

Larry Throndsen

I was born in Portland Oregon, July 22, 1946.

I was raised in a small community known as Happy Valley. When I started grade school, we only had two rooms and two teachers; one was for the 1st through 4th and the other 5th through 8th with a total of 20 students. When I reached the 3rd grade the school expanded to four class rooms with four teachers and 40 students. The addition also included two new toilet rooms one for the boys and one for the girls. When a young man reached the 4th grade it was his right and privilege to participate in sports available at the school, actually before and after school. The walk to school was approximately 2 miles through the best farm land in the area (streams, ponds and fields,) so we would fish or hunt our way to school. We would deposit our catch or kill in the school refrigerator. The most important rule was to unload your gun at the play shed located at the back property line of the school. Then we would give our guns to our teacher and get them back after school. The fishing poles were just kept in the coat closet. By the time I was in the 6th grade, the school expanded to six room, eighty students, six teachers, one was also the principle. When I reached the seventh grade our school was absorbed by the large school district (Milwaukee School District.) Things changed. We couldn't bring our guns to school! Fishing poles were okay for the time being, that was soon to change.

I was elected student body president, the first and last seventh grader in the history of the school. Did I forget to tell you that the eighth grades were sent off to a place known as junior high school? The next year both the seventh and eighth graders were so doomed. After junior high school (Dale Icicles Jr. High School) it was off to the new Clackamas High school--we were the first freshman class and in 1964 we were the first class to graduate from the new school. During my high school years my activities centered on sports, skiing, hunting and fishing. Cars and girls were very high on my activity list.

After high school it was a very short stop in college then to avoid the draft, off to the Coast Guard Reserve. Thanks to a family friend, who was a captain in the coast Guard Reserve, I jump line and was on my way to becoming a gunner's mate. In 1966 after my time on active duty, I was back home, got married and moved to the Seattle area.

Now after 43 years of marriage, two sons, I'm still working at a profession I love. I really learn my profession from a teacher at that damn Junior High School. Thank God he was my teacher. Four architects and six designers, all who have won national awards, owe their success to Mr. Saddlesack. I am now a resident of the Edmonds Area. Thanks for letting me be a member of the Rotary Club of Edmonds.