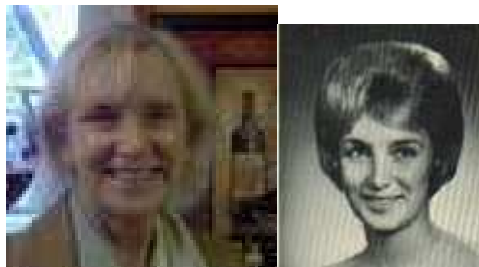
 <p>May 9 – Doris Darlene Mortenson, Pt. Orchard WA , dbabcock@wavecable.com</p>	 <p>May 20 – Richard Morris Waldrop, Salinas, waldrop53@yahoo.com</p>
 <p>May 11 – Linda Lee Nance, Gladstone MO, no email</p>	 <p>May 20 – Tony Ziganay, Salinas, zigenterprises@msn.com</p>
 <p>May 13 – Katherine Sandate Morales, Salinas, Carrillo.Sandra@corp.sysco.com</p>	 <p>May 22 – Patricia Lynn Ratekin, Sacramento , no email</p>
 <p>May 15 – Charles Jackson Darnell, Santa Rosa, typebees@sonic.net</p>	 <p>May 25 – Nancy Doris Gonzales, San Luis Obispo, nlaraslo@gmail.com</p>
 <p>May 15 – Susan Yvonne Nergord, Ephrata PA, vmiller@ptd.net</p>	 <p>May 27 – James Bruce Pybas, Blaine TN, tnriver@comcast.net</p>
 <p>May 15 – Gloria Watters, Ventura, no email</p>	 <p>May 28 – Raymond J. Jones, Round Rock TX, protecpowder@yahoo.com</p>

WHO ARE THE MYSTERY GRADS?



Steve(Balloon Boy) and Bobbi Markley

Santa Paula CA, sam.waterway@gmail.com



Linda Moore, Hermitage PA,
lindamoorelam@aol.com



John Noel

Williams Lake, BC , jnoel@mountpolley.com

That's my youngest daughter ,Crystal, age 22, in the photo with me. The picture was taken at our ranch 3 years ago just before we sold it. It was a nice place to raise the girls.

Yes, she a beautiful young lady as is her sister, Kayleen, who is a year older. Both girls are natural sisters (first nations). My ex and I adopted them when they were only a month old. Having only boys from my first marriage, I now understand what people were saying about being wrapped around their little finger. LOL

The winter is just starting to fade into spring here, and that means golf season is just about to begin. Not sure if that's a good thing or not. But I can keep hoping my



game will improve.

I really enjoy reading the newsletters and keeping up to speed with how everyone is doing. It's great reading for me. Until we talk again, John

Who's Yer Daddy?

From The Californian , April 20, 2012

Written by

Dave Nordstrand, dnordstrand@thecalifornian.com

Valley Views

Salinas' Big Jim DeNoon could sing and play fiddle with the best in the land, and he did.

He performed alongside Ferlin "Wings of a Dove" Husky, Smiley Burnett, Little Jimmie Dickens wrapped in rhinestones, even Willie Nelson.



Jody McCauley, Ferlin Husky, Big Jim, Fred McMurray, Smitty Smith, Jimmy Clark, Fred Storer



Fred McMurry, Big Jim DeNoon, Jimmy Clark, Jody McCauley, and Johnny Jobe



Jody McCauley, Ferlin Husky, Big Jim DeNoon, Fred McMurry, Johnny Jobe, and Delton Justice

Fact is, DeNoon's whole family was a mother lode of musical talent. By age 7, he was a virtuoso fiddler appearing on radio shows.

I was reminded of all this after writing a recent column on Marilyn Monroe's links to the Salinas area.



When earlier Marilyn Monroe visited Salinas on a promotional tour for diamonds, a crowd

That's baby [Trina Northcutt](#) held by her mother, with Marilyn Monroe signing autographs in Salinas' Carlyle Jewelers - Elk Grove, Trinalynn8@frontiernet.net

Nell Gardner, DeNoon's sister, called to say Monroe had been a guest on her brother's radio show on KDON in the late 1940s.

"Don't remember what she said, but she laughed a lot," Gardner said of Monroe.

Among many other places, DeNoon and his band played the Big Barn on Williams Road where the Cesar Chavez Library stands today.

It served as a weekend dance haunt with hardwood floors and vaulted ceiling. During band breaks, dancers retired to the parking lot to sip white lightning from fruit jars.



Big Jim DeNoon at Fiddlers Convention in Salinas

Gardner's family had migrated west from Springfield, Mo. Guided by DeNoon's dad, Col. Ray R. DeNoon, a carpenter, they made music so authentically American that recordings are archived in a Library of Congress of traditional music from the Ozark area.



"Our own family band," Gardner said.

The sound was "folk" or "bluegrass" or "back porch," meaning it got going when family members settled in on the porch steps and started playing.

In the 1940s, DeNoon had migrated to the Salinas Valley, "picking fruit and playing the bars all the way," Gardner said.



During World War II, he'd served in Africa as a military police officer, Gardner said.

Besides the Big Barn, he entertained troops on Fort Ord. In the 1960s, he opened the California Rodeo Salinas' Big Week.



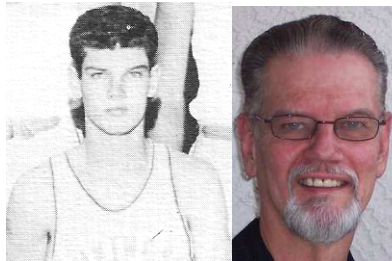
DeNoon died in 1978.

I envy the people who got to hear Big Jim sing and play in person. I missed it by a few decades, but it sounds like a fun time.

Just how Big Jim kept that big body going and that fiddle playing no one is quite sure.

"We do know that he liked to snack on vanilla pudding with bananas and half a loaf of bread," Gardner said.

Dave Nordstrand is a staff writer for The Salinas Californian. His column appears Wednesday and Saturday in Central Coast Living. Contact him at dnordstrand@thecalifornian.com.



Jim DeNoon – NSHS64
Las Vegas, jdjazzguitar@yahoo.com



Son Jim DeNoon, guitarist, standing behind singer
NSHS 64 Farvel Party



Son Jim DeNoon, with Danny Gage, and John King seated



Tommy Duncan, Big Jim, Bobby Black, Merle Travis

**This bio is from "The Western Swing Society" who inducted
Big Jim in October of 2010**

‘Big Jim’ DeNoon was born in Midco, Missouri, August 3, 1921, and he grew up to become an all-around musician who could play anything with strings on it. He could have easily been a one-man show playing fiddle, lead guitar, mandolin, banjo (tenor, plectrum and 5-string), and ukulele, but for many years, he was the band leader of a six-to-nine-man-band in California, known as the Hayride Band.

‘Big Jim’ learned music from his parents who played the fiddle and guitar, and as a boy, he won the Missouri State Fiddlers' Contest.

In 1948, ‘Big Jim’ moved to California where he became a very well-known musician. called ‘Big Jim’ for his size (6'7" and well over 300 pounds), he played many venues: radio shows, TV shows, festivals, fairs, night clubs, he appeared in some Western movies, but most notably, on Compton, California's, ‘Town Hall Party’.

He played with and backed a myriad of entertainers on the West Coast including Spade Cooley, Cliff Stone, Red Murrell, Joe and Rose Lee Maphis, Pee Wee King, Johnny Bond, The Collins Kids, Tex Williams, Smiley Burnett, FerlinHuskey, George Jones, Merle Haggard, Merle Travis, Tommy Duncan, the Black Brothers, "Cottonseed" Clark, Rusty Draper, to name just a few.

‘Big Jim’ was not only a fiddle champion, having won the Northwest Fiddlers' Contest (now known as the National Old-Time Fiddler's Contest) in Weiser, Idaho, for the years 1958, 1959, and 1960, but he played all his instruments (most of them professionally) well with his very large hands. His real asset, though, was his warm and jovial personality. He was also known as “The Giant of Western Swing”. He wrote and recorded a number of songs. Some of these are: 'Wild Strings,' "E Ramble," "Stop! That's My Cotton Pickin' Heart," "Ukulele Waltz," and "Crazy Fiddle."

‘Big Jim’ suffered from a sleeping sickness he caught while serving our nation in the U.S. Army in North Africa during World War II. As a result, he had to eventually ease up on his music venues. He passed away in Salinas, California, on November 2, 1978; only 57 years of age.

It has been said of ‘Big Jim’ that beside his outside huge appearance, inside was a huge heart of gold that he graciously shared with others.

Big Jim DeNoon, the "Giant of Western Swing" was the host of a television show over KNTV (Channel 11) in San Jose, California in early 1956 called the "Bar 11 Ranch". The show was geared to the younger crowd and was one and a half hours long. Part of that show were the movies that starred Gene Autry or Roy Rogers.

Before he signed his contract with KNTV, he was a recording artist with the 4 Star label for seven years. AND had been heard on the Mutual and CBS networks. In 1954, he was named most popular entertainer in Northern California.



Big Jim DeNoon at the peak of his career

Big Jim was a talented musician. He reportedly could play 18 instruments. During his show, he'd usually play a song or two. The show was on from 4:30pm to 6:00pm each afternoon.

You can hear 13 of Big Jim DeNoon's songs through links on this site:

<http://www.montereybaymusic.com/Big%20Jim%20DeNoon.html>

SPECIAL MAY DAYS

National BBQ Month



National Bike Month



Holly Blair (SHS64) and Joyce Plaskett
Salinas, jeplaskett@aol.com



Carolyn's first bike, on 9th birthday

Older Americans Month

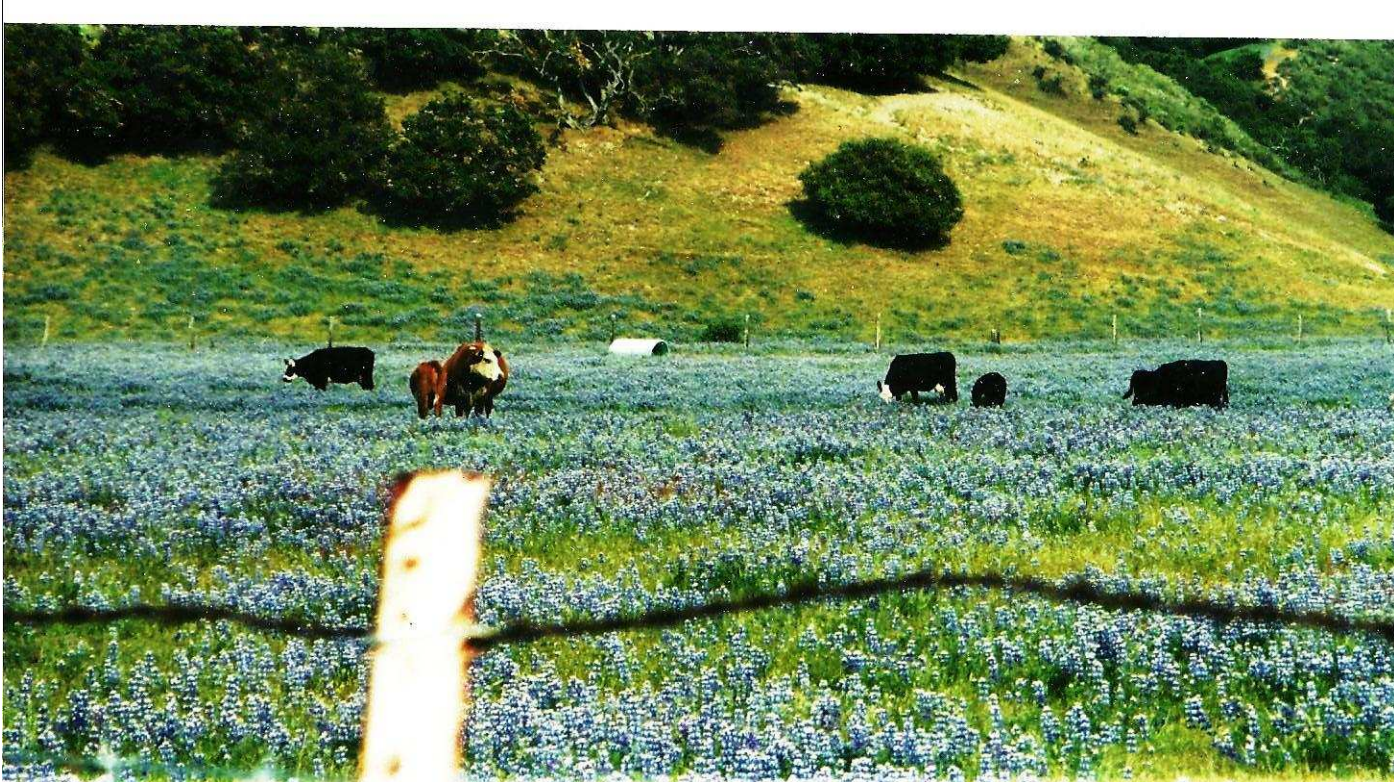


OCTOBER 2005



© 2005 by The American Red Cross

2ND WEEK IN MAY IS WILDFLOWER WEEK



Lupine
Highway 68 between Salinas and Monterey

May 4 – International Tuba Day



That's Keith Kindle with the Tuba

Cinco de Mayo



May 6 – National Nurse’s Day

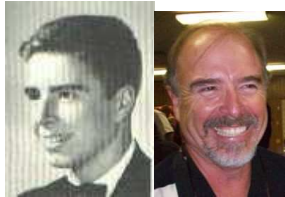


Nurse Ratchet

May 12 – Limerick Day

**There once was a man with a hernia
Who said to the doctor
Gol dern ya!
When fixin’ my middle
Please don’t stop to fiddle
With things that don’t concern ya.**

Recited to me(Carolyn) when I was 13, by



John King

Modesto, ptuner120@sbcglobal.net

I didn’t get it then. I do now.

MAY 13
DO NOT
forget the Mothers in your life on
Mother's Day



May 14 - Dance Like A Chicken Day



May 27 – Sun Screen Day



**Joann
Giles**



**Gayle
Waller**



**Kathy
Goode**

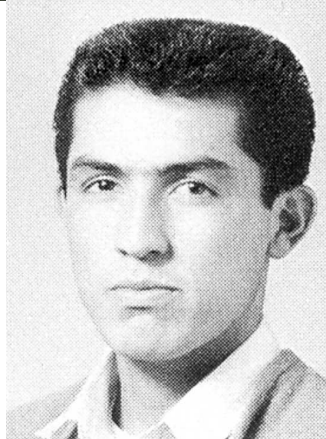


**Betty
Riddell**



**Judy
Giles**

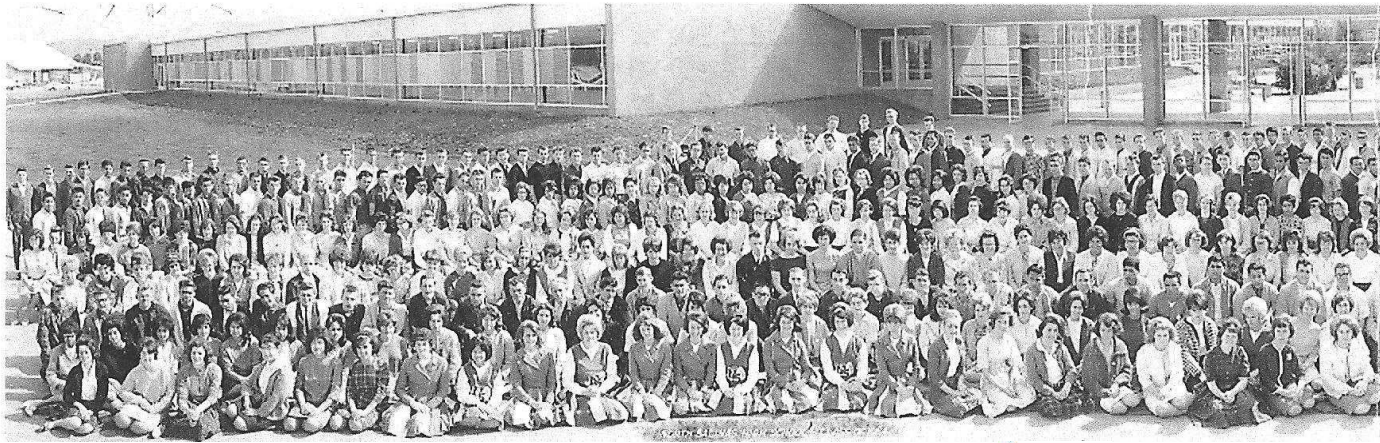
May 28 - Memorial Day



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

ERNEST F LOSOYA

LESS THAN 1000 DAYS UNTIL OUR 50TH CLASS REUNION



THAT'S ME...WHERE ARE YOU?

DICK CLARK
AMERICA'S OLDEST TEENAGER
1929 – 2012



LAST BUT NEVER LEAST

LET'S GO BACK TO THE TIME WHEN FACEBOOK MEANT FALLING ASLEEP WHILE
READING A BOOK.



CSW