

Valle Lindo Elementary School, Class of 1964 Reunion – April 21, 2007
Classmates' Stories – Edition 1

Thanks and appreciation go to the Valle Lindo (VL) kids for taking the time to share a little bit about their lives on the day of their grammar school reunion picnic. Stories were shared stories of the last 40 years, and all expressed the same sentiment—**WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE RHS 68 REUNION IN 2008!** As you read the stories posted here remember your classmates want to hear from you, too, so send information to the CONTACT US page soon. Also, register your email address in the directory!

Did you know we have our very own RHS '68 crime lab chemist, currently working for the **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office**? Read on to find out more. Don't skip to the end, try to guess first! Our classmate brought some written information to the picnic, remembering the days at VL elementary school, where she writes, "I didn't know it at the time, but I grew up with a great bunch of kids." After leaving RHS freshman year, this classmate became a chemist following high school graduation in Northern CA, and then earning a degree in chemistry from San Jose State. A job at NASA for a couple of years, testing the effects of space travel on animals and humans, helped to discover why motion sickness prevented her from a first choice career in oceanography, studying sea life on the CA coast. Dow Chemical became a lucrative career for the next 17 years, up north and then in Torrance until the 90s. Leaving Dow due to company restructuring, and becoming a crime lab chemist in LA County provided **Vickie Teas** with interesting cases of evidence to examine. While we watched the local LA news, our classmate was in the lab processing evidence in high profile crime cases!

Vickie has had the opportunity to explore California by hiking most of the mountain ranges. Hiking through Yosemite, Tahoe, Donner Pass, Lassen, Trinity Alps, and Point Reyes along the coast are some of her favorites. The love of hiking stems from childhood, where she often walked to Legg Lake to watch the ducks and play in the tules, or walked to the horse stables, and she even walked a mile or two to see friends. Comments Vickie, "I like to see the natural world and imagine it the way God meant for it to be." Well said, Vickie, and thanks for sharing.

Another classmate joined the conversation with an interesting story about **Vickie Teas**, who was working inside the Dow lab in the 70s. Unbeknownst to her, a VL/RHS classmate, **David Manning**, was picketing outside the Dow Chemical building, working with Caesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union in 1971. Dow Chemical in the 70s was not popular because of the production of napalm as well as the pesticides used in the California grape and lettuce fields.

In the 80s, **David Manning** and **Vickie Teas** ran into each other again in Torrance, but Dave did not remember the meeting—until Vickie reminded him. Super Shuttle driving days were part of his past, as that was then and this is now, according to Dave. A minor career in Cel Art which was created on celluloid, animated, and then filmed for production, worked into a lucrative business venture for Dave and his wife. They started collecting the cels in the early 90s and soon after became full time collectors, auctioning, or buying and selling the art. Dave's children thought it was great fun, enjoying the animation aspect of the business! Currently, **Dave** enjoys retirement. He recounted more about his four children than himself, telling stories of a daughter who teaches and a son preparing his film director's portfolio to present at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

VL/RHS classmate, **Glen Beck**, joined in the conversation with Vickie and Dave, where Dave cleverly steered the conversation away from him at that point, so that is all we are able to share here about **David Manning**. Go to the EMAIL directory and send Dave a message to tell you more!

We found out from **Glen** that he recently retired from a 23 year career with the federal government in the Department of Deportation. In his RHS days, Glen was our band president, and after leaving RHS he attended PCC, and then Cal State Northridge, graduating in 1972. **Glen** pursued a career with the LAPD, but a back injury from RHS blocked his pursuit. A stint in the fast food restaurant business ended with some life changes, and when Glen met his second wife of 23 years she suggested applying for the US Border Patrol. Settling in San Diego, Glen experienced world travels as a border patrol officer to places like Israel, Lebanon, Nigeria, Cambodia, Russia, Europe, the Middle East, and more. Glen has three children, no grandchildren, yet, and looks forward to the 2008 reunion next year!

Glen relayed a message that **Mr. Hensley** retired and passed away, within six months after his retirement. Two of Mr. Hensley's children continue to teach in the Rosemead schools. He shared that **Mr. Hensley** had a profound effect on his life, and holds a deep admiration for him for the part he played in the lives of the many RHS students over his career.

Our next classmate to wander into the conversation at the Valle Lindo reunion picnic was **Jim Duessent**, adding his wit and humor with jokes galore! Jim shared some life changing experiences, and told us the reason he looks so great. His health has taken priority in his life, and after losing over 175 pounds, Jim has a new lease on life. He has more energy than ever to continue his service to the community where he lives and works. Check out the pictures on the Valle Lindo Reunion photo page to see the new **Jim!**

Long Beach Unified School District students and teachers have been asking for Jim's assistance for over 26 years, as he is a member of a crew of maintenance workers that serve over 100 schools in the district. Top priority among his many duties, Jim is the go-to guy for sharpening tools, scissors, saw blades, etc for the district. The CSEA chose to feature Jim in the February 2007 edition of the Focus Magazine for his loyalty to the district, and for his membership in the Lions Club for his many years of service. Read about Jim's public service by clicking on the link:

<http://pub.csea.com/CseaHome/Default.aspx?tabid=412>

Jim and the Lions Club chose a unique way to thank the Valle Lindo school district superintendent for her participation in the Class of 1964 reunion—read about that, too, in our VL **HOME** page story. You may want to inquire in an email message to Jim about what services he provides around the December 25th holiday, as we have a sneaky suspicion that his white beard may be a clue!

More VL bios to come, soon!