

Nick Ataga Remembers Memorial Day, 1958

nick antaga

2:07 PM (3 hours ago)

to me, Sonya, Cean, Bradford, Evelyn

Hi Kevin,

My attempt at courtesy is because I am 68 years old and that is how we were taught by our parents. Sonya, Cean, Evelyn, and Bradford are older with even better manners.

Thanks for the offer to share your research. I have some material from Old Oakland that might be helpful if donated to libraries. Many of the image files are from photos and color slides taken by my father who was a photographer.

My concern is finding the time to document any contributions. I've attached one such example. Memorial Day Parade, ending at Veteran's Park taken around 1958. My brother, Mike, is seated in the center of the photo and is wearing a light blue jacket. Try zooming in to see all the details. Incredible capture of the citizens, their clothes, their vehicles, etc. This was originally a color slide and I copied it at high definition. Mike would have loved this scene of him with all the Vets since he joined the Navy after graduating from Ramapo high school. At the time, we called this Potash Park because Mayor Potash dug the crater and sold the gravel, at least that was the rumor. There was a similar excavation behind Valley School and the site of the VFW Hall.

Let me give some thought into how I can best contribute while being mindful of time commitments and privacy concerns. Meanwhile, thanks for all you do to preserve the history of Oakland.

Best,
Nick

From: Kevin Heffernan <kheffernan555@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 5, 2018 4:11 PM

To: nick antaga <nick@antaga.com>

Cc: Sonya Huhn <shuhn2000@gmail.com>; Cean <CeanM@aol.com>; Bradford Boone <Banjol@aol.com>; Evelyn <sensaleeh@gmail.com>

Attachments area



Kevin Heffernan <kheffernan555@gmail.com>

3:31 PM (1 hour ago)

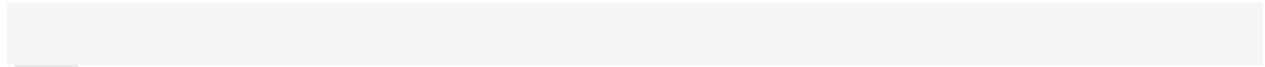
to nick

Nick,

Thanks for the photo. It also reveals a bit of Oakland history as the white home in the upper left is gone and replaced by a funeral home. Also, there are 48 stars on the flag, the house across the street is now 2 stories and the drainage ditch in Veterans Park is gone. Al Potash in his memoirs makes the claim that it was he with his company that filled in the void in the front of the community building enabling the development of Veterans Park in the first place. I refer to Potash as Chain Saw Al as it was he who single handedly fostered the destruction of Oakland's architectural heritage.

Attached is an alternate view of the same 1958 Memorial Day ceremony. Note that your brother is standing in this picture. Also, where are the cadets from the Oakland Military Academy?

2 Attachments



nick antaga

5:10 PM (15 minutes ago)

to me

Hi Kevin:

Wow, I'm impressed! By your ability to pull up a corroborating photo in minutes plus your attention to detail. Counting stars, really?

I've attached some additional photos from that event. Mike was chosen as the wreath bearer and we were all quite proud.

I was there with my Cub Scout Den; that's me in the front row right side of the frame. The man with the injured right arm was a WW II Vet who's name I can't recall.

The white house you mention was occupied by the Taylor family. Anne Taylor was my Mother's best friend. Her husband, Red, was the inspiration for Mike becoming a sailor and owning a sailboat.

Red had sailed the South Pacific years before moving to Oakland.

If I recall correctly, Mr. Slingerland opened the funeral home in the early 60's. His son, Peter, was a couple of years older than me.

I'll share some other excavation photos for your Al Potash file.

By the way, you are free to use anything I send you in your research. However, I don't want to be credited or mentioned.

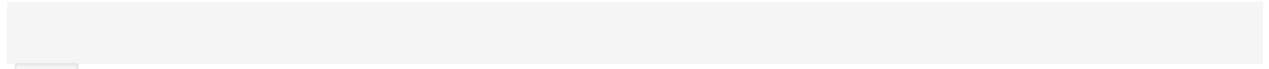
Best,
Nick

From: Kevin Heffernan <kheffernan555@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2018 10:32 AM

To: nick antaga <nick@antaga.com>

4 Attachments



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