

Elk Grove Citizen ONLINE

LIFESTYLE

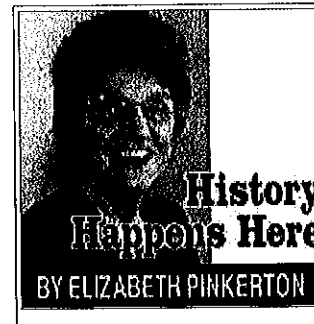
EGUSD – Super Grads:

Continued from last week ...

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John Alltucker, EGHS, Class of 1907 – This amazing man was born in 1888 and attended the long gone San Joaquin School at Grant Line Road and today's Highway 99. He and his twin sister Margaret both had distinguished careers in education; John's contributions were in what was called manual arts and, later, vocational education. He was superintendent of schools in Vallejo and was one of the founders of Solano Community College. What is amazing is that John almost did not go on to high school because as an eighth grader, he did not pass the arithmetic examination. However, the principal of little and new Elk Grove Union High School was worried about declining enrollment, so John entered on probation. A great contribution that John made to Elk Grove was being one of the four founders of the scholarship program of what is now the Elk Grove Community Foundation.



Hazel (Poston) Westlake, EGHS, Class of 1928 – Hazel, a long time Elk Grove teacher, was a descendant of two long time Elk Grove families, the Macys and the Postons. Her mother, Lillian Macy Poston, had also been a teacher at the Rhoads School and, later, at the Stone House School. Hazel lived most of her life on School Street where her father had purchased 40 acres for his Elk Grove Dairy. She and her brother delivered milk to Elk Grove residents in a little wagon that they pulled along the streets. Hazel had to quit teaching when she got married in 1938 because that was the rule in those days. But, she came back in 1958 and helped steer Elk Grove Grammar School forward during the post World War II growth period. She even was principal of Anna Kirchgater School, the new overload school built by Elk Grove district. She continued to teach until 1975. Hazel's daughters also graduated from Elk Grove and were involved in education. Jane Budd was a teacher in Washington Unified, and Diane Buscher worked at the district office for many years.

Ellen (Cothrin) Rosa, EGHS, Class of 1943 – Ellen was a recipient of my History Happened Here Gold Star last year, and now I get an opportunity to commend her again as an EG Super Grad. She is a descendant of Jared Dixon Sheldon, and there is no one who has preserved the Sloughhouse-Cosumnes River history as carefully and painstakingly as she has. Although Ellen grew up in Latrobe (where she had to ride the train to school as a first grader), she came to live with her brother on Green Road in Wilton when she was in high school. She has lived in Wilton ever since, and we are blessed that she has gifted us with so much of the past that would have been lost without her efforts.

George D. Beitzel II, EGHS, Class of 1956 – George grew up in Sheldon and rose to prominence with the Farm Credit System, serving as president and chief executive officer of the Western Farm Credit Bank. In that role, he provided credit and related services to more than 25,000 farmers and ranchers in the western states. For his notable achievements, George was selected as a member of Elk Grove High School's Hall of Fame. If readers think there may be a connection between this Super Grad and Maeola Beitzel Elementary School, they are right as the school is named for George's mother.

Dennis Buscher, EGHS, Class of 1962 – As a long time member of the Elk Grove Historical Society, I can truly speak to Dennis' contributions to history and the society. He has been an active historian, probably all his life, and he has renovated several buildings that he moved to his property on old Bilby Road, just east of the railroad tracks in Franklin. Dennis grew up in Franklin, went to school there, and has spent decades in preserving pieces of the past. He was president of the Elk Grove Historical Society in the 1980s and was an officer and treasurer for over two decades. The Stage Stop Hotel décor and many of the collections that we enjoy so much are there because of Dennis Buscher. He is presently establishing a rose garden on the grounds – yet another example of his dedication to history and what we leave for future generations.

Phillip Minghetti, EGHS, Class of 1963 – The new treasurer of the Elk Grove Historical Society has a very impressive resume that may surprise folks who have recently met him. He has a Ph.D. degree in molecular and cell biology and has spent many years directing and conducting molecular and cell biology research in

academia and biotechnology. He also has had extensive experience with gene technology (DNA/nucleic acids) as well as human disease research, such as rheumatoid arthritis and human aging. He has been a biomedical research scientist at the University of California, Riverside, a research professor of medicine, and chief scientific officer of a biotechnology company – Geri Gene Medical. His publications on scientific topics are numerous, he holds a variety of patents, and he does presentations at scientific conferences both in the U.S. as well as nationally. That is pretty impressive for a hometown guy, and we welcome him back to Elk Grove.

Tom Nakashima, EGHS, Class of 1968 –Tom’s voice is heard by hundreds (maybe more like thousands?) of people every day in his position as a radio personality on EAGLE 96.9, Sacramento’s Classic Rock station. He has been there as long as I can remember, but he officially began his radio career in 1975 and is now in his fourth decade on Sacramento radio. That has to be a record, at least in Sacramento. Tom went to Elk Grove Elementary, where I had the good fortune to be his seventh grade teacher, and then on to Joseph Kerr Junior High in its beginning days, and then to Elk Grove High. The radio guy does a lot of volunteer work in Florin and Sacramento, and not surprisingly he is often asked to serve as the MC at various functions. With that great voice, he is impressive.

Barbara Morse Wackford, EGHS, Class of 1968 – You might have guessed that it is this Super Grad’s name that is on the wonderful community and aquatic center on Bruceville Road. Barbara spent her career in Sacramento County parks department and, in 1985, she became the first administrator of the Elk Grove Community Services Department. In 2002 she was named Woman of the Year by the Elk Grove Citizen in recognition of her 16 years of service to parks and recreation. She helped to create more than 50 of our local parks and the many activities that continue, such as the Harvest Festival and the Pumpkin Contest. Barbara is a member of the Morse family that pioneered the Franklin-Bruceville area, and she attended Franklin Elementary and the new Joseph Kerr Junior High before moving on to Elk Grove HS.

Robert Pierce, Valley High School, Class of 1991 – Let me introduce you to a high-ranking person at Elk Grove Unified School District who happens to be one of our Super Grads. He is Robert Pierce, the new associate superintendent in charge of the facilities and planning department. His responsibility is to identify the need for new schools and their locations, planning and construction projects, and the building of new facilities. Rob also does the modernization and additions for existing schools and is responsible for enrollment projections and school attendance boundaries. And, where did he get his start for such a high level responsibility? The answer is ... Samuel Kennedy Elementary School, followed by James Rutter Middle School, and I am very pleased to say that I was his principal there. There he is in the 1987 yearbook – voted as the Most Involved and the Most School Spirit. It seems to me those are fitting qualities that continue in his career, and it is a pleasure to have him back in Elk Grove.

That is it for today ... To be continued ...

1. History Happened Here, Book 1-River, Oaks, Gold – \$20
2. History Happened Here, Book 2-Fields, Farms, Schools – \$20
3. Images of America-Elk Grove – \$20
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