



...remembering



the EAST High class of  
1953 50 year reunion

## EAST HIGH SCHOOL \* CLASS OF 1953

### 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

AUGUST 23, 2003

East High School...it's traditions and commitment to excellence have been a trademark in education for almost a century. It is fair to say that an East High diploma really means something...it always has. Fire, remodeling, new additions and eventually a completely new structure have challenged the memory of the familiar old building we knew and loved. However, its location on 13<sup>th</sup> East has been home to thousands of students who have dressed in the fashion of the day and studied principles of learning that are timeless. From the time it first opened its doors in 1914 as a fledgling new secondary school on the edge of town, this is a school that has made a difference in people's lives and in the community as well.

It has been said that the 1950s were the 'golden years'. It was our 'coming of age'. Spirit and unity were common themes in this golden era. We were a unique breed of individuals...born in the depression years, experiencing childhood during World War II, remembering VJ Day and banging pans and shouting, "the war is over"!

As we entered High School, Dwight D. Eisenhower was President. Peace talks were being negotiated to bring an end to the Korean conflict, and Viet Nam was a long way off. 800 POWs were freed, and 'brainwashing' became a household word. A new threat, world communism, echoed in our ears as we approached early teens; yet we enjoyed prosperity...new cars, plenty of gas, bubble gum and nylons. Life was good.

The summer that we graduated in June, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted atomic spies, were executed at Sing Sing Prison. Queen Elizabeth II was crowned, and Joseph Stalin died; Mount Everest was conquered for the first time. A loaf of bread cost 16c, a gallon of gas 20c. An annual income averaged \$4000.00. TV Guide was first published, and everyone's favorite TV couple was Ricky and Lucy Riccardo.

"Shrimp Boats Are A Comin'" was at the top of the Hit Parade for 16 weeks; Nat King Cole's "They Tried To Tell Us We're Too Young" expressed the tender feelings of young love. "No Other Love Have I" and "Stranger In Paradise" were also popular love songs; but the top song hit of the year was "Rock Around the Clock". 1953's top Academy Award picture was "From Here To Eternity". William Holden was Best Actor for "Stalag 17" and Audrey Hepburn won the Best Actress Award for "Roman Holiday".

From its beginning East had posted its colors of Red and Black, while West High used Black and Red. Even our school newspaper reflected the Red and Black name. As

students, we witnessed the change of colors to Cardinal and White and a new name for the school publication... "The Leopard".

A new gymnasium was built for \$450,000. Traveling assemblies between schools began. Students went to Lagoon and the Avalon, and dined at Harmon's Café, Hot Shoppes or Don Carlos Barbeque.

Sophomores wore beanies; white bucks, Bermuda shorts and Stradivari shirts were 'in', as were the labels: Lantz, Jantzen and Florsheim. Boys wore slacks to school and girls wore 'poodle' skirts, ruffled petticoats and 'Mary Janes'

The 'Mixers Club' was dedicated to helping students mix with others instead of sitting out or dancing with the same person. Students did the 'Bunny Hop', 'Jitterbug' or 'The Drag'. Matinee dances were held in the ballroom. There were 'Mother and Son' parties and 'Father and Daughter' events. Debate flourished under Mr. Zarr, and everyone was made to feel that he/she was Lefty Bennett's best friend.

For the first time in two decades the Red and White copped the State Championship in football. 'Tally's Terrors' made shambles of their disheartened opponents and emerged the undefeated State Champs of 1952. These were the days when the EHAG Tea or East High Carnival got top billing in Elaine Cannon's Deseret News 'Hi Tales' column, and the East High Homecoming Queen had her picture on the Society page of the Tribune.

As Seniors, we were led through a bright and eventful year by a Student Body President who was a happy combination of friendliness, intelligence and sportsmanship...with a vigor that amazed even the hardest of individuals. We all loved 'Cov'...and still do. Coming to East High as a new principal, Dr. Arbogast organized everything into top shape and won for himself the friendship and admiration of the entire student body. Lorraine Bowman became the nucleus of musical life. She combined her talent, clever witticisms, and sparkling personality into a vivacious bundle of energy. With a Blair's 'Green River' as her trademark and humor her password, Miss Bowman found a place in the heart of East High. Choral music stood front and center with her "Partridge In A Pear Tree" at Christmas, and "God Be With You" on the closing assembly.

As our High School years came to a close, with it came healed disappointments, new hope and stronger faith. After graduation came a new life beyond. We were all builders, carving blocks of dreams, for youth is the creator of dreams, and hopefully, through these 50 years of building, many of those dreams have become a reality.

East High was built to offer education to students...for East High is the people who have walked its halls, used its books, cheered its teams and struggled through challenges together. So well has this institution carried that banner that its future is secure knowing that 'L' is for "Leopards All Victorious" and 'E' is for "East High Ever Glorious".