

1 Celebrating
9 Denair Schools

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Centennial

Welcome to Denair Unified School District's Centennial Celebration
October 26, 2002

Imagine, one hundred years of school history within the boundaries of our school district. Such an occasion should be addressed with an opportunity for the Denair community to celebrate this historic achievement.

Welcome to our centennial celebration! Beginning with a one-room schoolhouse on Gratton Road in 1902 to a K-12 school district today, Denair continues to enjoy a rich tradition of educational excellence.

The historic archives have been researched and ready to be shared with our community and will be on display during our celebration activities. The generations of the Denair community can take great pride in the attainment of this important milestone.

We have the highest expectation that this celebration will be fulfilling with the promise to be memorable and festive to mark Denair School's Centennial.


Edward E. Parraz
District Superintendent



Edward E. Parraz was born and raised in the Visalia/Exeter area of Tulare County. He graduated from Exeter Union High School in 1971 and went on to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Poultry Industry in 1976. He continued his education at Cal State, Fresno where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education in 1978, as well as, receiving his teaching credential in vocational agricultural education. Mr. Parraz first began teaching agriculture at Hughson High School in 1979. During his tenure with Hughson, Mr. Parraz continued his education with the University of San Francisco earning his Master of Arts in Educational Administration and administrative services credential in 1984. From 1984 to 1986, Mr. Parraz took another agriculture teaching position with Modesto High School.

Having a new career interest in public school administration, Mr. Parraz was hired as principal for Hilmar High School from 1986 to 1989. Leaving Hilmar, his administrative career in education continued the next seven years with Modesto City Schools, where he served as assistant principal of pupil personnel at Grace Davis High School, principal at Mark Twain Junior High School, and Director of Vocational Education. In 1996, Mr. Parraz left Modesto returning to his hometown to accept a position as Director of Middle Schools with Visalia Unified School District. While with Visalia Unified, Mr. Parraz also served as Director of Student Services and Area Administrator for Grades 7-12/Adult.

On July 30, 2000, Mr. Parraz was given an opportunity to serve as Interim Superintendent for Denair Unified School District. Mr. Parraz was hired later that year as District Superintendent for the District.

DENAIR SCHOOLS THROUGH THE DECADES

In 1897, John T. Davis owned the 160-acre townsite of Denair. The site was surveyed and recorded with the name Elmdale. Therefore, the first school was established as Elmdale School.

1900's

- 1902 Mr. Davis deeded 15 lots to the Elmdale School District. A **one-room schoolhouse** built on the west side of Gratton Road opened with one teacher and five students. Arletta Scott was the first teacher. The students included Harry, Hazel, and Leslie De La Mater, and Jack and Mary Pickford. On Sundays the schoolhouse was used for the *Christian Church*. In 1907 the school became the full-time *Christian Church* as a new two-story schoolhouse was built across the street. Presently, the *Church of Christ* occupies the site of the first one-room school house.



One-room schoolhouse, 1902-1907

- 1904 The name of the town was changed from Elmdale to Elmwood.
- 1907 The name of the town was changed from Elmwood to **Denair**. John Denair was a former Santa Fe Railroad employee, and he established the Denair Land and Development Co.
- 1907 **Denair Grammar School**, a two-story, wood-framed school, was constructed near Gratton Road across from the original one-room schoolhouse and at the present site of Denair Volunteer Fire Department.

Prior to 1912, high school students from Denair attended Turlock High School. The first Turlock High was completed in 1907 and located at Laurel and High Streets in Turlock which is the present-day site of Turlock Covenant Church.



Denair Grammar School, 1907-1916

1910's

- 1912 **Denair Union High School** was established as a result of an election June 1912. The second story of the old *Bank Building* located at the corner of Main and San Joaquin Streets began with 26 students and two teachers. The first floor of the *Bank Building* included a bank, library, drug store, grocery store, meat market, post office and barbershop. The first class of four students graduated in 1915, and the last class graduated in 1921. Mr. W.O. Larson graduated in 1920; and in later years, served on the school board from 1935-1957. The *Bank Building* was built in 1910 and torn down in 1981.



Bank Building, second story
Denair Union High School, 1912-1921

- 1912 The **Little Red Schoolhouse** was a one-room school for First Grade built near the corner of Zeering Road and Alameda Street slightly south of the current Denair Senior Center (rock building). The *Little Red Schoolhouse* was last used in 1949.



Little Red Schoolhouse, circa 1927

- 1916 The two-story grammar school built in 1907 was destroyed by fire. For close to two years, classes were held in the old one-room school (which later became the Christian Church), the Friends Church and temporary buildings.

- 1916 In May, an election was defeated for the sale of fifteen \$1,000 bonds payable in gold coin for the purpose of purchasing lots of land for a high school site and building. In June, a second election also did not receive a 2/3 majority vote for the sale of ten \$1,000 bonds for a high school site and building.

- 1916 An inspector for the State High School Association said that **Denair Union High School** was *the best of its size in the state*.

- 1917 In February 1917, a **\$28,000 bond measure** was passed for the construction of a new grammar school. There were 280 votes cast with 211 votes in favor.

- 1918 The new **Denair Grammar School** was completed. The brick building was constructed slightly south of the burned-down school on Gratton Road. During the late 1950's, the attached north and south classrooms and interior corridors and the tankhouse from the original two-story grammar school were torn down. The auditorium portion remained and is currently the *Gaslight Theater*.



Denair Grammar School, circa 1920

1920's

- 1921 **Denair Union High School** was constructed of bricks and was located at Hawthorne and Fresno Streets. A \$40,000 bond measure was passed in 1920 to support the cost of building the new high school. The first graduating class of eight students graduated June 1922.



Denair Union High School, 1921-1969

- 1925 The **first cafeteria** for the grammar school was organized by the PTA and Home Department of Farm Bureau. The cafeteria was closed for several years during the depression era and reopened in 1943 with the assistance of a government subsidy program.

1927 The first gymnasium was constructed at Hawthorne and Madera Streets at a cost of \$4,000 and resembled a large hay barn. The building to the east of the gym was the boys' shop building. The shop building was later moved to Lester Road and currently serves as the Bus Shed. The structures to the west of the gym included the shower house and pump house.



Gym, 1927-1953

1930's

1939 The first school bus was purchased, and two teachers alternated driving the bus route.

1940's

1940 The grammar school auditorium was remodeled. Dressing rooms were added to the structure and the front was architecturally changed from rounded arches to square-shaped window and door openings.



Denair Grammar School Auditorium
circa 1958

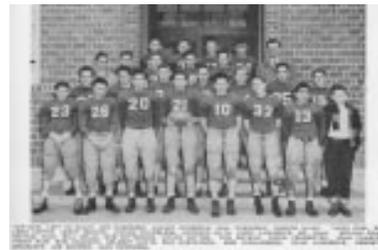
1942 The Denair Grammar School and Denair Union High School Districts unified and became **Denair Unified School District**. Denair was the first unified district in Stanislaus County. Mr. Thomas E. Simms was hired as the first Superintendent.

1942 **Montpellier Union School District** (one-room school approximately 7 miles east of Denair) was annexed to the Denair School District. The Union School was last used as a school in 1940. The school district sold the lot and school for \$27,500 for a private residence in 1998. Between 1875 and 1940 a total of four, one-room schoolhouses in slightly different locations served the Montpellier area and each school was an improvement from the previous school.



Union School, circa 1940

1946 Denair High School's **first football team** was formed, and the team played their first season.



1947 **Mr. Jack W. Lytton** was hired as a teacher and coach for Denair High School. His tenure at the high school included 27 years—six years as a teacher, six years as a counselor and fifteen years as principal. He retired in 1974.



Jack W. Lytton, 1969

1947 The school district purchased a site for a new elementary school at Hawthorne and Madera Streets.

1949 The first four classrooms (one wing) were completed at the new **Denair Elementary School**.



Denair Elementary School, circa 1956

The first class moved to the new school January 1950. The roof's architectural style was "butterfly."

1950's

1952 The second four classrooms (one wing) and an administrative office were completed at **Denair Elementary School**. The roofs retained the "butterfly" style. The administrative office currently serves as the Technology Office.

1954 The **new gymnasium** was constructed to replace the gym built in 1927. The east side of the gym (weight room) was used as a cafeteria until the new cafeteria, **Larson Hall**, was built.



Gym, circa 1956

1956 The High School **Agriculture and Shop building** was constructed. The building is currently used by the Maintenance & Operations Department. The multipurpose building, **Larson Hall**, was finished and named in honor of school board member Mr. W.O. Larson who served on the school board for 22 years (1935-57). The third classroom wing was added to the elementary school.

1959 The District purchased 40 acres from the descendents of John N. Lester on the west side of Lester Road for a new high school site

1960's

In the early 60's, high school dances were held for the first time, and the *Be-Bop Dance Club* was formed. The school dances were held in *Larson Hall*.

1963 The **Thomas E. Simms Science Building** for the high school was constructed. The science building is currently a classroom wing of Denair Middle School.



Thomas E. Simms, Superintendent
1944

Mr. Thomas E. Simms served the District for 29 years (1937-1966) first as a high school math and science teacher and as a bus driver. He then served as the high school principal and concluded his profession as the superintendent. He was the first superintendent of Denair Unified School District.

1969 The new **Denair High School** at Lester Road opened. The school began with one main building which included the office, library and classrooms and one portable classroom. The roof is a wood shake, *mansard* style.

1969 **Denair Junior High** (seventh and eighth grades) first began at the red brick high school when the high school students entered the new high school facility.

1970's

1972 The **Automotive/Welding Shop** building and a second classroom building with stage area were added to the high school. These buildings also have a wood shake, *mansard* style roof. In 2002 the automotive/welding shop was designated as the Ag Mechanics Shop.



Ag Mechanics Shop, 2002

1974 The new **Denair Middle School** was completed consisting of the office, library and classrooms.



Middle School Office, 2002



Denair Middle School, 2002

1975 The red brick high school structure built in 1921 was torn down.

1975 The Ag Department began the development of the **school farm** including livestock pens. During the next five years, the school farm expanded with other structures. Beginning in 1962, Ag students had the opportunity to *learn by doing* with various projects and training involving the 40-acre high school site as well as the additional 20 acres acquired in 1976.

1976 The district purchased 20 acres north of the new high school from Mrs. Hollingsworth, and the property is currently utilized by the high school Ag Department for crops. During the 1975-76 school year, student population increased by almost 14% for a total of 912 students in the district.

1976 Construction began on the **football field and stadium** in 1974 and was completed for the eighth grade and high school graduation ceremonies in 1976. The first football game was played in the new stadium in the fall of 1976. The community worked together to complete the project at a cost to the district of slightly over \$100,000. The completed stadium was valued at over \$300,000. The stadium was named in honor of former high school teacher, coach and principal, **Mr. Jack W. Lytton**.



1980's

The early 80's marked the beginning of the **computer revolution** in Denair Schools. Each school site had a few computers including Apple II's, Radio Shack TRS-80's and early IBM PC's.

During the early 80's the Denair Lions Club, community members and school worked together to prepare three **baseball diamonds** with backstops for the high school. Old football bleachers were renovated and converted into bleachers for baseball/softball fans.

1986 The school district office was moved from the elementary school site to the Lester Road site.

1987 The **first computer lab** of 28 Apple IIe's was established at Denair Middle School.

1990's

1991 **Mr. Alex Marshall** was hired as principal of the high school. He served for eight years as principal and one year as high school and middle school principal. He has also served as director of curriculum and of educational services. Mr. Marshall currently serves as Director of Alternative Education that includes summer school, Denair Charter Academy and adult education. He has served the community for the past ten years as a volunteer fireman with EMT certification.

I am very fortunate to be a school administrator in a community where there are staff, students and parents who are supportive of the school's efforts to enhance education. Thank you for your efforts to make our school district a special place for students. **Alex Marshall**,
Director of Alternative Education

1993-95 Denair Adult School held evening classes at Denair High School.

1996 The Music Department re-established a **marching band**.

1996 The district developed a **school logo** that is used on agendas, signs and various forms of written communication. *The sun represents the sunrises and sunsets in our valley that are often so beautiful and want to give our students. The water in the center represents the canals that run through our valley. The canal is a representation of future thinking far beyond ourselves.*



Thus, as we make decisions in our district, we want to include long-term planning and thinking that will effect our students far into the future. It is fortunate that the people of our valley benefit from the canal and the hard work and foresight of those who built it, people who most of us do not know and will never know.

1996-97 A district-wide **computer network** was installed providing internet service and email as well as integrated business services and instructional capabilities. A **website** for the district was established. District communication was also enhanced with the installation of a PBX phone system which provided a telephone in every classroom and work area.

1997-98 Two new relocatables were purchased for the **Agriculture Department** so that the classrooms could be located on the high school campus rather than on the east side of Lester Road. One year later a potting shed was added for the Ag Department.



Agriculture Department, 2002

1998 The name Denair Middle School was dropped when the District reconfigured Denair Elementary to include kindergarten through eighth grades. A new relocatable building was purchased for the elementary school office and located between the elementary and middle schools.

1998-99 A new relocatable building was purchased for the expanding **Music Department**, and **new uniforms** were purchased for the marching band.

1998-99 New **playground equipment** for grades 1-5 was provided by funds from Denair Parents' Service Club. In 2001 and 2002, new playground equipment was added to the preschool and kindergarten playgrounds.



Playground Equipment, 2002

1999-00 **Class-size reduction** was implemented for grades kindergarten, first and second. This policy stated no more than 20 students per classroom. Class-size reduction for third grade was implemented the following year.

2000's

2000 The District reconfigured to include Denair Elementary (K-4) and Denair Middle School (5-8) each with their own principal.

2000 **Mrs. Michelle Bettencourt Bush** was hired as Principal of the Middle School. Her first teaching job was at the middle school when she was hired in 1991. She served as a sixth grade teacher from 1991-2000 and was subsequently hired as the principal.

I will never forget having to teach our own PE classes and having to share all the PE equipment among staff. . . what great teamwork we demonstrated to our students!

Michelle Bush, Middle School Principal

2000 **Mr. Gary L. Jones** was hired as Principal of the Elementary School. His first teaching job was at the elementary school when he was hired in 1976. From 1976-1984, Mr. Jones served as a fifth grade teacher, eighth grade teacher, GATE teacher and as a resource specialist for curriculum. He taught for several years in American schools overseas and returned to Hughson Elementary as principal for three years. He then served as principal of Crowell Elementary in Turlock for three years prior to becoming principal of Denair Elementary.

I always wished to return to Denair after coming home from overseas. My wish came true in 2000! **Gary L. Jones**, Elementary School Principal

2000 **Mr. Edward E. Parraz** was hired as Superintendent of Denair Unified School District. You will locate his welcome to the centennial and biography on the forward page.

Denair and its schools enjoy a wealth of history and tradition. I hope I will continue to contribute to this wealth of history and tradition as school district superintendent.

Edward E. Parraz, Superintendent

2001 School District Accomplishments

The Denair Unified School **District Strategic Plan** was developed. The strategic plan incorporates the district's Mission Statement and Belief Statement with six strategic components which provide a road map and guide the district toward the pursuit of educational excellence. The powerful Belief Statement links collaboration of parents, community and district to ensure that every student will come to school, stay in school and do the very best they can. The six strategies include student achievement, quality teachers and instruction, parent and community involvement, technological advancements, facilities and budget process.

A modular building for the “new” **District Office** was established slightly west of the older relocatable structure and nearer Lester Road. The district office provides administrative and business services for the unified district including the superintendent’s and business manager’s offices. Business services in this office include accounts payable and receivable, budgeting, payroll and personnel.



District Office, 2002

The **Denair Charter Academy** was established to provide alternative education for K-12th grade students. The school provides an independent study and a home-schooling program and distance learning opportunities based on students’ individual learning styles and needs. The curriculum focuses on core knowledge in each subject area. Students receive a strong foundation of basic skills and an opportunity for advanced courses and electives. The first twelfth-grade graduation of ten charter students occurred June 5, 2001. Currently, Denair Charter Academy has an enrollment of over 130 students.



Denair Charter Academy, 2002

Student Conduct Codes for grades K-5 and 6-12 were approved to provide the structure for rights and responsibilities of students, parents and the school district. The Codes also state student behavior expectations and consequences.

The elementary school reconfigured to grades K-5; the middle school to grades 6-8. Both schools adopted a trimester calendar for the purpose of curriculum, instruction and assessments.

At the high school level, the **Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)** program was implemented to support curricular and positive reinforcement needs of students.

Character Counts was implemented to provide a district-wide **character education** program. Students are reminded by a variety of curricular and instructional strategies to demonstrate *caring, citizenship, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness* at school, home and in the community.

September 11, 2001, brought the nation a tragic event at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The students and staff of our district united with renewed patriotism.

Collaborative Days were instituted for the high school staff. The staff members articulate and collaborate regarding curricular, instructional and assessment strategies that are designed to better serve the high school student.

Surveillance systems were approved and installed at strategic locations on campuses to provide safety and security.

In the November 6, 2001, election the school district passed an **\$8.2 million General Obligation Bond**. The bond campaign received outstanding parent and community support which resulted in an 81.9% affirmative vote on **Measure "P."** The GO Bond also provided matching funds for our modernization projects throughout the district.

The **Future Facilities Advisory Committee (FFAC)** consisting of district personnel, community members and district architects was formed to provide input and to facilitate the progress of bond-supported and other construction projects in the district.

Denair High School was selected as a **Digital California Project Demonstration Site**.

2002 School District Accomplishments

The **Denair Elementary State Preschool** started in January 2002. We now have two classes each serving 22 students. Enrollment includes 3 and 4-year old preschool children from low income families. They are involved in readiness activities that will enable them to enter kindergarten with the skills required to be successful in school.

Coyote Walkway and a fence were approved and installed which provided a well-lighted and safe walkway area between the high school site, cafeteria, elementary and middle school campuses and gym.

Two portable classrooms from the high school campus were moved to the proximity of the District Office and Maintenance/Operations building for the use of the Denair Charter Academy.

The **May 9, 2002, groundbreaking ceremony** for the new high school gym complex marked the celebration for the successful bond election and provided an opportunity to once again thank the Denair community for their support on Measure "P."

The **elementary school office** was relocated slightly north of the technology office and near Madera Street for improved accessibility and visibility.

Portable classrooms from the high school were relocated to the elementary school campus for additional classroom space.

Mr. Gerald Savelson was hired as principal of Denair High School. He worked in business management positions for several years prior to entering the teaching profession. He served as a business teacher, department chairman and coach at Turlock High School for thirteen years. He also served as assistant principal at Linden High School for one year prior to Denair.

*With the projected growth and all of the new construction, it is an exciting time to be at Denair High School. **Gerald Savelson**, High School Principal*

A **lunch shelter** in the quad area of the high school was completed in August and hot lunches from the school cafeteria are available for high school students and staff.

An existing business education classroom was renovated to serve as two **special education classrooms** at the high school.

The **high school parking lot** was expanded and new asphalt and striping were completed to provide additional parking for students and staff.

Denair Elementary School has a long tradition of excellence! Our students continue to score at or above average on national measures of student achievement. Our curriculum is continually reviewed and aligned with the State curriculum standards. One hundred percent of our staff is fully credentialed according to the teaching standards established by the State of California with state curriculum standards. Test scores for elementary students are at or above the national average on standardized tests.

Positive Leisure Activities for Youth (PLAY) is an **after school care program** provided at Denair Elementary through the Turlock Recreation Department. Approximately 40 students participate and obtain homework assistance or have the opportunity to do crafts, sports and other recreational activities.

Denair Middle School is an exceptional place of learning and has established standards that focus on the essential skills of math, reading and language arts while maintaining a curricular balance of technology and the fine arts. Textbooks are aligned to state standards. The middle school students continue to show excellent academic growth on all performance scores according to SAT 9 testing. Denair Middle School was the first school in the district to use the Accelerated Reader Program as a supplemental reading program in 1998.

Denair High School continues to offer a strong and comprehensive academic, vocational and fine arts secondary education. Many extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for student involvement. The faculty is working in conjunction with Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) School Support Network. Through this collaborative effort, there has been demonstrated improvement of student performance on standardized tests. Textbooks are aligned to the California Content Standards and Science Research Associates (SRA) reading has been introduced.

In the area of **technology**, the district has over 400 computers for classroom and administrative use. There are three computer labs and three wireless laptop carts in the district. The middle school and high school offer computer literacy classes and computer application courses. All school sites offer specialized curriculum software for various courses.

In the area of **library services**, each school has a library facility. Beginning in February 2000 the library became automated and each book has been electronically catalogued. The catalogues are also available on the internet. The elementary school library currently houses close to 9,300 books; the middle school library, 4,000 books; and the high school library, 4,900 books. The libraries serve approximately 1,500 patrons including students, staff and parents. Future plans for the libraries include a library media center for the high school and the combining of the elementary and middle school libraries into a new building.

The new **cafeteria kitchen** was completed for the opening of school after an almost two-year delay due to Department of the State Architect (DSA) findings. The renovation included a new kitchen and food preparation area. The students enjoy the efficiency of a speed line with a variety of selections. A breakfast program is also available beginning at 7:30 a.m. The program is popular with students and parents. More than 600 meals are served on a daily basis.

The **Transportation Department** currently operates five school buses and two vans. Three bus routes in the morning and three routes in the afternoon cover approximately 33,000 miles a year for home to school transportation. In addition, the district maintains five pickup trucks, a one-ton truck, a tractor and two riding lawnmowers.

The Denair Unified School District currently operates with an approximate \$9.2 million **budget**. Current **attendance** for the district at the four educational sites (elementary school, middle school, high school and charter academy) is approximately 1,300 students. The **teaching staff** includes 33 teachers for preschool-5th grades; 16 teachers for 6-8th grades; and 22 teachers for 9-12th grades. In addition, **support staff** is provided in the areas of instructional aides, secretarial, computer technician, food services, maintenance, transportation, and campus supervisors. Current support staff includes 34 full-time and 31 part-time employees. There are approximately 50 positions in the district ranging from athletic coaches to FFA to prom to yearbook advisors that receive stipends for specific assignments.

On **October 15, 2002**, heavy equipment began moving dirt for the first phase of the gym and multi-purpose complex at the high school site.

On **October 26, 2002**, the Denair Unified School District and the community of Denair joined in *Celebrating 100 years (1902-2002) of Educational Excellence*. Curriculum, construction, and community describe the direction of our district for the new century. Improving student attendance, performance, and assessments continue to be our focus and every site has been making notable gains in these areas.

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Memories of Denair Schools . . .

In 1925, I was the first girl allowed in the boys' woodshop class when I disagreed with the way my sewing and cooking teacher taught me how to sew on bias tape and to make white sauce. I still have my wooden 'treasure box' that I made to store winter blankets. It is now used to store memorabilia. Mae (Babe) McCauley Rapp, Class of '31

Without a doubt, Denair School District is one of the most outstanding in the State of California. State evaluators always complimented our district for the exemplary behavior of students. We worked with a wonderful faculty. Berniece Black, Class of '33 and Denair High School instructor

Denair was a great school. I enjoyed going to school and everyone was like family. When I started first grade at the 'Little Red Schoolhouse' there were 14 students in my class. Starting school was a traumatic experience for most first graders as it was the first time away from our parents for several hours a day. Olga Olson Ramont, Class of '33

After high school graduation, I worked as a secretary for Superintendent, Thomas E. Simms. I attended night and summer school to earn my teaching credential and began teaching fourth grade in Denair in 1954. I taught in Denair Schools for 27 years. I highly commend the Denair School system; the faculty enjoyed working together with the school board.

Virginia Black Domecq, Class of '35 and Denair Elementary/Junior High School instructor

The teaching staff was certainly an outstanding group and well liked by the students. Charlie M. Harris, Class of '35 and School Board Member 1955-1973

In the First Grade, Constance Vickers Stout and I went to the outhouse as there was no indoor plumbing in the 'Little Red Schoolhouse.' We were terribly disappointed that the class picture was taken while we were in the outhouse. Margaret Yates Jilka, Class of '36

As a senior, I was honored to be elected as Student Body President. Mr. Binsacca was a great Ag teacher who later became the principal. He allowed me to drive his new '37 Plymouth to take papers to a school trustee's home. Bill McCauley, Class of '37

At the old high school, three of us were upstairs and threw firecrackers down the stairs while the teachers were having a meeting. One of us had the firecrackers, one the match and one the nerve. As punishment, we spent 10 days in Study Hall. Stan Olson, Class of '41

I was planning to drop Miss Johnson's typing class when she handed me a stop watch and said, 'Good, you can give the students timed typing tests as I'm going to the shorthand class to teach.' I went from a typing class dropout to a teaching assistant in one easy move.

Bill Doerksen, Class of '47 and School Board Member

I played basketball in the first gym and was on the first football team in 1946.

John Chance, Class of '49

I remember WWII monthly air raid drills. During the drill, all students and teachers would be under auditorium seats, on stage or back stage between heavy, velvet maroon drapes.

Coochie Patterson Doerksen, Class of '51, and School Board Member

Denair Schools resembled a private school with small classes that prepared students for postgraduate studies at the university level. **Dave Muller**, Class of '53 and School Board Member and **Bonnie Troedson Muller**, Class of '54

When I visit with former students I tell them it is not too late to change their grade. Every staff member gave his or her best under the strong, charismatic leadership of former Superintendent Thomas E. Simms. **Warren McWhorter**, Teacher and Jr. High School Principal, 1955-1981.

There have been three generations of women in my family to teach in Denair Schools: my mom, Maxine Graves, myself, and my daughter, Shelly, was a fourth grade long-term sub. My favorite teacher was home economics teacher, Hazel Edberg. As a cheerleader, I never missed a football or basketball game. **Terree Graves Barlow**, Class of '60 and current Kindergarten Teacher

When I was in eighth grade, I knew it was lunchtime when I heard the glass-packed pipes of Jerry Murphy's '52 Chevy towing the lunch wagon from the old grammar school cafeteria on Gratton Road to the new Elementary School on Madera Street. **Doug Hake**, Class of '60

The best faculty of any school around. **Lee Hodges**, English teacher, 1960-95.

Some teachers I remember as outstanding were Miss Doris Johnson, Miss Berniece Black, Mrs. Hazel Edberg, and Mr. Lee Hodges. The high school offered an opportunity for anyone who was interested to be involved in a variety of activities, and I was prepared academically for college.

Marilyn Ramont Stapp, Class of '64 and current ESL Second Grade Teacher

We both enjoyed working with the students and watching them reach their goals in life. **Earl Reed**, Ag Teacher, 1962-83 and **Shirley Reed**, High School Secretary, 1966-89

I remember my father, Tobe Bogue, telling me that he took the horse and buggy from Turlock to attend grammar school in Denair. Students who misbehaved would be whipped with a buggy whip. I worked as an instructional aide at Denair Elementary, and the aides and teachers were like family. **Emma Bogue Hodges**, Instructional Aide, 1966-98.

Mr. Earl Reed inspired me and other Ag students to continue our education.

Bill Haile, Class of '67

I enjoyed the small school atmosphere and knowing everyone. My inspirations were Principal Jack Lytton and Teacher/Coach Glenn Loftin. **Ron Jessee**, Class of '70

There was a tremendous amount of community support and school spirit during this time. Principal Jack Lytton commanded every student's respect and retired the year I graduated.

Don Curtiss, Class of '74 and current Varsity Football Coach

My class was the first high school class to graduate at the new stadium.

Ana Silveira Rush, Class of '76 and current Account Clerk

Denair High School was a great, small school because the teachers and students took pride in their school and fellow members. I was in the first graduating class to play football in the new stadium.

Dennis Loftin, Class of '77 and current Director of Facilities and Construction

Our best memories were being involved in everything! Tom Brunskill was a favorite teacher and coach. His classrooms made learning fun and interesting and he certainly made football exciting!

Lori Ulrich Smith and Jim Smith, Class of '79

My favorite sport was baseball, and we were led by Coach Cornell. I enjoyed him as a teacher and coach, and he has become a good friend in my adult life. Mrs. Gertrude Greer was a favorite math teacher, and she made you learn and was always available for help. The school provided a very good foundation in my life.

Brent Allen, Class of '80

My ag teacher at the time, Mr. Earl Reed, provided me with an appreciation for all the different aspects of agriculture. This has enabled me to work together with not just other dairymen but all entities for the betterment of agriculture.

Rob Morelli, Class of '83

I remember getting intercom speakers linking classrooms to the office in elementary school, middle school brought about the first computer class and high school was a time when portable classrooms began to really fill the campus.

Gary Ericksen, Class of '89

I will never forget my favorite teacher Mr. Gregoris or the advice I received in leadership from Mrs. Brunskill. Our sports teams taught me the meaning of teamwork and dedication. Congratulations, Denair, on 100 years of academic excellence.

Lisa Kindle, Class of '90

My four years at Denair High School were an amazing experience. I will always remember the wonderful friends, the inspiring teachers, the exciting games and the special events. I will never forget my years at Denair High School.

Chelsea Atherton, Class of 2002

Acknowledgement

The Denair Unified School District extends a warm and sincere thank you to former and current students and staff, community members and organizations for their continued commitment and unwavering support. The district appreciates the continued assistance of service organizations including **Denair Lions Club, Denair Volunteer Fire Department, Denair Community Services District, Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), Denair Parent Service Club, Sober Grad Nite, Denair Ag Boosters, Denair Athletic Boosters, and Denair Music Boosters.** The District also appreciates the collaborative efforts of **California School Employees Association (CSEA)** and **Denair Unified Teachers Association (DUTA).**

Denair is fortunate to have a community and school district rich in historical tradition that will be commemorated for past and future generations. On behalf of the Centennial Planning Committee, thank you for your reflective participation to ensure the success of this memorable and festive occasion.