

Letter to Nancy Hester '62 and Allen Storaasli '62

Hello folks,

sorry it has taken so long to get back with you. Had lower back problems after pruning my apple trees--- cut the large branches because they getting too much horizontal and could fall off any time---cut them up into two and three foot sections at about 20 to 30 lb pieces. It was the bending over and picking up that got to me. Stayed in bed for a couple of days then got a cold or something. Oh the joys of growing old! Over night temps have been 0 for several days with the high at 10 to 15 degrees.

I want to thank you all for the acknowledgement---sure was nice to hear from you!! Anyway some of my history. Does anyone remember learning the Irish jig at Concord? I do not remember who my teacher was at that time or what grade that we did that. Can't remember who my partner was at that time either. I do remember having great fun with you folks playing marbles and soccum or dodge ball as it is known these days. Does anyone know if Donald Torcaso or Marilyn McDonald went to CHS? By the way Nancy, you have a wonderful memory. I couldn't remember half the class at Concord. Visited South Park several times over the years---sure has changed. The truck farms around south 96th are gone. Don't know if Hamms' creek is still there---I remember when the salmon would just choke that stream all the way from the old slaughter house to where I lived near Jo-Jo Desimones up the street from Dickie Yokoyamas'. I remember my step father going to the stream using an ice hook and hauling in a couple of salmon during the run. Went to CHS in the seventh grade, '56/'57' and went to Asa Mercer for awhile then on to Washington Jr. High after my mother passed away and lived with my aunt and cousins for two years. Ended up living in foster homes until I joined the US Navy. Attended Garfield and Ingraham until I joined the Navy in January of 1961. An opportunity for a free ride to one of the area colleges, but, had the head knowledge but lacked the wisdom or where-with-all to put two and two together then.

Jimi Hendrix was in my class since 1958---unbeknown'st to either of us, his mother and my mom had both passed away in 1958 and we both joined the military early 1961. Was casually acquainted with him---he was always wearing those funny hats and and he got along with everybody.

From 1961 to 1975 was in the Navy as a radarman on an aircraft carrier and destroyer escort and in the Us Merchant Marines as an Able Bodied Seaman---got to make 3 around the world trips in the Navy and Merchant Marines. After the Navy and Merchant marines, I stayed ashore and started raising a family in the Federal Way and Auburn area. Worked in the Urban Planning department in Auburn and King County then on to Grand Coulee in 1978 and became a Powerhouse Operator starting and stopping those giant turbines and generators. From there, I went to Washington Water Power for 5 years thence to Dutch Harbor, Alaska for three years and then to Chief Joseph Dam where I retired in 2006 as a Chief Operator in charge of the plant. Chief Joe was second in size and electrical production to Grand Coulee. Right now I am semi-retired(retarded?) and do first responder work for Corps of Engineers in areas ravaged by hurricanes or tornadoes. I am now married to my lovely wife of 15 years---Darlene is her name. My hat's off to you who have stayed married to your first and only spouse---that is such an accomplishment---True Love reigns! :)

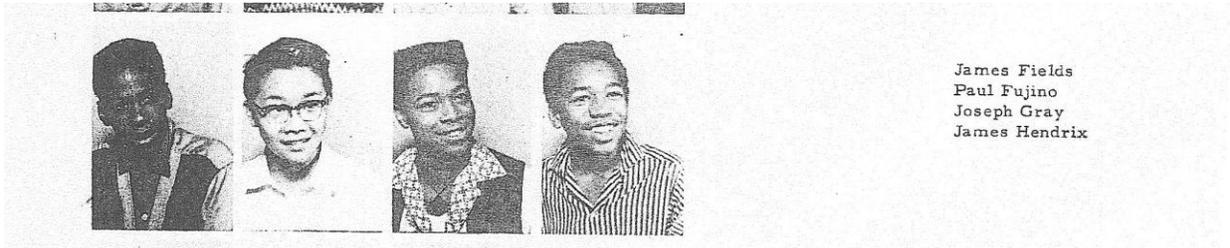
Best regards and hope to see you; that is if I am not called out to do first responder work.

Mike(Elde)

Washington Jr High Ninth Grade



Valentino Canda
Carolyn Davis
Mike Eldefonso



James Fields
Paul Fujino
Joseph Gray
James Hendrix



At Fish Market 2008, Dick Yokoyama (left)



Chief Joseph Dam Control Room

Editor's note- Dick '62 and John Yokoyama '60 started "fish throw" at the market, and we all attended Concord Elementary in South Park