

BIOGRAPHY - LANNY RUCK

Lanny Ruck Biography

While I don't remember Vic Hermosillo, he pegged my feelings about going through high school unnoticed, save being caught cheating in Ms. Matthews chemistry class (does adversely effect your dean's list standing) and making more errors than any second baseman in El Paso High School Baseball History! In my defense, I did hit it the top ten . . . around 6th or 7th on information and belief? Suffice to say that the "highlight" of my baseball/softball career (35 years) occurred at age 10 when AB Poe beat Vanderpool's Bakery for the Little League City Championship as noted in the El Paso Herald Post the next day: "Cinderella Kids Win Championship" (I think we were 200 to 1 odds in Vegas)!

Happy Days was a successful TV series with the "Fonz", etc., but high school for me was not really "happy days" that I remember all that fondly. I suspect

this was because I was very small and basically shy with people I didn't know. As a practical matter, I didn't have any enemies and most of my friends were in the class of 64; mainly acquaintances from grade school or other grade schools whom I played Gray-Y (whatever it was called back then?) sports against. The only person I actually remember disliking is not on our graduation list; he threatened me on numerous occasions, he was shot dead on the streets of Juarez in the late 60's, and I took Mark Twain's attitude to a degree that while I didn't attend his funeral, I enjoyed reading his obituary (he was a thug and a criminal)! I did apologize many years ago to the one classmate I felt I had wronged but he did not remember the incident and I was grateful! While also not on our graduation list, I owe my final apology from my high school days to Rick Stone; I was rude and belligerent to him one night at a friend's house and I hope he will forgive me. It took me several years after Vietnam to lose my aggression and become a pacifist!



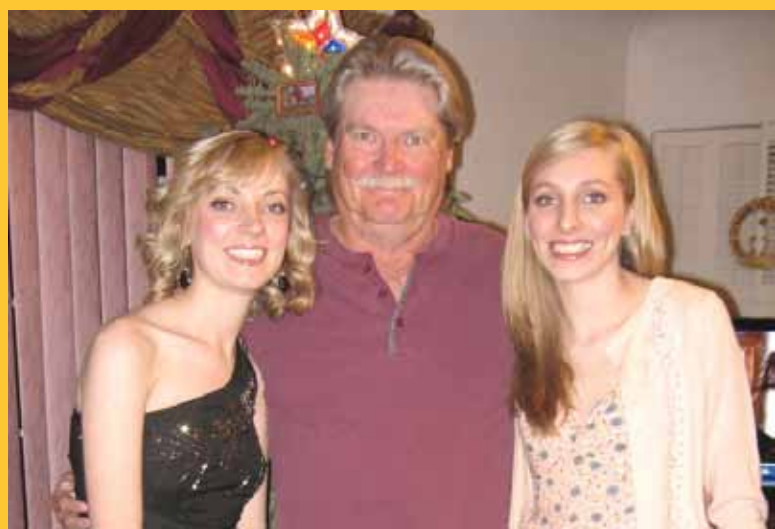
CEOEPE Anaheim Convention 1999



Vietnam 1970 - Lanny is in the middle

I went from Burges to New Mexico State (electrical engineering) and after three years transferred to UTEP. I was on the nine year college plan to avoid Vietnam but after I changed majors for the third time in year 5, I had to take a foreign language. I flunked Spanish twice in summer school and was quickly drafted. I did basic at Ft. Bliss, advanced at Ft. Sill, and OCS at Ft. Sill. Not wanting to be a forward observer in Vietnam, I volunteered for everything. I was accepted in Flight School and went to Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. I flew 1100 hours in Vietnam, most of which was combat assault, and I quickly adapted to the situation. Once you adapt to it, the adrenalin high of war is a hard thing to replace. At least, it was very hard for

me and I proceeded to high stakes gamble and experiment with recreational drugs (never intravenously) for the next 15 years of my life! I am a life member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's Association and the 101st Airborne Division Association (National Parliamentarian since 2004) and attend military reunions all over the country two or three times a year.



Lana, Lanny and Lela

As luck would have it, I got a job with the railroad in 1974 (several close friends from the class of 64 already worked there) that I truly loved and it offset many of my bad habits or at least didn't give me much time to pursue them. Despite all the questionable decisions in my life, I found my niche in life in the railroad union; I would become a "representative" of others. I was extremely successful in discipline cases and somehow got elected to the International Board of Appeals at the quadrennial convention in Hawaii in 1991. The job gave me new insight into the corruption of the hierarchy of the International Union. I put out a newsletter fighting the corruption for many years called the "El Paso Express". I got sued by a Union VP for 6 million dollars for alleged violation of the Federal Wiretap Act and represented

myself in Federal Court, Federal Appeals Court, and the Supreme Court (certiorari denied) pro se in several cases that took over 7 years to completion. While they never got a dime (nor was I guilty), my climb up the union ladder was quickly halted, and I left the industry in 2001 after 27 years with an occupational disability account my back.

I married Melissa Fiegel Healy (Burgess 1970) in 1985 and we had daughters Lela and Lana in 1988 and 1990. Lana will graduate from Texas Tech in May and will probably seek more education. Lela graduated from UTEP in 2010 as a "top ten senior" (3.96 GPA in Microbiology) and is now in her sophomore year at Texas Tech Medical School as an honors student. Picture of my lovely daughters allegedly attached with one from my union days and one from Vietnam? I did not marry until I was 39 years of age but I got a keeper; a really good woman and I look forward to growing old with her!

I did do 5 years on the El Paso Civil Service Commission and am the only person to be denied a final term to a voluntary board (moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda and an immediate "Executive Session") for alleged lack of respect for staff by a vote of 5 to 4. Quite frankly, I still have no respect for "staff" that deliberately lie and fabricate evidence to win cases against the employees. Of course, they really threw me off because of my expertise in representation and my persuasiveness with the other Commissioners, of which 7 of 9 were from management/professional pursuant to City Charter (clearly they wanted an advantage when they originally established the Commission).

In conclusion, I hope each of my fellow class mates will come on here and place a biography soon; you don't have to admit to having bad habits or making mistakes in life (I'm probably the only one in that category anyway), just throw something out there that is plausible (hehe); your classmates are very intelligent, they know bovine feces when they see it! Indeed, my idea for the logo contest was a purple shirt with the yellow Mustang head on the front and yellow lettering on the back that said: "IF you graduated from any high school in El Paso in 1963 other than Burgess; I'm smarter than YOU! We did get a superior education to that which is available today. Hell, even I'm smart enough to know that my T-shirt borders on being politically incorrect!

I hope I see all of you at the 2013 reunion and I encourage you to participate early to aid the Reunion Committee in setting up a 50th Reunion to remember! Hang in there and always have a nice day. Lanny Ruck PS: While I closed my El Paso Express webpage many years ago, you may visit <http://www.thelancers.org/> for pictures and articles within the Lancer Homepage and recent newsletters if you so desire. If you do, you will see that I believe pictures play a prominent roll in our lives and encourage you all to place some recent pictures of yourself and family with your biography!