

Links are provided to the minutes of relevant board meetings leading to Earl Warren's construction for those who are interested in other events that were transpiring within the district at the time.

Earl Warren was born in Los Angeles on March 19, 1891. Three years later the family moved to Bakersfield where Warren's father, a Norwegian immigrant, went to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Years later, many observers would credit the egalitarian nature of the Norwegian culture for shaping Warren's "equal justice" approach on the bench. Warren stayed in Bakersfield through his high school days, leaving for U. C. Berkeley in 1908 to begin his college education. Graduating from the University of California Law School in 1912, he was admitted to the bar in 1914, practiced in Oakland, and held several state offices. From 1939-1943 he served as state attorney general, and was elected governor of California in 1943. Immensely popular, he was reelected twice. Once, running in both the Democratic and Republican primaries. he won both and was thus elected without opposition. His third term was interrupted in October, 1953 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Warren to the position of Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. On May 17, 1954 the Supreme Court announced its decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, finding that schools could no longer segregate children by race. In 1963 he was appointed to head the Warren Commission, investigating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Judge Warren retired from the bench in 1969 and passed away on July 19, 1974 at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington D.C. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The

following is a partial history of a school that bears his name.

Until 1936, students in our area attended the high school in Oceanside. Roads and bus systems not being what they are today, those students typically arrived at school late and had to leave early. As the local population grew and overcrowding began to be a problem in Oceanside, there was increased pressure to build branch schools. In April, 1935 the Oceanside school board voted to construct a new junior high in Cardiff to be opened in the fall of 1936. The school was built, but when a bond issue to pay for building the new school was defeated, serious discussions about forming a new high school district south of Oceanside began. On January 7, 1936, voters in the South Coast Elementary District passed a resolution to form a new high school district, and the district formally came into being on February 3, 1936.

On [March 17, 1936](#) an organizational meeting was held to elect a president and secretary. The first official meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on [March 26, 1936](#). The first meetings focused on three issues. What would be the name of the new district? Where would the new school be located? Which grade levels would be included at the new school? South Coast High School was suggested as a name for the district, but the board settled on San Dieguito Union High School District. There was much discussion and deliberation regarding the site of the new school, but eventually 40 acres of land on Santa Fe Drive was purchased from a Mr. Dobbs for \$3,500 (In 2004, when the district began admitting 9th graders to its fourth high school, Canyon Crest Academy, the cost of the land for this new high school had been approximately \$40,000,000). Finally, the six elementary districts falling within the boundaries of the new high school district agreed that 7th and 8th grade students would be included in the high school district. The new district had a name, a site, and students.

Arthur Main was chosen as the first principal, and also served as superintendent. He guided the district from 1936 to 1939. The first classes were held on September 14, 1936. Junior high students attended the school in Cardiff, and high school students went to

Pacific View at 3rd and D Streets in Encinitas. Elementary students who had been attending Pacific View were transferred to Central School, known today as Paul Ecke Central. There wasn't enough room at Pacific View for all the high school students, so six tents were purchased that each housed 12 to 15 students. Administrators used the buildings at Pacific View for offices. The 1936-1937 school year opened with 302 students, 15 teachers, and a budget of \$49,287.

Ground breaking for the new school on Santa Fe Drive took place on January 11, 1937, and dedication ceremonies were held on January 21, 1938. The school was almost immediately successful. The football team was winning, school spirit was high, and the University of California had granted accreditation. Although there were issues concerning differences between the board, administration, faculty, and the community, the school flourished and grew. In 1940, Donovan Cartwright assumed the principal/superintendent position and served until 1945. When World War II erupted in December of 1941, Camp Callin occupied the ground where UCSD and the biotech research companies sit today. The SDUHSD board authorized the expenditure of \$4 for two buses to bring soldiers from Camp Callin to a beach party at Moonlight Beach.

Tom Preece was chosen to assume the principal/superintendent position in 1946 and held the post until 1950. At the end of the war the district, along with the rest of Southern California, experienced a huge population explosion. As the local economy grew, so did the number of students. By 1948 the number of students in the district had grown from 302 in 1936 to 525. William Mace assumed control in 1951, but was replaced by David Davidson in 1952. On June 18, 1952 the district hired Matthew Korwin to serve as principal of the school. This event was pivotal because for the first time it was recognized that one individual could not serve as both superintendent and principal. Superintendent Davidson went on to guide the district until 1960.

The initial solution to the steadily increasing number of students

was to build more classrooms on the Santa Fe Drive site. This proved to be merely a temporary fix. At a special board meeting on [March 17, 1953](#), 17 years to the day after the district's first organizational meeting, it was agreed that a separate junior high was necessary. A motion was passed to offer a bond issue that would provide funds to purchase land in Solana Beach and in Encinitas. Potential architects were interviewed on [March 31](#), and again on [April 3](#). On [April 8](#), Raymond Jung was finally hired as architect.

On [June 1, 1953](#) alternative sites for the new school were discussed, a final decision being postponed until the topography of two sites could be better studied. Then on [June 9](#) the board authorized the expenditure of \$22,500 to purchase 25 acres of land in Solana Beach from the Santa Fe Irrigation District. At the [same meeting](#) a letter of complaint from Ed Fletcher, who wanted the district to purchase his land for the new school, was read. Mr. Fletcher was apparently upset that the district was dumping sewage on his property. Additionally, for unspecified reasons, there was a carried motion to replace all Magruder books being used at the time.

The offer to purchase the 25 acres of irrigation district land was rescinded at the [June 17](#) meeting, seemingly because the board still wasn't satisfied that they had complete topographical details of the site (an Artesian well on today's Earl Warren site is still active). Architect Jung was authorized to have a topographic survey done. On [July 1, 1953](#) Jung reported that the irrigation district land was the preferable site.

Ed Fletcher was the developer who created Fletcher Cove (using high pressure hoses to erode the bluff) at the western end of Lomas Santa Fe, and who had complained to the district in writing about sewage being dumped on his land. Whether or not these complaints had any effect on which property the district eventually purchased is lost to time. However, on [July 14](#) the board voted to purchase 20 acres of the irrigation district land for \$750 an acre. At the [August 4](#) meeting Jung presented a proposed budget for construction costs of the new school, a letter of acceptance from the Santa Fe Irrigation District was read, and the district adopted a 1953-54 budget of \$489,878 that was nearly 10 times the size of the original 1936-37

budget.

The first day of school in 1953 was on [September 8](#). At the board meeting that evening Jung unveiled the plans for the new junior high. Apparently several modifications were required, as progress on the plans were discussed at board meetings on [September 17](#) and [October 3](#). At the [October 13](#) meeting it was felt that bidding for construction of the new school could begin in January of 1954. The proposed cost was \$9.34 per square foot. Minutes of the [November 10](#) and [December 8](#) meeting show that plans were proceeding satisfactorily and were nearly ready to be submitted to the State Division of School House Planning in Los Angeles.

On [January 12, 1954](#) the board minutes indicate that Superintendent Davidson had been notified that the plans had been checked and approved. At the meeting on [January 28](#), Jung stated that construction bids for the new school would be advertised in the February 4 newspaper. The board also approved a [wage scale](#) for construction workers and [formally approved](#) the construction of a new school. At the same meeting the board voted to temporarily name the new school San Dieguito Junior High School.

At the [February 9, 1954](#) meeting Jung told the board that 16 sets of plans had been given out to general contractors, and 44 to subcontractors. At the time it was left to builders to hire their own building inspectors, subject to approval, and two potential inspectors were interviewed but [not hired](#) at this meeting. Bids for the new school were opened at the [February 18](#) board meeting, after the hiring of Milton Herzer as building inspector at a salary of \$468 per month had been approved. The superintendent's office was still on the San Dieguito campus and the board still met in a room there as well. However, the number of individuals present on the evening bids were opened required that the meeting adjourn to the library.

The [bids](#) were read, most of the bidders and interested spectators left, and the meeting adjourned back to the board room. After some deliberation, including a transfer of \$35,000 from the reserve account to the building account, the board voted to award the contract for construction of the new junior high to John Goodwin of San Diego.

The stipulated [amount](#) was \$428,440, which came to \$8.54 per square foot. Construction began with scarcely six months left before the school was scheduled to open, a time frame that would be impossible to meet today.

From that point things moved relatively rapidly. On [February 26, 1954](#) the board formally approved the \$35,000 transfer from the reserve account to the building account. At the [March 9](#) meeting the superintendent reported that work was in full swing. Attention then shifted to renaming the new school from San Dieguito Junior High School. The possibilities of Mira Costa, Allen, and Avocado Junior High were offered, but the board elected to wait until the Junior Chamber of Commerce could have an opportunity to solicit potential names from the community. The tentative [budget](#) for construction of the new school was also entered into the minutes.

Board meeting minutes don't provide the details, perhaps it was inclement weather, but contractor

Goodwin asked for a 22 day time extension on [April 9, 1954](#). The board tabled the issue, then received the good news that delinquent taxes on the property had been waived. On [April 22](#), Percy Washabaugh (left) was designated to be the first principal of the new school. On [June 8](#) the board approved change orders. Superintendent Davidson was instructed to send a letter to contractor Goodwin asking him to move forward with the construction as quickly as possible.

At the August 3, 1954 meeting, just over 30 days before the school was scheduled to open, the Junior Chamber of Commerce submitted potential names to the board. These included; Goodwin J. Knight, Richard Nixon, Juan Maria Osuna, Andres Ybarra, Hillside, Marguito, and Earl Warren. Other names submitted for the junior high were Allen, and Mira Costa. Earl Warren had been a popular figure in the area for some time, but three current events caused there to be some concern among the most conservative members of the community about giving the new school his name.

First, in May 1954 Warren's Supreme Court handed down the controversial *Brown vs. Topeka School Board* decision, finding that placing black students in public schools separate from their white peers was illegal. This cast doubts locally on Warren's true political beliefs and many speculated publicly about whether or not he might actually be a liberal. Second, a liberal was not a good thing to be in 1954 because the Red Scare was reaching its peak. Led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, but supported by no actual evidence, many Americans came to believe that communists had infiltrated the government of the United States and were holding key positions in preparation of an eventual takeover. Liberals who refused to believe these wild accusations, but who were not directly accused of being communists or "reds", were referred to as "pinkos".

The third event which couldn't have helped those supporting the name of Earl Warren was that the finish coat of stucco on the new school had a definite pink tone to it. To those individuals who were seeing communists hiding behind every bush at the time, this was further indication that liberals and/or communists had infiltrated locally and were slowly taking control. Despite all this, the name Earl Warren Junior High was chosen for the new school at the August 3 board meeting. A schedule for the [1953-1954](#) school year was adopted. Holidays included Armistice Day, Christmas vacation, and Easter vacation. Today we refer to those holidays as Veterans Day, Winter recess, and Spring recess respectively.

With building not yet completed, Earl Warren Junior High School formally opened its doors to 7th and 8th grade students on September 13, 1954. Students and construction workers shared the site for several months. The name for the high school teams was the Mustangs, so the junior high students chose Caballitos (little horses) as their name. Lunches were served buffet style in the cafeteria (known today as Warren Hall). There were fifteen teachers, including Gladys Dawson, William Denny, Myrtle Dunfee, James Dye, Kenneth Gramstad, Matilda McNair, Lenor Meyer, Vincent Myer, Paul Roy, Alice Ruhe, Nathan Strasberg, Edwin Teagle, Phyllis Thorton, Robert Wallin, and Jay Williams. Incredibly, Gramstad, Roy, Strasberg, and Williams would all be teaching at Earl Warren twenty-six years later in

1980.

Minutes of the [September 13](#) board meeting show that local population growth had already made it necessary to add more classrooms. Other business affecting the new school was discussed. This included hiring cafeteria employees, considering a contract for bread, recommending insurance plans, approving a request from the Solana Beach Women's Civic Club to hold an annual Christmas Gift Tea in the cafeteria, allowing adult education classes to be held at the school, and approving the curriculum for the school year. Finally, a letter from [Chief Justice Earl Warren](#) to Superintendent Davidson was read, expressing Warren's appreciation at the school having been named after him and his regret that he would likely not be able to attend the dedication ceremonies.

Topics relating to Earl Warren in board meetings immediately following the school's opening focused primarily on construction issues. The exterior finish of the school was addressed [October 12, 1954](#). A [report](#) showing construction costs to date for the school was also entered into the minutes. The exterior finish issue was addressed again at the [November 9](#) meeting. At the same meeting, the purchase of a dishwasher for the cafeteria was approved, and employment of a custodian was authorized.

The [donation](#) of fifteen Torrey Pines from the Women's Civic Club of Solana Beach was accepted. The location of these trees is uncertain, but perhaps some of them are still standing today along the northwest border of the campus, beside the road that leads to the Boys and Girls Club and to the residences on the west side of the campus. The December board meeting recognized the contribution of five hundred poinsettias from Paul Ecke Sr. The philanthropy of the Ecke family towards the north coast community, while far too extensive to document here, has been extremely generous to say the least.

The new year arrived, and when the board met on [January 11, 1955](#) they were still unwilling to sign off on Earl Warren's construction. The [minutes](#) of the same meeting include a "Population Trend Report" by Superintendent Davidson. Perhaps being unwilling



at the moment to discuss the continuing population explosion within their district, the board elected to give the report "further study". At the [February 8](#) meeting there was more discussion about the school construction contract, and mention was made that 90% of surveyed parents wanted hot lunches to be served at Earl Warren. By [March 8](#) there were relatively few items for contractor Goodwin to correct before receiving final payment for his company's construction of the new school. At a special meeting on [March 24](#), the board accepted the finished product. Earl Warren Junior High School was finally, and completely, in the hands of the San Dieguito Unified High School District.

The new school, and the district, flourished under the guidance of Principal Washabaugh and Superintendent Davidson. Individuals and families continued to flock into the district boundaries. The board moved forward with the Balour site construction of Oak Crest Junior High School, a name suggested by a 7th grader after the Earl Warren naming fiasco, and the district's second junior high was scheduled to open in September of 1957. Unfortunately a plumbers strike halted construction that summer and in the fall the district was forced to send all junior high students into double sessions at EWJHS.

Oak Crest was eventually opened on October 21, 1957, but was still incomplete because of a shortage of bond funds. The preceding two months had shown the district that the EWJHS campus could handle additional students. With the local population continuing to grow and the high school becoming more and more crowded, the decision was made to place 9th grade students at Earl Warren beginning in 1958. The freshman class would remain at EWJHS for fifteen years, until Torrey Pines High School was opened in the fall of 1974.

There is some discrepancy in regards to recollection of which principals served for how long in the late 1950's and early 1960's. The likely cause is the inability to distinguish the 1959-1960 school year from the 1960-1961 year when an individual is described as having arrived at EWJHS in 1960. This account uses Earl Warren yearbooks and the pictures therein to document the time frames.

Principal Washabaugh led EWJHS from its opening in the fall of 1954 until the spring of 1959. In

the fall of 1959, A. J. Gumbrell (left) took over the principal's duties. At the time there were 153 9th graders, 168 8th graders, and 190 7th graders for a total population of 511 students. Each succeeding class was growing larger and the impact of the "baby boom" generation was just beginning to be felt. Gumbrell was hired from Oceanside High School, perhaps with the intention of fast tracking him into the superintendent's position.

In the spring of 1960 Gumbrell was appointed District Director of

Curriculum and Walter West became the interim principal at EWJHS. That same spring, the district finally moved its administrative offices off the San Dieguito campus to a building located at 540-542 Coast Highway in Leucadia. The rent on the building was \$400 a month. The Earl Warren yearbook shows that Jennings B. Newman (right) served as principal beginning in the 1960-1961 school year.

Superintendent Davidson stepped down in the the spring of 1961 and A.J. Gumbrell assumed leadership of the district. Things seem to have gone smoothly during the remaining years of Newman's tenure as principal of Earl Warren, except that yearbooks for the 1961-1962 school year were not delivered until midsummer. Students that year had very few signatures in their yearbooks to remember their peers by.

During the 1963-1964 school year, there was a 7th grade student by

the name of Terrance Calen (left). Terry would eventually become a teacher at Earl Warren (the bulletin board he built still hangs in the office of the principal's secretary), and beginning in 1998 he served as assistant principal at EWJHS for two years. The Earl Warren alumnus became principal of Oak Crest Middle School in the fall of

2003.

In 1964, the district moved their administrative offices from Leucadia to the Seacoast Savings & Loan building at 2153 Newcastle in Cardiff. With the expanding population, district superintendent Gumbrell's job was becoming increasingly difficult and pressure packed by 1966. Parents in the north end of the district wanted available bond funds to be applied towards expanding and renovating San Dieguito High School, while parents in the south end wanted the same funds to be applied towards the construction of a new high school in their area.

Frederick Tudor, an Encinitas businessman and lay preacher, had recently created a furor in the district. The central issue was that books and plays such as *Catcher in the Rye*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Moby Dick*, *Red Badge of Courage*, and *Huck Finn* were "distasteful, immoral, ungodly, filthy, and exceedingly undesirable". Superintendent Gumbrell submitted his resignation to the board on March 16, 1966, took a principal's job in Carmel, and Edward J. Anderson assumed the superintendent position.

Following

Jennings B. Newman, Rodney E. Phillips (right) became Earl Warren's fourth principal in 1966, and held that position for nine years. Meanwhile, superintendent Anderson was attempting to deal with the teacher's first "Negotiating Council". The council submitted demands that were thought to be unreasonable at the time, and the board dug in their heels against the demands. The result was that Anderson resigned in May of 1968 to assume a superintendent position in Maryland and was replaced by Dr. George Kibby.

It wasn't only the teachers that were making demands at the time. Students in the late 1960's also felt that they should have a say in the decision making process. At the board meeting on June 10, 1968, a petition was presented containing the signatures of 251 Earl Warren students. The students were upset that Nate Strasberg, a Social Studies teacher, was being transferred to the English

Department after having urged his classes to be aware of current events (while the Viet Nam War was not specifically mentioned in documenting this event, it's hard not to believe that the war was the pivotal issue for students at the time). These students held their socially conscious attitudes and the period between 1968 and 1972 proved to be the peak of student activism within the district.

In the fall of 1968 a young teacher from Michigan, John Kohler (left) was hired. For thirty-three

years John taught a variety of classes at Earl Warren and saw many changes take place during his distinguished career. Since leaving Earl Warren in 2001, Kohler has been enjoying his retirement by traveling all over the world. However, he was kind enough to recently take time out to reflect on his years at EWJHS and his contribution to this page is greatly appreciated.

*Earl Warren Recollections by John Kohler*

*In the beginning, Peagreens (7<sup>th</sup> graders), Cabbage Heads (8<sup>th</sup> graders) and Freshmen (9<sup>th</sup> graders) made up the students of Earl Warren Junior High School. The Freshmen had a lawn (where the library used to be) on which they, and they alone, could eat lunch and socialize. Any of the Peagreens who ventured into this area would be trashed, i.e. dumped into the trashcan. In fact, the 9<sup>th</sup> graders would sometimes foray over onto the other section of lawn and capture a Peagreen to dump in the can. This always meant that the lawn would be closed for a period of time but it was considered worth it for the fun it provided. Cabbage Heads had learned to keep their distance and knew that next year, it was theirs.*

*EWJHS was built in 1954 on land then considered far*

*away from the unincorporated area on Highway 101 called Solana Beach. The school song had a line in it about being nestled back in the hills. There was the administration building and 2 levels of classrooms and the shop/art room on the top level. The last part of the top level (east side) was added some years later as the student population grew. The top level had 2 cars in one year come down the slope off Lomas Santa Fe and smash into the classrooms. No students were hurt but the drivers were a bit bloodied.*

*There was nothing east of two-lane Stevens Avenue except fields sloping up and east. No Lomas Santa Fe housing, no shopping centers, no church across the street, no Boys/Girls Club. The freeway was built in 1965, almost 10 years after the school. Lomas Santa Fe Drive, then known as Skyline Drive, was also a seldom driven two-lane road. The cross-country team ran in the hills across the street and down to the beach along side Stevens Avenue. No sidewalks either!*

*The students came here along with the staff from San Dieguito High School in 1954 when the school was dedicated to the retired, very popular and still living Governor of California. He did not make it to the dedication but did return to the campus to help celebrate the school's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At that time, he had retired as Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court and was not nearly as popular in this conservative community because of some of his "more liberal" decisions made while on the bench! There were some who talked of changing the school*

*name.*

*The school's color was originally pink – some said a fitting color for Earl Warren JHS, named for a man who some conservatives considered to be leaning too close to Communist ideology. Pinko was a derogative term used for left leaning people in those days. True Communists were Reds. (Am I so old that I have to explain this?). The school's next color was battleship gray. It was rumored to be Navy Surplus paint. It was depressing and kept the school well hidden on foggy days. After a student vote, that color was followed by a two- tone green. After only a few years the students complained about not understanding how anyone could have picked that color. And now the school is beige. During the renovation year to update the classrooms, tinted windows were installed because the State gave schools a break on the cost of them over the clear windows. These windows were intended to reduce sunlight heating and conserve cooling energy. But, on the coast, we had always had windows we could open to get the sea breeze and no air-conditioning. From then on, lights had to be used all day, everyday in all the classrooms. The State knows what is best for us!*

*The school cafeteria staff always made donuts, rolls, cookies and best of all, peanut butter bars, along with hot chocolate and juice for the students as they arrived at school. And the staff had the same goodies in the teachers lounge by the loading dock, along with a pot of coffee. Everybody except those teachers on "bus duty" stopped in before school and stayed until the bell rang. The unpaid duties- milk break, lunch and after school bus duty - were rotated every week.*

*Next major (non-academic) event of each day was "milk break" in midmorning. This was 20 minutes (including passing time) to scarf more of the same goodies and socialize. Most staff would come down for coffee and/or a smoke. In those days, there were no factions of smokers vs. non-smokers or laws prohibiting it. It was a smoky room and that was just the way it was in all teacher's lounges across the USA. Lots of classrooms had ashtrays, although no one smoked during the class.*

*Lunches, like the goodies, were all prepared from scratch at the school. They were good and contained lots of USDA surplus food. They also contained most of the day's total calories needed by an adult. In the '60's, lunches were 35 cents for students and 75 cents for teachers.*

*Milk break was eliminated when the State mandated longer school days. It was eliminated in order to have the school day end at the same time as in previous years. Eventually the State mandated more days to the school year and an even longer school day. It was at this time that SSR (silent sustained reading) was introduced. The school day was longer but class periods remained the same length. There were many studies confirming this quiet time, especially right after lunch, increased student scores in many areas.*

*State politicians have frequently determined what was best for educators to do. First, after Sputnik, we needed more engineers to beat the Russians. Then, when the Japanese economy was exploding (and until it imploded), we needed to teach like the*

*Japanese. Then came numerous studies showing how far behind our students were compared to the rest of the world. When I first entered EWJHS in 1968, the philosophy was to have the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades be exploratory years before starting high school courses. Metal Shop, wood shop, photography, home economics, guitar, band, choir, oceanography, art, foreign languages, health, yearbook, the Tide newspaper and typing were some of the yearlong classes. Some were offered 5 or 6 periods a day. There was also a large California Junior Scholastic Federation Club. Teachers were encouraged to be innovative. Now, the students' options are quite limited and structured. Teachers are "requested" to teach to the State Standards. Testing and scoring well in certain prescribed areas has become the ultimate goal of education.*

*The biggest student problem in the 60's was smoking in the rest rooms and the attendant fires in the wastebaskets. Drinking was not unheard of, but other illicit drugs had not made any big appearance yet. All the other perennial problems have stayed constant; cussing, running in the halls, etc!*

*Punishment for misbehavior has certainly changed from the old days. In the mid 60's, physical pain was still being inflicted in the office with the "board of education." PE had it's own method of straightening out stubborn students. The area didn't lack for lawyers, and eventually justice here and across the US was toned down to more psychological retribution.*

*There once was a dress code and hair length*



*standards in the District. First to go was the hair length rule (not over the collar and ears for males) when a parent challenged it in the courts and San Dieguito lost. The dress code was soon eliminated as the District could see the handwriting on the wall and didn't want more litigation. At first, jeans with holes in the knees were the "in thing" but eventually, the school became a show place for the latest fashions. Sometimes the dress became too "fashionable" when a skimpy style was in for the gals. The VP's went crazy trying to get them to cover up.*

*In the old days, the SDUHSD had its own bus system. Busing was free and most students took the bus. The buses and drivers were always available for field trips, anytime, during the day or after school. And the cost was paid by the school District, not the department. When I taught 9<sup>th</sup> grade earth science, my class (once) was small enough so that if I sent half to the library for research, I could use a school van to take the other half of the class on field trips. It was sweet!*

*There were no copy machines; everything was done on a stencil or mimeograph machine. The amount of paper used was so low it wasn't included in department budgets. Then the big copy machines came on campus and reams of paper were being used.*

*The library was a single classroom, eventually widened to 2 classrooms. Finally, a large new building for the library was built on the west side of campus. Now there is a new, shared use library with the city of Solana Beach. This has been positive*

*progress.*

*Ninth grade sports were big after school events, especially the football games played on our field. Earl Warren's teams were the CABALLITOS because the San Dieguito teams were the MUSTANGS. All the students would go to high school at San Dieguito until Torrey Pines opened in 1974. Basketball was played at San Dieguito High School. Track and Field was held on the EW campus. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade had its Cheerleaders and the 7/8 graders had their Songleaders.*

*In 1970, EWJHS pioneered the block system. For years, we used various block systems, sometimes having one day for a single period, sometimes using the block system everyday, all year. Eventually, Torrey Pines elected to use the block system also. Over the years various forms have been tried, some with more success than others. Changes came with changing staffs and parents.*

*When Torrey Pines was built in 1974, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade was sent there to alleviate the growing population at EW. The student population at EW returned to about 650 from the nearly 1,000 it had grown to. In order to keep the population up to that number, school boundaries were changed and the Cardiff students came to EW for quite a number of years. It was different having just the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, and lonely having lost many of our staff. It was comparable to when Carmel Valley opened and the population was again reduced to about 650 students from the 1200 students it had again grown to. The advantage when Carmel Valley opened was having*

*lots of extra classroom space since portables had been built to house the student explosion.*

*After decades of teaching at EW, parents would ask me if the students had changed from when I started teaching. I replied that the students were still the same but, as a generalization, the parents certainly had changed! Now, there is much more pressure on the students to do well. But, if they don't fulfill these expectations, it no longer is the student's fault but the result of some type of medical problem or even, heaven forbid, the teacher and his/her teaching methods.*

*Earl Warren has always been, in the minds of the staff, the best school in the District. Some go a little farther and extend the boundaries to include the State. It has certainly been, in my opinion, the greatest place to teach for 33 years! Why? Because of the staff and the students.*

As Kohler's recollections indicate, Earl Warren has often been the first school to put new ideas into practice. In 1969, with a population of 280 9th graders, 270 8th graders, and 288 7th graders, EWJHS was the only junior high school in San Diego County with a computer programming course. In 1970 Earl Warren became the first school in the district to use block period scheduling.

One way in which the student activism of the late 1960's was expressed was to test the limits of the dress code. On the first day of school in September of 1969, student Jerry Hampshire arrived at EWJHS with hair that was deemed to be too long. Jerry was suspended and told to remain at home until he cut his hair. The board backed Earl Warren

administrators and Jerry's dad Larry sued the school. As it turned out, brothers Jack and Vaughn Bradshaw had recently been suspended from San Dieguito High School for growing beards and their father had also filed a suit. The district lost the Bradshaw suit and, rather than spend time and money on court appearances and attorneys, the board chose to drastically modify the dress code and allow students much more freedom in their appearance..

The topic of population growth within the district has been visited several times here, but only because it necessitated so many discussions and decisions. In 1970, having had two bond issues fail that would have supplied money for the construction of new schools and the renovation of existing ones, the district was in a pinch. To alleviate the crowded conditions at Earl Warren, there was talk of renting gym space from the Boys Club (now the Boys and Girls Club), and rooms from the Presbyterian Church which had been constructed across Stevens Avenue. Eventually the decision was made to bring in four portable classrooms, even though such classrooms didn't meet school codes at the time and could potentially lead to liability issues.

The combined effects of dealing with student and teacher activism and the resulting parent protests, along with attempting to resolve the overcrowding problems with both fiscal and academic solutions, was wearing on Superintendent Kibby. On June 21, 1971 he asked the board to reassign him to teaching duties beginning in September of 1972. The board tried to take some of the burden off him by appointing Bill Berrier, a vice principal at San Dieguito High School since 1965, to represent the board at CEC meetings. On December 21, 1971 the board made Berrier an Assistant to the Superintendent. Finally, on January 20, 1972 Kibby,

citing ailing health, announced that he was on his way to Spain and requesting sick leave until June of 1972.

Kibby never returned to work and Berrier became the new superintendent. Thrust into the difficulties of the times, Berrier's problems were compounded by the resignation of two assistant superintendents that had been passed over by the board for the top position. It's not beyond reality to speculate that few individuals at the time would have predicted that Berrier would go on to become the longest lasting superintendent in district history. Mr. Berrier held his position for thirty years, until 2002, and in the process built unprecedented fiscal, academic, and labor relations stability within the district. Sometimes affectionately referred to as "Abe Lincoln" because of his stature, there can be no question that Berrier's leadership during those years was of great benefit to the district and also established a template for future growth and success.

There were 855 students at EWJHS when school opened in September of 1972. Rodney E. Phillips

stayed on as Earl Warren's principal until 1975, one year after the opening of Torrey Pines High School allowed 9th graders to depart EWJHS, leaving the campus to 7th and 8th graders. Gerald Schlenker (left) became principal for one year, and was followed in 1976 by Alvin Katich (right). Katich remained at Earl Warren for five years and brought the campus into the 1980's.

In 1978 the Seacoast Savings & Loan building in Cardiff, the upper floor of which had been serving as the district office since 1964, was sold. The new owner increased the lease and the board was encouraged to investigate new locations. A site at 619-625 North

Vulcan Avenue in Leucadia was eventually purchased and the existing one story structures were converted into offices.

The district continued to grow rapidly during the 1980's and 1990's. These were decades that saw more Earl Warren students that would eventually become teachers or district employees, assistant principals that would eventually become principals, and principals that would eventually become district administrators.

The 1980 school year brought in an incredible number of very talented teachers. Included in that

group was Bob Croft (left) who has taught English, Physical Education, and Computer Programming. Beyond that, in the early 1990's Bob was elected president of the San Dieguito Faculty Association (the modern version of the 1960's Negotiating Council). In that position, Croft has skillfully guided the faculty through several negotiating sessions. Determinedly sticking to his mantra of "Interest Based Negotiations", Bob has insured that district teachers continue to receive excellent compensation in return for excellent teaching.

Students attending Earl Warren in the early 1980's included Frank Schlueter (right) and Lawrie

Johnson (left). Schlueter went on to become intimately involved with managing the district's technology program and still continues in that area. Lawrie (Kuenaman-Johnson now) would later admit that she once got to close to a

Bunsen burner in Mr. Hilke's physical science class and actually caught her hair on fire. Today she is teaching math at Oak Crest Middle School.

The group of students at EWJHS during the 1981-1982 school year also included

Bob Teischer (left). Teischer was a member of an Earl Warren basketball team that went undefeated for 36 games, winning their title at the San Diego Sports Arena. Another member of that team was Jud Buechler, who went on to play over 10 years in the NBA and at one point was sharing a room with the infamous Dennis Rodman. Classmates, Teischer and Lawrie Johnson found themselves teaching together at Earl Warren in 1993. As of this writing Teischer is a history teacher and surf coach at San Dieguito Academy. He was voted district Teacher of the Year for 2004-2005.

In the fall of 1981 Ed Sweed (left) took over as principal. Sweed had been a vice principal at Earl

Warren from 1976 to 1978, and then a vice principal at Torrey Pines from 1979 to 1981. Sweed served for six years and then in 1987 Penny Cooper-Francisco (right) became EWJHS's eighth principal. By this time the school name had been changed from Caballitos to Seahawks. Cooper-Francisco remained at Earl Warren for two years and serves today as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum for the district. Penny's diligent efforts in this position have allowed the district's teaching staff to smoothly transition into the era of standards and state mandated testing.

In the mid to late 1980's, an ever increasing number of

students was necessitating a corresponding increase of employees at the district office. When I joined the district in 1987, the desks at the Vulcan Avenue site were pushed so close together that employees would joke that they couldn't tell whose telephone was ringing. This situation was resolved by early 1989 when the district offices were moved to their present location at 717 Encinitas Boulevard. Early on the building was shared with other businesses, including a dentist, but eventually both stories were taken over by the district. Despite this additional space, the Maintenance Department remained behind on Vulcan Avenue.

The 1989-1990 school year saw Terry King (left) become the new principal. King had previously

served as a vice principal at Earl Warren beginning in 1986. When she arrived, there were 380 8th grade students and 348 7th graders. The school received two major awards under King's leadership. In 1990 EWJHS became a State Distinguished School for the first time. The next year Earl Warren received the National Blue Ribbon School award. Previously, the only school in the district to receive this award was Torrey Pines High School. King has now become the district's Assistant Superintendent of Personnel.

Marilyn Pugh (right) took over from King in the fall of 1991. The student population

grew rapidly during Pugh's tenure, eventually approaching 1200. To this point, discussion of Earl Warren staff has been limited to administrators, teachers, and students. However, Pugh brought in



an individual from the district office who was to become an EW cornerstone and cannot go unmentioned here. Vetha Pierce (left) became the principal's secretary in 1992 and quickly became indispensable. Her dedication and attitude led to several "Employee of the Year" awards, and all employees and students knew that if they had a question Vetha was the person to turn to. On February 17th, 2005, Vetha accepted the position of principal's secretary at Diegueno Middle School. Her last day at Earl Warren was Friday, April 29th, 2005. In 1993 Fran Fenical became what was then called assistant principal (formerly vice principal). When La Costa Canyon High School opened in the fall of 1996, Fenical took over as principal of the former San Dieguito High School and opened what has proven to be the highly successful San Dieguito Academy. Fran returned to the classroom in 2001 and retired in 2005.

During Pugh's seven years at EWJHS the use of computers by the general public was exploding. Bill Gates had introduced Windows to replace MS-DOS (Microsoft Disk Operating System), and the new system allowed rookie users to easily operate their computers without having to learn a computer language. At the same time, there was another of that 1980 bumper crop of teachers still on campus. Dan

Salas (left), a true Renaissance man, had already been the campus librarian, a computer applications teacher, and a teacher of mathematics for students whose native language was not English. In the summer of 1993, thanks to Pugh's fund raising skills and Salas' technological abilities, the Earl Warren campus became the first school in the district with its own computer network. The PEWNET was born and became a template for a district wide network. Today that

network, thanks to the initial efforts of Pugh and Salas, provides district staff with instant access to all district personnel, parents, and of course the multitude of web sites that assist in every area from purchasing to lesson planning.

Pugh continued to be Earl Warren's principal until the fall of 1998 when she moved to her current position as principal at Diegueno Junior High School. That fall Margie Bulkin (right) assumed the principal's position at

EWJHS. Margie's twin sister, Angie Allen, had spent several years teaching English at Earl Warren and chairing that department. As children, the two sisters participated in a nationally televised commercial for Doublemint Gum. Bulkin presided over the construction of the joint use library at Earl Warren, and the strategic difficulties that arose when the campus population of teachers and students was roughly halved with the opening of the new school in Carmel Valley in the fall of 1999. At the same time, the names of all junior high schools in the district were changed and Earl Warren Junior High School became Earl Warren Middle School. Bulkin remained at Earl Warren until the spring of 2002 when she became the principal of La Costa Canyon High School. On November 26, 2004 Margie was named to replace Suzanne O'Connell as Director of Testing for the district.

Back to that spring of 2002, Superintendent Berrier retired and was replaced by Peggy Lynch, who had been recruited from a few miles up north in Orange County. At the same time Jeanne Jones (left) was chosen to be

EWMS's twelfth principal. Jones came to Earl Warren after

having served as a counselor and assistant principal at San Dieguito Academy, and made her presence felt immediately. Before the 2003-2004 school year began, Jones had orchestrated the construction of a multimedia computer lab in the old woodshop, and improved the aesthetic appearance of the campus by having it completely repainted in new colors and adding a shade structure in the quad. During the school year planters and additional landscaping were added around the buildings, and many programs, including Breakfast Club were begun to better serve students and bring parents closer to the campus community.

On October 16, 2003, the students and staff at Earl Warren celebrated the school's 50th anniversary. Lunch that day was hamburgers and chips, with the PTSA providing root beer floats. Many teachers taught lessons as they would have been taught in 1953, or presented historical perspectives of life in the 1950's. The next day, on October 17, a celebration was held in Del Mar that featured bands playing oldies music, food donated from locally prominent restaurants, and informative flashbacks about how the Earl Warren site was used before the school was built. The event raised over \$20,000 for the school

This completes this history of Earl Warren Middle School's first fifty years. At this point, mention should be made of some of the teachers who served EWMS for many years and whose expertise contributed to the education of thousands of students. This group includes, but is not limited to; Angie Allen, Joseph Angarola, Sharon Armstrong, Elizabeth Ballinger, Suzanne Beveridge (Brown), B.J. Brown, Jan Bulen, Nancy Byrne, Carol Carrillo, Ann Cerny (Herold), Helen Conrey, Alan Clark, Vivian Colley, Bob Croft, Judy DeGraves, Robert Dodson, Jack DuBois, Myrtle Dunfee, Myrna Eastwood, Lisa Ebner, Robert Emswiler, Grant Glausser, Kenneth Gramstad, Linda Grensted, Sally Hackworth, Jackie Harrigan, Lee Hensler, Larry Hilke, Jeannette Hill, Stephen Huyett,

John Illian, Jeanne Jennings, Connie Johnson, John Kohler, Jerry Kranz, Edward Landfear, Suellen Lodge, Marti Meiners, Opel Menos, Paul Roy, Dan Salas, David Smiley, Nathan Strasberg, Phyllis Thorton, Robert Wallin, and Jay Williams. Put together, this group represents literally centuries of teaching experience.

The school's second fifty years began with a flourish. On Friday, September 17, 2004, it was announced that Earl Warren Middle School had again earned the highly prestigious National Blue Ribbon School Award.