

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

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.

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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.

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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.

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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 25<sup>th</sup> holiday, as we have a sneaky suspicion that his white beard may be a clue!

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As the VL classmates were getting hungry from all the hugging, smiling, laughing, and retelling of old stories, following the smoke and the smell of the barbeque we found a few more classmates available to tell us their story. The hamburgers and hot dogs were delicious, and manning the grill, well, you decide when you look at the VL pictures — YES, the men at the grill were delicious as well! **Mike Macias** and **Sam Mundt** say hello to all of you **RHS Panthers** and they both agreed not to miss the RHS 68 40-year reunion and a challenge goes to Y-O-U not to miss it! Both guys would rather not have said much about themselves, but here are a few tidbits of their lives that we were able to coerce from the conversation.

**Sam Mundt** considers the life of a firefighter to be the best he could have chosen for a career by stating, “I look forward to going to work every day.” After revealing that a **33 year career** with the **LA City Fire Department** will soon come to a close, he included a brief description of what his current job entails. As an **apparatus operator** of the crash rig to and from the Van Nuys airport, Sam drives the **BIG yellow aerial ladder truck**. How big, you ask . . . find Sam’s e-mail address in the website email directory and ask him!

In the past you may have seen Sam on the local news, and not even known it was him! **Helicopter rescues** were part of his job duties back 12 years ago, either as the firefighter being lowered on the cable to assist with the hookup of the injured, horse rescues included, or the firefighter in the helicopter working the process. A new chapter in the life of Sam Mundt will begin with **retirement in less than a year** so that he will have more free time to spend with his adult children, but for now LA City is a safer place thanks to our very own firefighter, **Sam Mundt**.

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The conversation shifted to a discussion between **Sam Mundt, Mike Macias,** and **Barbara (Danforth) Nadsady** of how the Valle Lindo reunion idea became a reality. You can find the story on the **HOME** page that describes how **Pat (Wiley) Rippy** shared the RHS 30-year reunion video with **Dave Manning**, who shared it with **Barbara**. (YES, we have a video of that event!). **Barbara** decided it was time to catch up with old friends, made a few phone calls, and found **Sam** on his cell phone at **Lake Havasu**, off-roading and drinking a few beers with **Mike**.

A few weeks later, **Sam, Mike, Dave and Barbara** met for dinner one Friday night and the idea was born. **Mike** and **Sam** just wanted a casual get together with friends from eighth grade. **Pat** was contacted, and she took the ball and ran with it. She hunted down people using every method possible. When all was said and done, she had networked to

locate over 60 of the 104 graduates. .... Friends started to contact old friends, and a couple of beers later—look for more details in the VL story!

Thanks go to **Barbara** for making that first phone call! Barbara is also responsible for designing the flyers and posters, a most valuable contribution to the VL reunion. She came through with her skills in graphic arts and, lucky us, volunteered to do the same for the RHS 68 40-year reunion! Expect to see the first 40-year reunion postcard/newsletter, designed by **Barbara**, sometime around the first of June, with the DATE, and the PLACE for 2008. It should be arriving by mail, so if we do not have your correct mailing address, please send a message to the **CONTACT US** page right now!

**Barbara** shared portions of her career, family, and the life happenings of which she is most proud. Who remembers art classes with Barbara at RHS? Email her and ask whose bust she sculpted in Mr. Montelongo's class with the initials MR, and he played on the Varsity baseball team. Who knew that her gifts as an artist back then would lead into an art related field? Barbara admits that she took a different career path and turned down an art scholarship that she won our senior year for a poster contest, but currently she is recognized for her talents in graphic arts.

After graduation, Hollywood found **Barbara** and **Linda Heflin** attending beauty school. Later Barbara shared a place with **Nancy Hudgins** until Nancy married in 1973. A part time job with **Sears** led into a graphic arts position in the print shop doing forms design and layout for the Pacific Coast territorial offices, located in Alhambra. Next, **Lockheed** found Barbara, kept her for 5 years, where she met her husband. Busy with art-related classes, and both of her daughters born in the 80s, Barbara stays current with the field of graphic arts as each job discovered her talents and capitalized on it! Interestingly, Barbara's daughter recently attended the **Musician's Institute in Hollywood**, just blocks from the beauty school Barbara and Linda attended in 1968. Barbara is currently a **Staffing Metrics Analyst** for a local biotechnology company and has found that life at the beach in **Ventura** cannot compare to the good ole days. She will be bringing pictures to the 2008 reunion and she expects you to do the same!

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More classmates found **Sam Mundt** and **Mike Macias** busy at the barbeque, where Mike tried to remain elusive, but he shared a story or two with us. He actually began with a challenge to **Bob Casas** that involves getting the **Potrero** kids together for a reunion, "*Something, something . . . about leadership skills . . . and . . . the VL kids setting the pace.*" Maybe you should email **Mike** and ask him to explain!

Following graduation from RHS, **Mike** worked a couple of part time jobs, one for parks and recreation for the **City of South El Monte**, and the other for a federally funded project to **assimilate juveniles back into the school system**. He took **Rio Hondo College** courses, working towards graduation from **Cal State Los Angeles** with a **Business/English degree**. The delinquency prevention program/guidance department kept Mike employed while he continued taking business courses, leading to a management position before starting his own companies. Several small company endeavors, some at the

international level, kept options open for **self employment for 25 years**. Mike currently uses the skills acquired from previous business endeavors in **building an investment banking company**, leading into what will eventually become the right time for retirement. Continuing to work at a more relaxed pace keeps Mike busy, and he also added that he **likes to golf**, so if we set up a golf tournament for the 2008 reunion, bring your clubs and Mike will join us!

**Mike** shared that he is **“all about family”** and is looking forward to seeing Y-O-U at the 2008 reunion where he will have pictures to show, and expects to see your pictures, too. **Married since 1972, with two sons, grandchildren, and the newest grandchild, Nicholas Stone**, we detected that Nicholas may just have grandpa wrapped around his little finger, as a certain sparkle emerged when Mike shared his name. No arguments here (from reporter **Marsha Stone**) about the choice for a middle name!

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Another of group of our VL/RHS classmates shared that wherever the reunion is held in 2008, they will be there, in hopes that our fellow RHS classmates feel the same! **Irene (Chaney) Horn, Penny (Joseph) Jansen, and Suzan (Kimberling) Zimmerman** sat together on the Valle Lindo lunch benches exchanging VL memories, and agreed to share bits and pieces of their lives since leaving RHS. For more about **Irene, Penny, and Suzan**, please send them an email as I know Y-O-U can coax more from them, and they really would like to hear from you! Wherever we RHS 68 gather, they will find us for the 2008 reunion.

**Irene (Chaney) Horn** and her husband are both retired now, and find cruises to be what the future holds for their travel plans. They have already cruised to the Hawaiian Islands for their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and have discussed future cruises to Alaska, Panama Canal, and to the New England states. Irene agreed that she happily retired from her working years for the county of Los Angeles from the beginning days as a secretary to the human resources manager at General Hospital. With two grown children, but no grandchildren, **Irene** and her husband hope to reach all the travel goals that they have set. The girls agreed that whatever the committee decides for a reunion location will be OK with them. They cannot wait to see all of their RHS friends again in 2008!

The day of the VL picnic was rapidly coming to a close, and just a couple more guys graciously shared their stories before leaving. Be sure to click on their email addresses and send them a message and thank them for the memories. Who remembers the picture on page 142 of our Senior yearbook? Who remembers the **Varsity wrestling team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sierra League pick**? OK to keep guessing, but for clues check out the picture in your yearbook because that Varsity wrestler has not changed a bit. Don't believe me? Well, when he joins us at the RHS 68 reunion you can see for yourself!

When this VL/RHS classmate shared the ages of his **two children**, we discovered what we had in common: we were young parents, but he is one up on me—he is a **grandpa** already with **two grandchildren**! Consistently employed in the **grocery business** since high school, this classmate had the experience that allowed him to become **self employed** for a

number of years. After selling the family business, continuing in management for **Vons** keeps him busy, as he is not quite ready for retirement, even after almost 40 years in the grocery industry. Do you give up guessing who this classmate is, yet? Our very own **Hector Carrera** cannot wait to see Y-O-U next year for our RHS Class of 68 40-year reunion!