

LETTER FROM

President

SUE WINNETT

Now that June is here with graduation ceremonies a fond memory, as well as the magnificent celebration honoring the retirement of our longtime principal and superintendent, Dr. Roger Rowe, it brings back memories of when I attended the Rancho Santa Fe Elementary School during the late 40's and early 50's.

The school then was not as grand as it is now. It was housed in what are now the RSF Association offices and consisted of three rooms. First through third grades were in one room, and fourth through sixth were in a second room. The room in between served as a combination recreation/auditorium complete with stage.

I don't recall the name of my teacher in the first three grades, but part of her teaching plan was for the third graders to help with the first and second graders. In first grade I must have paid a lot of attention to the other lessons because, when it was time to move up, I skipped right on to second grade. Helen Ross, mother of "Happy Day's" Marian Ross, was my teacher for the 4th, 5th and 6th grades, and the same type of teaching continued.

One of my clearest memories was when I was the 5th grade. *The entire 5th grade!* That's right. I was the only person in 5th grade! It was a tradition for the graduating 6th grade class to have a graduation party, and since they figured that I might not get one when I joined 6th grade, I was invited to the party at Knott's Berry Farm. Luckily for me, the next year five more students showed up for 6th grade, including Glenda Kawano Sumida (our present principal!) and I had another graduation party. It is amazing for me to walk around our present day school, so modern and so beautiful, and see how far it has come, and how much it has grown in such a short while.

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