

ELK GROVE CITIZEN
HISTORY HAPPENED HERE
History of Elk Grove Schools, part 8
EGUSD – ABOUT TO CELEBRATE ITS 50TH
June 20, 2008
by Elizabeth Pinkerton

This is the 8th and last article in the series on the history of Elk Grove schools in celebration of the coming 50th anniversary of Elk Grove Unified. Since the district unified on July 1, 1959, a total of 50 schools have been added to that tiny list of schools that existed in the 320 square mile area known as Elk Grove Unified School District. In the beginning there were only these: Elk Grove High School, Dillard, Franklin, Cosumnes River, Pleasant Grove, Sierra Enterprise, Florin, Isabelle Jackson, Anna Kirchgater, and Elk Grove Elementary. Now there are 50 more, making a total of 60 schools with two additional ones to be opened in August of 2008.

We left off last week with Edna Batey Elementary School in 2003. We continue with 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

2004 – Monterey Trail High School, Elk Grove's 7th high school, still has some folks confused about the name, but there are others that clearly know its significance. Long before there was the name of Highway 99 for the main road that runs through Elk Grove, it was known as the Upper Stockton Road. But before that designation during the gold days, the route was Monterey Trail. Why? Well, it was the way you traveled from Sutter's Fort to Monterey, the capital of Mexican California in the late 1840s. There were two trails—Lower Monterey Trail was today's Franklin Boulevard, but during the winter when it flooded (which was most of the time) the upper trail was used. Recently, the principal of Monterey Trail High School, Derrick Garcia, gave me the school's latest T-shirt. On the front, it reads: *It's not Monterey Trails*. And, on the back, it says: *There's only ONE trail..... and we're on it.*

2004 – Edward Harris Jr. Middle School is named after a long time (21 years) Elk Grove Unified school board member who has consistently given of his time and efforts to support schools, students, and families. Starting as a chemist with the Campbell Soup Company, Mr. Harris spent many years in management and always found ways for the company to support district schools. When the Twilight after school program began, Campbell Soup donated boxes and boxes of soup for students and parents as an evening snack, all thanks to the efforts of Elk Grove's Board member.

2004 – Arlene Hein Elementary School is located in East Franklin, and it is a fitting location for a school to remind us of one of the district's most loyal employees and the person who holds the longevity record. Miss Hein began to work for the first superintendent of the district, Dr. George Kibby in 1959. Before that she had been the secretary to the principal and superintendent of Elk Grove Union High School, a job that she began after she graduated from the school. She has worked now under the five superintendents of Elk Grove Unified and served as secretary for the Board of Education as well. There is no one more dedicated than Arlene Hein, and she continues in her role providing a half century of service and hard work.

2004 – Roy Herburger Elementary School gets a lot of publicity, but then so do all of Elk Grove schools, and that is part of the reason why a school is named after the publisher-owner of the local newspaper, the *Elk Grove Citizen*. The school and district support from Mr. Herburger is amazing as he can be seen at school functions all over the district, and it has always been that way. He too is

celebrating a 50th anniversary for he came into the ownership of the newspaper the same year that the district unified—in 1959. Roy attends all Board meetings, publicizes school and district events and news, and keeps education at the top of his list all the time.

2005 – Arnold Adreani Elementary School is named for a long time principal of Joseph Kerr Middle School, although he was also principal of Sierra Enterprise. A native of Boston, Dr. Adreani was principal of Joseph Kerr for 27 years, probably a record in the district and many other places as well. He continues to support education in his role with the Elk Grove Community Foundation as he solicits additional scholarships for our youth.

2005 – Helen Carr Castello Elementary School recognizes two long time Elk Grove families, the Carrs and Castelllos. As Helen Carr, Mrs. Castello taught at the long ago Carroll School. Later she taught at Anna Kirchgater and Elk Grove elementary schools. She and her husband, as well as their children, all graduated from Elk Grove High School, and the Castelllos were active in agriculture and as community leaders for many years.

2005 – Pleasant Grove High School extends the name of the elementary school with the same name. Even though the schools are not side by side, they both serve families in the eastern part of Elk Grove. This was Elk Grove’s 8th high school, and it graduated its first senior class in 2008.

2005 – Katherine Albiani Middle School recognizes a long time board member who is still providing service to education, but now at the state level. Mrs. Albiani is a graduate of Elk Grove High School, and she served on the Board of Education for 18 years including three times as president. She also was elected as president of the California School Boards Association and has served in numerous roles in dozens of community organizations. For the past decade, she has been on the governing board of the Los Rios Community College District.

2006 – Carroll Elementary School keeps the name of a long time country school in our midst. Built in 1877 in the south Franklin area of Bruceville Road, Carroll School served its farming community until 1946 when the school burned down. Rather than build a new school, the families decided to join the Elk Grove district.

2007 –Sunrise Elementary School opened last year in the far northeastern corner of the Elk Grove district. The name provides the location for it is off Sunrise Boulevard, an area is rich in historical treasures. Gold dredging took place here long after the gold miners left the rivers and streams, and the children of the families that lived there attended the long gone Highland School.

That is it, folks. You will read about the two new schools that will open in August at a later time-- Cosumnes Oaks High School and one that still amazes me when I write the name, Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School. There are three other names still waiting for their sites: Miwok Village Victory, and Constantine Baranoff .

Bringing you up to date on the Golden 50 scholarships, three more commitments have been made for scholarship endowments for the Elk Grove Community Foundation.

The first two scholarships of the Golden 50 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Elk Grove Community Foundation have been funded at \$10,000 each.

- # 1 -- **Mary, Al, and Marielle Tsukamoto Scholarship** – by Marielle Tsukamoto
- # 2 -- **Timothy C. Pinkerton Memorial Scholarship** –by the Pinkerton Family
- # 3 – *to be announced soon*
- #4 – *to be announced soon*
- # 5 – *being strongly considered*.....

This means that there are only 45 left!! I am still trying to get the TOP TEN before August when the official kickoff begins. Do you want to recognize a family member or the entire family? How about a memorial for a loved one? What about one for your business or your organization? And what about a scholarships funded by a school or parent group? Call me for more information – 685-0606. Thanks.

- 1. History Happened Here, Book 1-River, Oaks, Gold.**
- 2. History Happened Here, Book 2-Fields, Farms, Schools**
- 3. Images of America-ELK GROVE**

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