



Johnson Park History

For decades, Toby and Sue Johnson have been dedicated educators, contributing volunteers and outstanding representatives of the Elk Grove community.

Born in San Francisco, Toby moved at two years of age to Courtland, where his grandparents had farmed since the 1890's. Shortly thereafter his family moved to Sacramento. Toby attended public schools, graduating in 1934 from Sacramento High School.

Later he attended Sacramento City College, before transferring to U.C. Berkeley. In 1944, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, and following his honorable discharge, Toby purchased a ranch on Hood-Franklin Road and worked in private enterprise. In 1950, Toby received his Bachelors Degree in elementary and secondary education at Sacramento State, and in 1957 he completed a Masters Degree in Public School Administration.

His first education employment was at Franklin Elementary, where he was hired as a teacher and mid-year promoted to principal. He worked extensively for 14 years in the Arden Carmichael and San Juan Unified School Districts, before heading back to the south county to become superintendent of the Arcohe Union School District. In 1978, he was elected Sacramento County Supervisor for the Fifth District. As county supervisor, he actively represented the Fifth District and Sacramento County for 16 years.

It was during Toby's years as principal of Mira Loma High School in the San Juan Unified School District that he met Sue, a teacher at the school. Sue was born in Davenport, Iowa and attended the University of Iowa, majoring in Physical Education.

Sue's volunteer contributions to the community are significant. She serves as president of the Elk Grove Cooperative Preschool; was a member of the School Site Planning Councils at Franklin Elementary, Joseph Kerr Middle School and Elk Grove High; and served as president of the Parent's Club at Kerr and Elk Grove High. The Johnsons are also members of the Elk Grove Historical Society.

In 1986, Sue helped found Elk Grove's Strauss Festival and worked to provide the Elk Grove community with a permanent performing arts facility, Strauss Island. Since 1988, she has worked tirelessly as chairman of the board of directors for the Strauss Festival, an event that now entertains some 40,000 people each summer.

Toby and Sue are celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. They have four children, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

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