



## Paul J. Betschart Biography

Paul J. Betschart moved to Elk Grove from the Woodland area in 1937. He spent his days working for Castello Golden Crest Dairy and spent his evenings playing softball at Elk Grove Park. It was at Elk Grove Park's softball night that he met his wife, Fern Clark. Paul and Fern had three children: Clark, Bruce, and Paula. In 1941, Paul was inducted into active military service and served with the 184th Infantry Regiment until 1945, when he received an honorable discharge. Paul returned home to Elk Grove and opened a Union Oil Service Station at Highway 99 and Elk Grove Boulevard. In 1954 he moved the station to its present location at 2nd Avenue and Elk Grove Boulevard, and continued to serve Elk Grove residents until his retirement in 1983.

Paul was also active in the Elk Grove community. His interest in his children and his love for sports made him realize that there was a need for organized youth sports in the Elk Grove area. Subsequently, Paul became instrumental in organizing Elk Grove's first Little League and Babe Ruth baseball leagues. He served as the first President for each of these leagues. Paul's interest in youth sports also extended to the high school level. He acted as the Elk Grove High School's Football Team timekeeper for 25 years, without ever missing a game.

Paul's community involvement was not just focused on youth activities. Paul has been actively involved and held many offices in the Elk Grove Lions Club including: being a charter member; having 40 years of perfect attendance; serving as President and Past President; and serving as Secretary. Paul was also a volunteer Fireman for 25 years including serving as the Assistant Fire Chief during his last five years. He served on the Western Festival Board of Directors as well as many other local committees. In 1964, Paul was named Elk Grove Citizen of the Year.

*The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.*