

THE LEFTOVERS

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This newsletter is issued quarterly, as part of the mission of the ESHS, to preserve and publicize the history of the community of El Sobrante. If you would like to comment on this newsletter, or submit your own article for publication, please do so via: eshistory@gmail.com. Thanks!

OLD DE ANZA HIGH SCHOOL:



Gone but Not Forgotten

Donald Bastin

The old De Anza High School is history. The new school, seen here beyond piles of rubble, is now open for business. Fortunately, not everything has been lost. Members of the El Sobrante Historical Society were generously granted permission to comb through the old buildings prior to demolition, and retrieve

whatever artifacts we could find. In this issue of *The Leftovers*, we will describe the many objects that have been saved, which will serve as reminders to former students of what their high school experience in El Sobrante was like, while serving new generations of students to appreciate the rich heritage of the last 58 years.



School Sign: This sign, measuring 6 feet by 1 foot, was bolted to a low concrete wall,



located near the entrance to the school. While probably not as old as the school, most

ex-students will recognize this sign as the school's primary identifier. We were very lucky to be able to retrieve this artifact without difficulty and completely intact.

Clocks: We collected 22 of these old-timers.



They were all over the school—in the classrooms, the library, office, everywhere. They come in two sizes: the smaller is 10 inches in diameter, while the larger measures 12 inches across. Almost all of the clocks that we collected bore a manufacturing date of 1954, so this means that they have been in continuous operation since the school opened in 1955.

One of my most vivid classroom memories is watching one of these clocks, measuring off each minute with painful slowness, and a very loud **clack-clack**. Oddly, I never wondered why these clocks had no second hand. It turns out that these are no ordinary clocks. They are what are called “slave clocks.” They do not operate independently, but are controlled by a

“master clock” or simply a master mechanism which delivers a 24 volt (dc) jolt every minute, which activates a simple electro-magnetic device, and advances the minute hand one minute. All the clocks in the school are part of this system; therefore, all of the clocks keep **exactly** the same time. Of course, this is how it has to be. In a school environment, we can't have clocks showing different times when the bell goes off.

The unfortunate part of all this is that these clocks cannot simply be plugged in to a wall socket, or even some batteries, and be expected to work. Some way must be devised to imitate the action of the master clock. This can be done (and we have done it) but it is not simple and the result is a noisy clock that doesn't keep very good time (more on this in the next issue).

Locker Doors:



We retrieved 4 of these locker doors, 3 from the main hallway and one from the shops.

Unfortunately, we could not take out an entire locker, as

each unit was part of a much larger assembly, which was much too big and heavy to remove. Do you remember your locker number?

Water Fountain:

If you went to De Anza High School, you probably took a sip of water



from this fountain, which was located across the hall from the office. There were not many of these fountains in the school, and we were very fortunate to get this one. As the water was still on when we were in the building, we could not take it out ourselves. We are indebted to project manager Marc Alojegan for carefully removing this fountain and setting it aside for us. It is in beautiful condition, particularly the porcelain, which is without any chips or nicks. They don't make them like this anymore.



Manual Typewriter:

They don't make them like this anymore, either. This Underwood Model Five was found in the library. It was

first produced in the early 1960s, and has probably been in continuous use, in the library, since that time.

Light Fixtures:

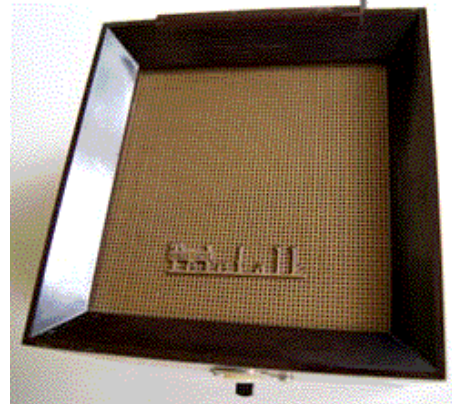
This style of overhead light was old when De Anza was opened in 1955. We only found this one in the school, in the anteroom of the ladies bathroom, near the office.



This was the overhead light found in the bathroom.

Pencil Sharpeners:

We have 3 of these little guys, all found in the library. This one, all metal, is probably the oldest. It is still quite functional. How many thousands of pencils has it sharpened?



Intercom Units:

These intercom devices were placed throughout the school, enabling teachers and

staff to communicate directly with the office. We retrieved 5 of these "Teletalk" units, made by Webster Electric, and housed in an attractive Bakelite plastic, common in radios and other electrical devices of the 1950s.

School Bell:

We removed 2 of these bells from the main hallway. Like the clocks, they are made by the Standard Electric Company. Also like the clocks, they run on 24 volts of electric current. But unlike the clocks, the current is alternating. Nothing like a school bell to wake you up!



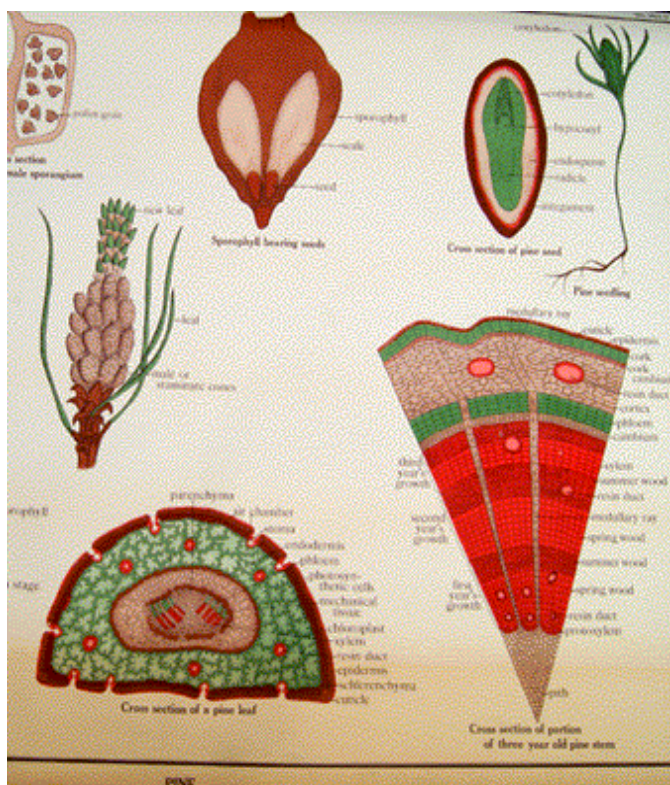


Clothing:

We have 7 De Anza shirts, most of them apparently for use by the staff. One of them is

labeled as the property of the principal, who is also characterized as a “conflict mediator.”

Scientific Pull-Down Charts:



These beautiful Jurica Biology charts, published by the Nystrom Publishing Company, were found in one of the science rooms, at the east end of the school, close to the shop area. We were able to retrieve two sets of charts, housed in specially-made wooden holders. One holder contained 16 charts of the plant kingdom (example above) while the other held 15 charts of the animal kingdom. The charts probably date to the 1950s or 1960s at the latest, though the drawings could have been done much earlier.

They are wonderful examples of the kind of artwork that characterized much of scientific description (think Audubon) in the late 19th century through the middle of the last century. We were very lucky to get into the science room at all, since the very next day the room was closed off due to impending demolition. What a shame it would have been to see these artifacts destroyed. Thousands of De Anza students have looked upon these works in the 58 years since the school opened, and learned, we hope, just a little about the wonderful world of biology and botany.

Emerson Electric

Box Fan: This industrial-strength unit was found in one of the rooms near the office. It was permanently installed on the wall and was equipped with a thermostat to allow it to turn



on automatically when the temperature went up. The style of the fan is late 1950s

or early 1960s, so it probably has been operating faithfully for almost as long as the old school was in operation. We have not been able to definitely date the piece, however, so any help from our readers would be appreciated.

Library Table: This is virtually the only piece of movable furniture we were able to recover, as by the time we gained access to the old buildings, everything not screwed in or nailed down had already been taken out.





Table/Shelf Unit: Also from the office complex, this piece was attached to a wall and held forms, which, apparently, were completed on the shelf top.

Student

Art: These square panels were placed on the windows of the cafeteria. Each one depicted a significant event for each year of the old school's life.



Above we see an exaggerated version of the 1989 earthquake. We have 23 of these pieces.

Miscellaneous: In addition to the items listed so far, we also have the following: air vents (from the library); a big, industrial, brass hydraulic door hinge; a speaker (also from the library); three long wooden, brass-tipped poles, used for opening and closing windows; two auto trophies (with no identifying information) found in the auto shop; one exit sign; three behavioral "warning" signs; three small U.S. flags, with holders; an electrical switch panel, which operated the bells in the school (found in the office); a wooden coin holder; a machinery operating permit, found in one of the shops; a movie screen, found hanging in the library; and a hand-made wooden sign—"De Anza 1776 1976"-- which was placed over the display case opposite the office.

Not much to tell the story of a school, but a start.

Another Year, Another El Sobrante Stroll



On September 15, El Sobrante celebrated the 20th edition of the Stroll, an event that has matured through the years and has come to help define our community. What had started awkwardly and in different locations in the 1990s has now become an almost glitch-free party, worn smooth by years of practice and experience. Each year the stroll just seems to get bigger and better.

There seemed to be more great old cars, buffed and pampered.



The horses were beautiful and proud, but this big white fellow took the show.

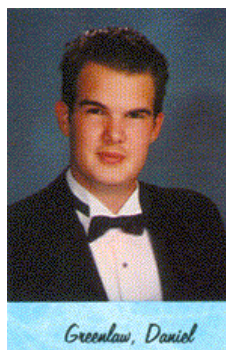
The El Sobrante Historical Society was there, of course, with a display of many of the items retrieved from De Anza High

School. In this picture, Scott and Karen are looking over some of the old school clocks. Many local residents joined our society, and are reading this newsletter right now!



In Memoriam

Daniel Greenlaw



Daniel Greenlaw graduated from De Anza High School in 1994. Tragically, he died in a hiking accident, this past August, while hiking in the mountains near Yosemite. According to the obituary, Daniel grew up in El Sobrante and loved to travel around the U.S. and Mexico.

Daniel is described as a “polite, kind, delightful man who made friends wherever he went.”

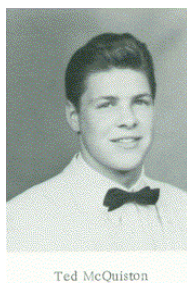
My older daughter, who graduated from De Anza in 1995, remembers Daniel fairly well, and shares this memory:

I remember people used to always call him Danny. What I remember most about Danny from high school, was that he was already the kind of person most adults aspire to be. He was outgoing, friendly, genuine, smart, and compassionate. He participated in student leadership, volunteered in the community, and was loved by his fellow students and teachers.

Sarah Diaz-Bastin

Ted McQuiston

“Ready Teddy” McQuiston, died on September 19 of this year. A 1966 graduate of De Anza High, he was a friend of fellow ‘66 graduate and ESHS founder, Steve James. Ted McQuiston was a noted blues singer and well-known D.J. for non-profit blues and radio station WWOZ, out of New Orleans. He led various bands in his career, and often appeared onstage with his good friend, Little Richard. His death was the result of the lingering effects of an accident suffered in 2011, which left him almost completely paralyzed.



Ted McQuiston

Local Boy Makes Good

Steve James

All De Anza High School graduating classes have produced successful people. In my class of 1966 there have been professional athletes to well known radio DJs. As well as those every day unsung heroes who work 9 to 5. We would like to highlight a person who achieved success through many years of dedicated work in the field of Education--Kenyon Chan. Kenyon grew up in my neighborhood of El Sobrante on Manor Road. He is the middle child (older sister Darlene and younger brother Darrow) of Gene and Martha Chan. They owned and operated Manor Market, which was the hub of activity in our neighborhood of El Sobrante.



Gene, Martha and Kenyon, 1957

My first memory of Kenyon was in Cub Scouts. Martha was the den Mother. She had to be Super Woman, because of her involvement on PTA and Mom's Club. She organized many outings for us, like going to a local kids TV show, King Norman. I still have a picture of all of us with King Norman and his large white



poodle. Kenyon is kneeling in front in the center of this picture. Kenyon, like all of us,

went to ES #1 from K to 3. Then to Marie A Murphy 4 to 6 and on to De Anza 7 to 12.

Kenyon was involved in many activities at De Anza, which lead to him being elected class President in our senior year. He continued his education by going to UCLA. There he earned his B.A. in Sociology, M.A. in Special Education and Ph.D. in Education Psychology.

Kenyon's resume is very impressive, with appointments to leadership roles in many Universities: California State University, Northridge; Dean, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts; Loyola Marymount University; Occidental College. He ended his Educational career as the Chancellor of the University of Washington Bothell.



*Editor's note: Practically the entire Spring issue of the University's newsletter, **Insight**, is devoted to a glowing review of Kenyon's tenure as chancellor. He is called the "Architect of Excellence." Michael Young, University of Washington President, says of Kenyon that he "is one of the most imaginative, innovative higher education leaders I've ever seen."*

Kenyon's expertise in children's education lead to consulting on many television programs with particular attention to the implications of violence and racial stereotypes in children's television. He consulted on shows such as, Rainbow T.V. Works, National Broadcasting Company (NBC), Warner Bros. "Tiny Toons", Fox Children's Television Network, Family Communications, Inc. (Mister Roger's Neighborhood), Children's Television Works (Sesame Street), and KCET---"The Puzzle Factory".

I reconnected with Kenyon, via phone and email, as we worked on the publication of the

Arcadia book on El Sobrante. He has recently retired from his Chancellor position, still living in Seattle Wa. with his wife Shirley. He is blessed to still have Martha living near him. They provided many photos of those long ago times and many memories for me.

The following information has kindly been supplied by Kenyon:

As for personal stuff, I'm happily married to Dr. Shirley Hune who is a Professor at the University of Washington (Seattle Campus---the giant campus). She is an expert in Asian American Women's history and higher education leadership policy. She is Chinese Canadian. We live with (or is it for?) our dog Boomer.

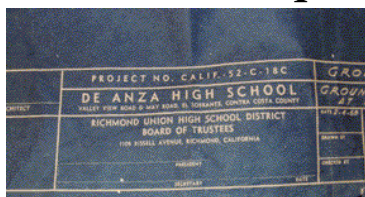
We don't have any kids together but I have two step kids from Shirley. They are both grown with their own families. My brother Darrow is a child psychologist with a clinical practice in Kirkland, Washington and is considered one of the leading experts in Asperger's Syndrome. My sister Darlene lives in Los Angeles and is a world renowned jazz concert promoter. She organizes jazz festivals all over the world ever since she left De Anza.

My mom and I are collecting all the stuff we have from our El Sobrante days and will give it to the historical society if you want the stuff. Old pictures and a few artifacts....I have the old vegetable scale from Manor Market...we can keep larger stuff until the historical society has a place...

You are doing an amazing job. Congratulations. Best Wishes, Kenyon

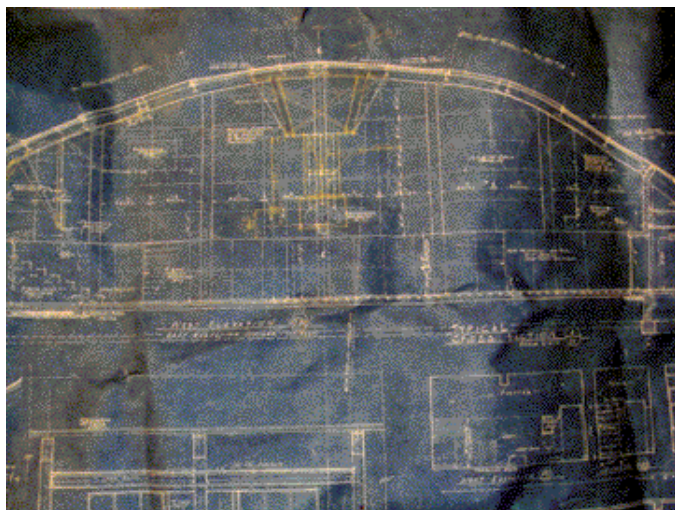
And congratulations to you, Kenyon. The community of El Sobrante is proud to call you one of its own.

New Acquisitions:



De Anza High School Blueprints

We have acquired 4 original blueprints of De Anza High School,



dated 1954 and 1955. The prints cover the entire school. Above we see a cross section of the old gym.

The blueprints were donated by El Sobrante resident Darrin Aleman, who found them on top of some old piping, while going through the old gym, which was in the process of being demolished. Darrin has also donated hundreds of digital images of the old De Anza High School, which he had taken from 2004 thru 2008. The images include many of the old gym, both before and during its demolition.

Darrin is exactly the type of person that any historical society depends on. Most of us take a

million photos of ourselves on vacation and never think to document the changes taking place around us. Without people like Darrin,



many of the old businesses, schools, libraries, houses, and other buildings would vanish with nothing to remind us of their existence.



looking west across the school plaza toward the gym

If you have images of old El Sobrante that you would like to share with the El Sobrante Historical Society, please contact us at: ESHISTORY@GMAIL.COM

*The El Sobrante Historical Society is an informal nonprofit organization, dedicated solely to the preservation and display of the history of the community of El Sobrante. We depend on our members and local residents for the information, artifacts, and photographs that make up the society's collection. Become a member and help out! It's free and simple. Just visit the website, at **ESHIST.ORG**.*

We're On Facebook!

ESHS Steering Committee:

1. **Maurice Abraham:** Administrator, Facebook Page; Historical Researcher and Writer.
2. **Donald Bastin:** Administrator, Website; Newsletter Editor; Historical Researcher and Writer.
3. **Steve James:** Membership and Communication Secretary;
4. **Lyle Miller:** Community Liaison and general support.
5. **Joseph Camacho:** Historical Researcher and Writer; MAC Liaison; Tech Support.

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