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## El Cerrito High School Archiving Project

*Newsletter Issue X*

February 2007

### Message from the President,

I bring you greetings from Class of 1968! It is an honor to serve you and be part of 65 great years of rich academic history!

The Archiving Project's purpose is to collect, preserve, and celebrate the future of El Cerrito High School. Looking through our journey of times, we can reminisce and cherish our memories of school, family, and community values.

It all began before the Wrecking Ball Weekend two years ago. In such a short time, we are proud to sponsor three scholarships, create the DVD production of Green and White and continue to record the oral histories of students, teachers, administrators and others connected to ECHS. During the holidays, the Archive Committee participated in a well known Bay Area tradition, the Shadi Display. Soroptimist International of El Cerrito, a women's service organization, was assigned by the estate to continue the tradition. Thank you to Rebecca Boe, David Bilyeu and Roddy Lee who kept watch on the scene on a freezing cold January night for over five hours! Stay tuned! Don't miss out ... Tell another alumni about this exciting ECHS Archiving Project Committee.

Patricia (Jones) Durham '68  
President, ECHS Archive Committee

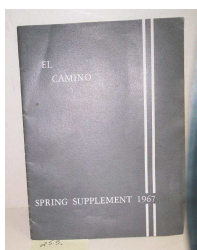
## Bricks

### *Want to Buy a Brick?*

Support Grad Night 2007 and be part of ECHS Gaucho History!! You are invited to support our school and commemorate the rebuilding of El Cerrito High School by purchasing an inscribed brick that will adorn the new building. Surprise your child, honor a family member, memorialize a graduation, recognize a special teacher or just enjoy the sight of your name or your child's name on our new campus. Orders will be accepted on a first come, first served basis- do not let this opportunity pass you by! We are asking for a \$50.00 donation for each brick. Each brick can be inscribed with up to 3 lines of text. Each line is limited to 20 characters including spaces and punctuation. Families may buddy up and purchase a single brick together. Text is subject to reasonable approval. For an order form or more information, contact us at [echsbriks@yahoo.com](mailto:echsbriks@yahoo.com) or call Judy Sanders (510) 236-3989. Your donation may be tax deductible. The deadline for placing orders was January 31, 2007. We can accommodate most requests after that date.



### Bricks for sale



## Missing Yearbooks!

Do you have yearbooks that we may have for the new school museum? The years missing are 1980, 1981, 1986, 1987 and 1994. Please email Joann at [jsbayat@comcast.net](mailto:jsbayat@comcast.net) if you have one to donate.

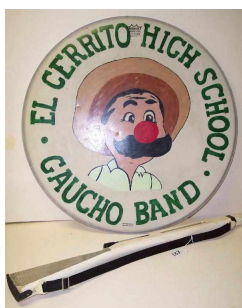
## New School Construction

Things are "moving!" According to site construction manager, Lew Brower, the underground utilities are 75% near completion. Foundation construction started in December for the first group of classrooms/science labs. This month foundation construction started for the cafeteria and gym. First concrete pour was scheduled January 24th. Phase 2, which includes the performing arts center, library, and administration building is expected to go out to bid within the next couple of weeks. For updated information on the web, go to [www.wccusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us).



*Artist's rendition of new ECHS*

### WCCUSD Bond Program



## Gaucho Marching Band

### *Alumni*

Once again, the Gaucho marching band participated in the city of El Cerrito's Martin Luther King parade. This has become a tradition for the band as they have participated for several years now. This year, however, was a bit more special as the city recognized the marching band for its dedication to this community event by giving an award for their participation. The band's next performance will be on Saturday, March 3rd, leading the El Cerrito Youth Baseball Opening Day Parade. At the end of the month and into April, the band will be wrapping up the season by marching down Main Street in Disneyland.

Recently, they were fortunate enough to acquire University of Oregon's used marching band uniforms. They are in excellent condition and will be modifying them for use at our school. In April,

as a fundraiser after Disneyland, the band will be offering the classic retired uniforms for sale. Current members of GMB will have the first opportunity to buy them at \$50, after which they will be made available to alumni at an asking donation of \$100. Interested parties may contact Donna Houser at (510) 234-2251 or at [houserini@sbcglobal.net](mailto:houserini@sbcglobal.net).

## Oral History Project

*Jackie Fleming Fonken, Class of 1956*



Jackie attended 7th grade at El Cerrito Middle/High School and moved on to become part of the first 8th grade class at Portola Middle School. After that she moved back to ECHS for grades 9 to 12. What she remembers most from Portola was all the dirt and mud. The landscaping wasn't finished in those days. Although Jackie remembers being quiet and reserved in those days, she remembers ECHS as a very active school. It was considered to be a great high school with good classes and good teachers. There were lots of activities, including the yearbook, the Girls Athletic Association, the school newspaper, two sororities (Del Loma and La Playa), two fraternities (Del Mar and 49ers), a Spanish Club, a UNESCO Club, Rifle Club, Home Economics Club, Block C, and the Thespians. What Jackie remembers doing is going to football games, school dances, slumber parties and most of all, liking boys! It was a great time to be at ECHS. In her senior year, ECHS won the Basketball championship. ECHS was in the league playoffs. In the last couple of seconds of the final game a basketball was thrown from one end of the court to the other, creating a victory and a championship for ECHS in the Northern California Tournament of Champions under Coach Ed Collins.

Jackie has been very active on her reunion committee since graduating and maintains the addresses. The classes of '55 and '56 just celebrated their 50 year reunion with Jackie as the chair. Current Statistics: Residence: East Richmond Heights Family: Husband Roger Fonken, two sons, and two grandchildren Education: Nursing Degree from Merritt (now Summit) Employment: Recently retired (but still working) after working 21 years for the WCCUSD in Human Resources hiring, testing, and sending teacher aides to job. Best Memory: In 9th grade, Jackie tried to bleach her hair blonde by mixing peroxide, lux flakes and ammonia in the mixmaster. Her hair turned orange.

## Archiving Scholarships

The ECHS Archiving Project will once again award three \$1,000.00 scholarships to qualified ECHS graduating seniors. Applications will be available to all seniors in April and are due by May 1. The recipients will be recognized at the annual Senior Awards Night, tentatively scheduled Thursday, June 7th. Contributions to the Scholarship fund are greatly appreciated. Checks payable to ECHS Archiving Project, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito 94530. More information on scholarships contact [tipping1@aol.com](mailto:tipping1@aol.com).

## In Memoriam: Marvin Nelson

*MARVIN NELSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP*

MARVIN NELSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP TO BE ESTABLISHED AT EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL  
In Memoriam: Marvin Nelson. Mr Nelson was director of bands at El Cerrito High School from 1962 to 1967. He was also principal trumpet in the Oakland Symphony for over twenty years, and was an avid performer in many dance bands and jazz ensembles. Marv left El Cerrito High when he was appointed director of bands at Cal State Hayward, (now CSU "East Bay") where he remained until his retirement in the early 1990s. As a result of his tenure at CSUEB, his impact on music education in the Bay Area was enormous, and the number of fine musicians and teachers who were trained by Marv during this time is legend. His influence was powerful even during his brief stay at El Cerrito High School. Distinguished graduates of those classes include Loretta McNulty, who teaches strings in the Lafayette schools, and Bill Holmes, who plays trumpet in the San Francisco Opera orchestra. Those of us who knew Marv observed that he was clearly blessed with the energy and drive of at least three or four normal people. His passion for music and for teaching was legendary. While he was highly disciplined, his joy in his work was so evident that we all felt invited to share in his world; and though few if any of us could match his energy, we were all motivated to do our personal best - and then exceed it. Please join me in

keeping Marv Nelson's legacy alive for the future students of El Cerrito High School. The Marvin Nelson Memorial Scholarship in Music will provide funds for an annual award to be given to an outstanding graduating senior for meritorious achievement in music performance. If you would be willing to participate in any way in the establishment of this fund, please contact Jonathan Knight at [marvscholarship@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marvscholarship@sbcglobal.net).

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## Reunion Leaders

Are you a reunion leader for one of our ECHS years? We would like to ask for your help to notify us as to whom the reunion leaders are from each missing year. If you know of a missing alumni chair, please notify David Bilyeu at [davidmbilyeu@netzero.com](mailto:davidmbilyeu@netzero.com).

Contacts !!

1944-Mackey,Howard -- [Howard2201@aol.com](mailto:Howard2201@aol.com)  
 1945-  
 1946-  
 1947-  
 1948-Brown-Lee,Alice--[Tidblgr62@aol.com](mailto:Tidblgr62@aol.com)  
 1949-Loyd,Charlie--[CDL1311@juno.com](mailto:CDL1311@juno.com)  
 1950-Hanson,Harry  
 1950-Bonomi-Nordahl,Lucy  
 1950-Carter-Gorrell,Patricia  
 1951-Angel,Lorraine  
 1952-Tezzi-Pryde,Toni  
 1953-Miller-Weller,Barbara-- [Eandbweller@aol.com](mailto:Eandbweller@aol.com)  
 1953-Pryde,Don  
 1953-Morris,Ray  
 1953-Deuker,Jerry  
 1954-Teese,Nancy  
 1955-Lawton,Bill--[whlawton@frontiernet.net](mailto:whlawton@frontiernet.net)  
 1956-Fonken,Jackie--[j\\_fonken@hotmail.com](mailto:j_fonken@hotmail.com)  
 1957-Fredrick-Hein,Marlene  
 1958-Smith-Bybee,Carlyn 1958-Gregovich-Brooks,Eileen  
 1958-Smith,Duncan  
 1958-Krabers,Richard  
 1959-Kelly,Darrel--[drkelly@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:drkelly@uclink.berkeley.edu)  
 1959-Taylor,,Jim  
 1960-Smith-Davis,Pennie  
 1960-Playle,Phil  
 1960-Arthur-Arkin,Barbara  
 1961-Pryde,Richard--[richpryde@aol.com](mailto:richpryde@aol.com)  
 1961-Courtright-Davis,Bea  
 1962-Balas-Creech,Juanita--[rbalas@earthlink.net](mailto:rbalas@earthlink.net)  
 1962-Humphrey,Sherry  
 1963-Bautista,Mark--[marcusec63@aol.com](mailto:marcusec63@aol.com)  
 1964-Gadwood,Leslie  
 1964-Olson,Jackie  
 1965-Kalis,Dennis--[dkalis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkalis@sbcglobal.net)  
 1966-Faccini-Berry,Sandy-- [berrypatch48@hotmail.com](mailto:berrypatch48@hotmail.com)  
 1966-Biagi-Breazeale,Linda  
 1966-Bradfield-Murphy,Denise  
 1967-Lee,Roddy-- [lcp1967@aol.com](mailto:lcp1967@aol.com),[ECHS1967@aol.com](mailto:ECHS1967@aol.com)  
 1968-Wilson,Don  
 1969-Sproul,Malcolm  
 1970-Nielsen,Cathy  
 1971-  
 1972-Dagna,Jerry--[jerrydinslo@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrydinslo@yahoo.com)  
 1972-Gambetti,Al  
 1973-Myer,Dale--[echs73@aol.com](mailto:echs73@aol.com)  
 1973-Clark,Darrell  
 1974-Jeffries,Belinda  
 1975-Tate-Robinson,Agnes--[aggi657@yahoo.com](mailto:aggi657@yahoo.com)  
 1976-Grunau-Reiss,Nancy-- [turtlereiss@hotmail.com](mailto:turtlereiss@hotmail.com)  
 1977-

1978-Reichle,Bill--bill@twistsf.com  
 1978- Smithey,Anna  
 1978-Nordahl,Donna  
 1979-Stinson,Aдриene  
 1979-Gallop,Gina  
 1980-Pierce,Karl--elosito2@aol.com  
 1980-Lewis-hampton,Marilyn--mlewis-hampton@acclanes.k12.ca.us  
 1981-Hamma,Denise  
 1982-Grubb,Roger--rogergrubb@comcast.net  
 1982-Larkin,Lisa  
 1982-McCarthy-Smith,Charlotte  
 1983-Chew,Donald--dnsenterp@home.com  
 1983-Boblitt,Lisa  
 1984-Hardy,Eric  
 1985-Jones,Roschelle  
 1985-Mitchell,Jennifer  
 1986-Yoshi,Kurt  
 1987-Barrocca,Michelle--barroccamm@cooley.com  
 1987-Tucker-Sherman,Trina--echs87@aol.com  
 1987-Smith-Griffiths,Sheldon--SHELDENG@FASH.NET  
 1988-Jones,Nicole--bignik@comcast.net  
 1989-Smith,Amber  
 1990-Fox,Larry--larrydafox@hotmail.com  
 1990-Lee,Christina  
 1990-Hunt,Margie 1991-Barton-McDonald,Chakay--LFC-OAKLAND@yahoo.com  
 1992-Ledet,Ranetta  
 1993-Coleman,Laivian--mrlgcoleman@hotmail.com  
 1994-Quick,Nancy--nequick@yahoo.com  
 1995-Rivera-Caulkins,Karyn--karyn\_calkins@hotmail.com  
 1995-Lau,Vivian--VivDog8@aol.com  
 1996-Thompson-Brown,Tina--tthompson@ehsd.co.contra-costa.ca.us  
 1997-  
 1998-  
 1999-  
 2000-  
 2001-Anderson,Brian--BDOGSS83@aol.com  
 2002-  
 2003-  
 2004-  
 2005-

Reunion Leaders, To change or add your contact information please email, Roddy Lee--ECArchives@aol.com.

#### [ECHS Alumni Website](#)

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### Green and White Video

#### *The Gaucho Story*

The long awaited DVD edition of "GREEN & WHITE: The Gaucho Story" is planned to be released soon. This documentary video, which was first shown at the 2005 ECHS Farewell weekend, is being extended to more than twice as long, with added stories from former faculty and principals, a special message from Mr. Rhea, and footage of the Farewell Weekend and demolition of the school. For those who have not already purchased a DVD, copies will be available for \$25 each. Ordering information will be available when the video is released. Contact Joann Steck-Bayat email: jsbayat@comcast.net.

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### How to donate to the ECHS Archiving Project

The ECHS Archiving is in need of continuous monetary support! In addition to restoring, preserving and displaying the many artifacts that were saved from the wrecking ball, this year we were also able to give three ECHS seniors \$1000.00 scholarships for college expenses. We would like to

continue our work in the future and here is how you can help.  
Contact Diane Chambers dianneminard@yahoo.com or just mail your check to; ECHS Archiving Project 2234 Lupine Rd, Hercules, CA 94547. All donations are tax deductible.

### Newsletter Subscribers

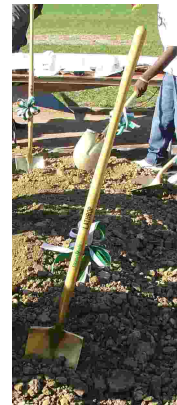
New sletter Subscribers Increasing! Hey, w hy not pass our new sletter on to other ECHS supporters and ask if they want to subscribe. Email ECarchives@aol.com to get on the distribution list!

### Museum Help

*Museum Excel Help Needed*

It is a time consuming and tedious job but needs to get done in preparation for the labeling of the times to be displayed in the new high school's museum. A curious, detailed person w ill love this job!

If you have any leads, please contact Joann Steck- Bayat at 510 524-9464 or jsbayat@comcast.net.



### Follow up Links

- [El Cerrito High School Online](#)
- [The El Cerrito High School Archiving Project](#)
- [West Contra Costa Unified School District](#)

### Executive Board

President Patricia Durham-Mitchell,'68; Vice President Renee (Havana) Stanley,'72 ; Secretary/ Alumni Coordinator, Jackie Fonken,'56; Treasurer Dianne Chambers,'69; Oral History/ Community Liaison, Janet Abelson;Consultant/ Cataloging/Museum, Joann Steck-Bayat; New sletter Editor, E-Tree and Database Manager, Roddy Lee,'67; Product Marketing, Donna Houser; Consultant/Museum/WCCUSD Strategic Planning Scholarship, Lu Tipping; Alumni Web Coordinator, Rebecca Boe; Event Site Coordinator/Alumni Coordinator, David Bilyeu,'65; PTSA Liaison Esther Hill, SAF Liaison/Music Coordinator, Gregg Mayer,'76.

El Cerrito High Archiving Project Mission Statement:  
Support the development of a strong El Cerrito High School alumni body - Collect, preserve and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School - Develop connections to current students and the El Cerrito community.

email: [ecarchives@aol.com](mailto:ecarchives@aol.com)  
phone: 510-525-0234

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