



III. THE SIGNIFICANT 70's

A student walking the halls of Eureka School in the 1970's might have seen lockers decorated with smiley face stickers and maybe a Rubik's cube or "pet rock" stashed inside. Locks and lockers for the 7th and 8th graders were approved by the Board in January of 1970 at a cost of about \$2,100 plus \$1.80 for each lock.

Some of the maintenance concerns in 1970 were septic tank problems with the leach field at Eureka School, floor and roof repairs at Greenhills and roof repair at Eureka.

The average salary in the 1970's was \$7,564. Milk was 33 cent a quart, bread was 24 cents a loaf and round steak was \$1.30 a pound. Life expectancy for males: 67.1; females: 74.8.

"Major trends included a growing disillusionment of government, advances in civil rights, increased influence of the women's movement, a heightened concern for the environment, and increased space exploration."

70's culture included: mood rings, lava lamps, Rubik's cube, Sea Monkeys, smiley face stickers, pet rocks; streaking nude through public places, bellbottom pants, hot pants, platform shoes, leisure suits; first test tube baby was born; Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975; 1977 - Star Wars; VCR's, Atari, Intel Computer on a chip; Water Gate, Nixon resigns, Gerald Ford becomes President; Sesame Street, Roots TV miniseries, Happy Days, Jaws, Rocky, American Graffiti, Grease; Abba, Punk rock; families vacationed in station wagons and everyone wanted an RV.

(Kingwood College Library website)

Offering Electives a Long Process

Offering elective classes was first suggested in July of 1970, by Board member Lowell Shirley. The administration agreed to research what could be done, with the staff available, to offer elective classes.

The February 1, 1972 minutes indicated that an elective class would be offered for one hour on Friday, beginning the next week.

At the June 12, 1973 meeting, the Board agreed that choral music would be offered as an elective during the 1973-74 school year and that Mr. John Hayes would conduct a vocal music program at Eureka School with a budget of \$1,800. Parents came to the

meeting asking that band be continued and offering to help raise funds for the music program.

In September, 1973, Mr. Marv Odom, Principal of Eureka, presented the Elective Program to the Board, which consisted of chorus, mechanical drawing, Spanish, sewing, leather, slide-rule and painting. The Board accepted the elective of golf for a quarter. It was taught by Mr. Garcia, a golf pro, for \$5.00 per student. Mrs. Sharon Stovall expressed a desire to continue teaching sewing to the 7th and 8th grade girls and the Board approved the purchase of four sewing machines and one button-holer.

Substitute teacher pay was raised from \$20 to \$22 with long-term subs getting \$25 per day. The Board approved the Eureka Teachers Association in November, 1970.

A 10' x 60' 1969 Lancer Shell trailer was purchased for \$2400 plus tax and license to be used for a temporary reading room and office for Greenhills School.

Because of vandalism to the restrooms at Eureka School, on February 1, 1971 the Board eliminated recess for 7th and 8th students until March 26.

In July, 1971 the Board accepted the Wilhoff area into the District and authorized \$350 for the sidewalk to be widened between the 7th and 8th grade wings.

Parent Survey

A Community Questionnaire was approved by the Board with the purpose of gathering information that would help in the planning and operation of Eureka Union School District. (This evolved into the parent surveys that have been done every 2-4 years since that time.)

Four aides were hired at \$2.00 per hour for six teachers at Greenhills to assist with math, reading and with the kindergarten.

Eureka-Gate!

The Board was informed of a break-in at the District Office in February, 1972. Keys to the District van were stolen and it was taken for a ride—not once, but twice. The van was re-keyed but after learning that an alarm system would cost \$2,500 to \$3,000, Supt. Bartell decided the vandalism didn't warrant such an expenditure at that time.

With 300 overdue library books (and only 700+ students), a fine system was discussed.

Marv Odom was named **Principal at Eureka School** for the 1972-73 school year.

In September, 1972, the Board approved the installation of a 550-gallon diesel tank for \$900.

Miss Ernestine Prather, kindergarten teacher, retired in June of 1973. (Sadly, she never got her polar bear cuffs back!)

Shortages

The 70's was a decade of gasoline and paper shortages. By the end of 1973, the Board moved to temporarily suspend field trips until fuel allocation was determined and bus stops were reviewed to curtail stops in an effort to save fuel. The cost of butane was 13 cents per gallon in 1973 and 31 cents in 1974. An additional supply of ditto paper had been ordered at almost twice the original pool purchase cost. The school calendar was not sent home in May due to the paper shortage.

In addition to fuel and paper shortages, there was a shortage of adequate classroom space for students. At a March 5, 1974 meeting, overcrowding was addressed. Rather than go to double sessions, it was suggested that the most practical solution would be the use of the multi-purpose rooms. On March 14, 1974, V.L. Gavel was awarded the contract to build the addition at Greenhills for \$243,032, subject to State approval.

District enrollment in April, 1974 was 827 and test results showed that Eureka children scored above the State average.

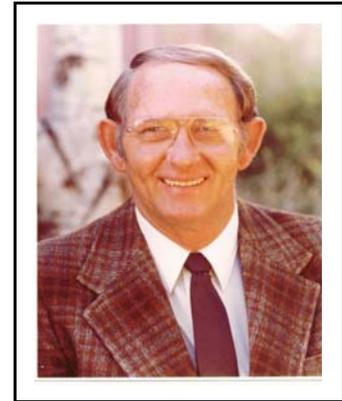
The Board agreed to have PG&E run a gas line down Eureka Road to the school from Barton Road at a cost of \$1168.24, which would enable the District to save approximately \$3,700 per year.

Another break-in at Eureka School caused glass breakage which cost \$446 plus custodian salary and material for repairing doors.

The district purchased an SCM copy machine for \$999.

With the easing of fuel shortages, the Board reinstated one field trip per teacher in September of 1974. In October, the Board recognized the creation of the Eureka Union Parent's Club, which replaced the PTA.

The sound of music could be heard three days a week after the Board hired Mr. Schilling to teach band during the regular school day in November of 1974. The



Marv Odom

Board also approved an after-school recreation program under Mr. Mikulecky through March.

On **December 19, 1974**, Ron Walker was appointed Acting Superintendent, due to the long-term illness of Mr. Bartell. He continued his responsibilities as principal at Greenhills School with the administrative assistance of Mrs. Bilyeu. Mr. Odom and Mr. Walker were granted a \$500 bonus in recognition of their past performances and added responsibilities and Mrs. Bilyeu received a \$100-a-month bonus.



At the January 14, 1975 Board meeting, Mrs. Harmer presented a statement from the taxpayers of the district, commending the Board and administration for the fine music and Spanish programs now in effect. EUSD had 893 students enrolled, plus 15 E.H. students.

There was a short dedication of the new building at Greenhills at the February 19, 1975 Parents Club meeting. In March, the Board discussed setting up a program for gifted students.

At a special meeting on March 13, a representative from Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) outlined the procedures to be used in selecting a new superintendent. On March 26, Dr. Harold Weaver was hired as an advisor to the Board in selecting a District Superintendent, at a rate of \$100 per day, not to exceed \$700.



Supt. Dale Bartell passed away in March of 1975 at the age of 51 from cancer. According to his family, "Dale was so excited when he was going to be a grandpa, but he didn't live to see that event happen. There are 7 grandchildren now and 8 great-grandchildren. Just one grandchild, Joy Terry, followed in his footsteps and has recently received her teaching credential. She is now a substitute teacher in this area.

Dale Bartell was a man who loved spending time with his family. He was raised on a farm in Nebraska. He always enjoyed going back to the Omaha area to visit. School was his life, his son Dennis relates. He always found time to visit with students, faculty, parents and friends.

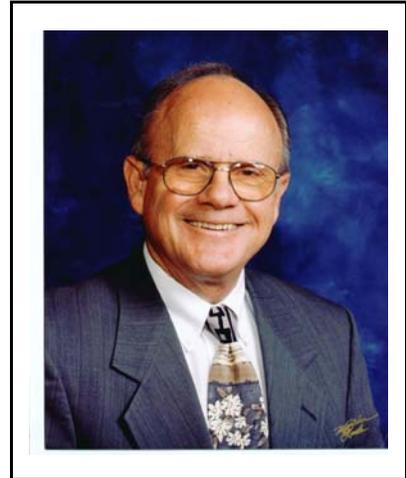
Marge Hayes added, "Our small faculty enjoyed working with him each day. Dale was a very kind and caring person, highly respected and fun to be around. We will all remember him as a most sincere and friendly individual."

In April, 1975 the regular monthly Board meeting was approved to be held the

second Tuesday of each month. The Student Council voted to start a memorial fund for Mr. Dale Bartell.

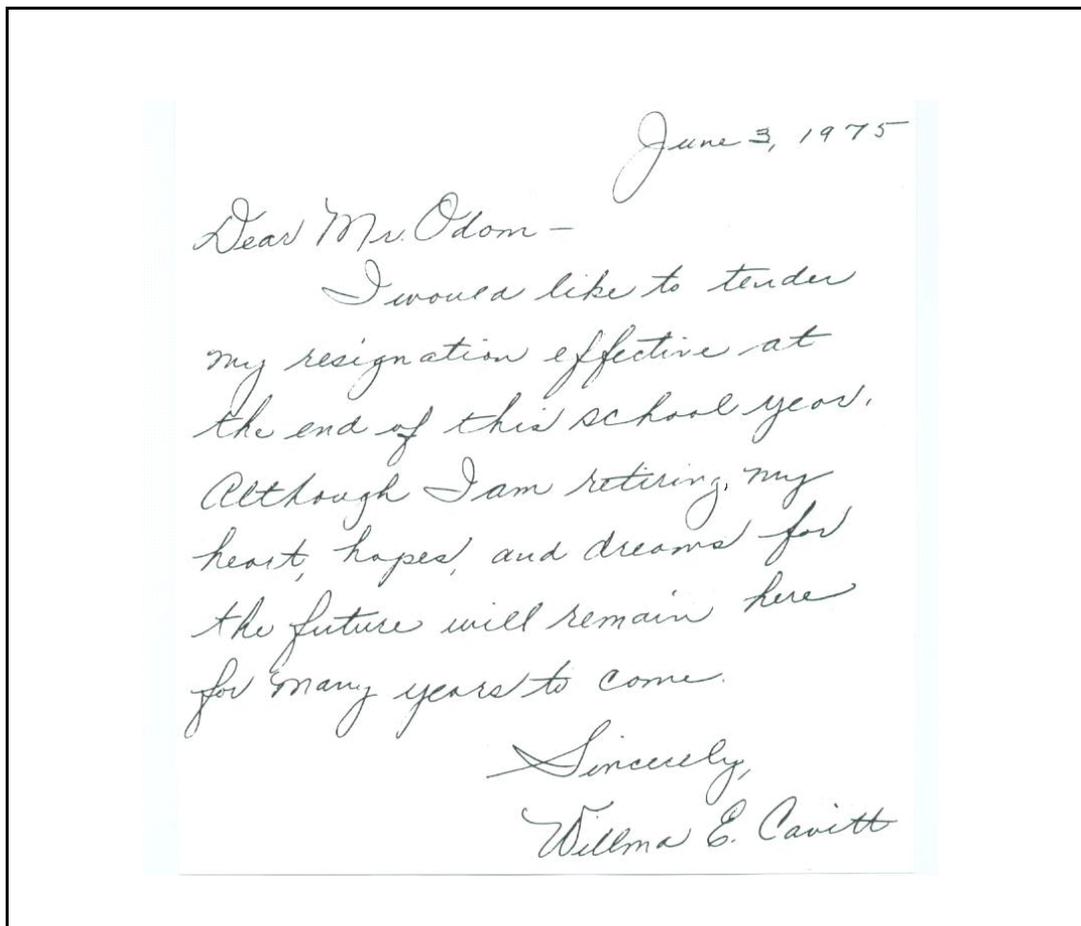
Mr. Carroll W. "Wally" Newberry was presented by the Board as the new Superintendent on June 10, 1975. He was given a 4-year contract and the Board authorized expenditure of up to \$2500 for remodeling the Superintendent's office.

At the same meeting, the Board reluctantly accepted Mrs. Willma Cavitt's letter of resignation and expressed gratitude for her 26 years of service.



Wally Newberry

In her letter, Mrs. Cavitt stated:



At her retirement party, Willma was presented with a quilt-covered book proclaiming, "This is Your Life," Willma Cavitt.

"When I get a little blue, I take out the book they made me and read the statements," she said.

One paragraph stood out: "You will always be remembered as the one who would stay after hours to aid a struggling student, to prepare her lessons...We will also remember that if a student fell in a mud puddle during recess, they would have clean clothes, and that there would be an extra can of soup if they forgot their lunch."

What her students must have come away with was knowledge of common sense and compassion, as well as a good grounding in the "three R's."

Willma retired to her modest ranch house on Cavitt-Stallman Road, the street named after her husband's family, after 50 years of teaching, surrounded by photographs and memories of teaching the families of Granite Bay, Roseville and Loomis.

Always a "giver" to the community, her colleagues, students and neighbors gave back to Willma by naming the Willma Cavitt Junior High School for her. A plaque at the base of the flagpole at Sierra College also honors "Willma Cavitt for the gift of volcanic rock used throughout this campus."

A great educator himself, Henry Adams once said, "A teacher affects eternity. He or she can never tell where their influence stops."

If you consider these words, it would be impossible to calculate Willma Cavitt's influence on the students she taught for 50 years. Her legacy, however, can be seen today. The little country school with 39 students has grown into the present-day Eureka Union School District. A far cry from the four-room school house that brought learning to a growing corner of Placer County.

Our state's present severe financial crisis has seriously affected funding in our public school system. But, as Willma Cavitt said to me, "It's your attitude that counts." Her spirit is seen in the "attitude" of the parents and teachers in the Eureka Union School District, who have rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to volunteer to meet the deficit challenge through their fund-raising efforts. I think Willma would be very proud." (from an article by Janice Freeman, Granite Bay View)

On July 8, 1975, the Board approved supporting a bike trail along Eureka Road that would make riding to school safer for students. They agreed to continue minimum days every Friday at Greenhills for grades 1-3. Mrs. Peterson was assigned as a full-time (10-month) District Bookkeeper.

In August, the Board directed Mr. Newberry to develop a comprehensive 5-year education Master Plan for handling growth in the Eureka Union School District. Laura Hammond was hired as secretary to the Superintendent.

In September of 1975, there were 960 students. Funds were being collected for a tree area at Greenhills School for a Bartell memorial. Monies received from the sale of P.E. clothes were added to the fund. The dedication of the Dale Bartell Memorial was held on May 12, 1976 with Supt. of Placer County Schools, Kenneth Lonergan making the presentation.

Board visitations to school sites began in November, 1975. At this time, there were only two schools - Eureka and Greenhills. At this writing, the Board visits nine school sites.

In January of 1976, Eureka Union School District was no longer a "direct service district," due to enrollment surpassing 900 students. The ADA increased by \$10 per student but services from the County for speech, nurse and psychologist were no longer provided. The cost to contract these services with the County about equaled the ADA increase.

A bond election in March, 1976, was successful. The Eureka Union Faculty Organization was recognized. The eighth grade class was give permission to operate a student store. Marv Odom was reassigned from Principal of Eureka School to a classroom position, effective July 1, 1976, at his request.

On June 2, 1976, the 8th grade graduation was held at Sierra College.

The Board authorized the Superintendent to respond on their behalf on future subdivision will-serve letters.

Dave Freeman was hired as Principal of Eureka School, effective July 1, 1976. Also in July, the Secretary to the Supt. and District Bookkeeper were placed on a 12-month work year with full individual dental coverage. Board meetings were changed to the second Wednesday of every month, beginning in September.



Dave Freeman

In August, 1976, Board meetings were changed to the third Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The resignations of Supt. Secretary, Laura Hammond and former principal, Marvin Odom were accepted.

In September, Ed Seaman was hired as a teacher and Suzanne Sherwood was hired as secretary to the Superintendent. Don Heldt and the men and women who served as the South Placer Fire Department installed new playground equipment at Greenhills School.

In October, the Board approved a modified wood shop program using hand tools. This class was taught by Al Youngblood. A large number of 4th graders were involved in general music and about 65 fifth through eighth graders had been taught the rudiments of instrumental music.

In November, Mr. Freeman reported the pilot program of a nutritional snack offering

to students during morning recess had been a huge success.

By February of 1977, the District had 1,005 students plus 19 special education students.

Alarming Developments for EUSD

Security at the school sites was becoming a concern and alarm systems were installed at both schools. Later, the Community Service Radio Patrol was approved to patrol on and around our campuses to deter vandals. In March, 1978, the Board approved the installation of security gates to Eureka School due to recent damage to the administration building.

In April, the Board approved the Notice of Completion and acceptance of portables at Greenhills and Eureka Schools. Staggered-Day Reading was introduced to grades 1, 2 and 3 in September of 1977 to enhance the reading program for all children in the primary grades by reducing the teacher-student ratio for reading instruction by approximately 50%. In May, the Board approved the 8th grade graduate trip to Marriott's Great America.

The Board approved the Superintendent's contract at a salary of \$29,000 per year with the use of a district-leased car and a \$50 per month gas allotment.

The Philosophy Statement for the Gifted Program was adopted in August of 1977. Ron Walker was appointed director of the MGM (mentally gifted minor) project.

At the November Board meeting, the Board chose to name the proposed new middle school in honor of Willma Cavitt. The Notice of Completion was approved for the final phase at Greenhills School. The Outdoor Education project (Alliance Redwoods) was being planned for 6th grade students. It was presented in December by Dave Freeman and his 6th grade staff.

In January, 1978, the Mentally Gifted Minor Program was approved for grades 3 through 8. School site councils were established as a result of AB 65. Closed Session for the Board was called Executive Session and these were held in the Superintendent's office. Ronald Walker and Dave Freeman were principals. The Cavitt School site was purchased for \$9,608 per acre (22.377 acres east of Auburn-Folsom Road) for a total of \$215,000.

In April, 1978, SB 90 and AB 65 enabled the District to remain in a dual-building program (permanent and portable facilities); therefore, avoiding the necessity of double sessions or other alternative solutions to overcrowding. In May an Impact Resolution passed in Placer County which allowed EUSD to have a fee of \$1,000 per permit.

The Board approved the site contract for Willma E. Cavitt School, with Gordon King, school architect of Stafford, King and Associates, to do the necessary work for Phase I site and utilities development for working drawings for the buildings.

Summer school was cancelled since there would be no reimbursement from the State and the District could not finance it without making reductions in the regular September to June educational program.

In November, 1978, the Board approved EUSD joining other districts within Placer County in establishing a Joint Powers Board for maintaining self-insurance programs for workers' compensation and insuring in other areas.

A resolution passed in February of 1979 authorized reserving funds for re-roofing the east wing of Greenhills School, re-surfacing the west parking lot of Greenhills, landscaping Greenhills, dedication of Greenhills, painting Eureka School, leasing portables and/or moving portables to Cavitt School, providing furniture and other related capital expenses for the new campus.

Robert Coker signed an agreement in June, 1979, giving EUSD the option to purchase ten specific acres of land, in what was to become Johnson Ranch, at a set minimum price up to the year 1984.

A 12x52 foot trailer was leased as a special education facility to be placed on the Greenhills campus in August. Janet Schimpf was appointed as Assistant Principal at Greenhills and Coordinator of District Curriculum and Personnel Projects.

Substitute teacher pay was adjusted from \$30 to \$35 per day and after 21 days on the same assignment, \$50 per day.

In December, 1979, a boundary change was made to include Hidden Lakes, Phase 5.

| Board Members in the 1970's: | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Dick Lemos | Nell Lester | Lowell Shirley |
| Bette Muegge | Madelaine Kiliany | Dr. Steve Christensen |
| Ray Holden | Garry Genzlinger | David Tooker |
| Lynda Leitner | M. Ray Holden | |
| The Board met at Eureka School library. Some meetings went past midnight. | | |