

Where Have All the Businesses Gone?

One of the most important characteristics associated with Peoria High School was the sense of family. When you look at the businesses that prospered in Peoria prior to the huge growth of the 1970s, 80s and 90s, you can see the importance of the businesses but also in the kids of these families that attended Peoria High School. Below are listed the families, the year of their graduation from Peoria High School and the business they ran in the city of Peoria.

We welcome your input in correcting our mistakes or in adding other businesses and graduates to our story.

Sun Maid Grocery (Downtown Peoria)

Edmund Tang Class of 1946, Edward Tang Class of 1948, Pauline Tang Class of 1950, Irene Tang Class of 1951, Pearl Tang Class of 1959, Edmund's Kids – Susan Tang Class of 1976, Sharon Tang Class of 1978, Bruce Tang Class of 1979, Sandra Tang Class of 1983, Roland Tang Class of 1984

Texaco Service Station (Corner of Peoria and Grand Avenue)

Gene Reynolds Class of 1941, Eileen Reynolds Class of 1968. Paula Reynolds Class of 1969

Kosier's Hardware (83Rd Avenue in downtown Peoria)

Conley Kosier Class of 1934, Earl Kosier Class of 1935, Marie Kosier Class of 1937, Jim Kosier Class of 1957, Cheryl Kosier Class of 1965, Kathy Kosier Class of 1979

Peoria Dry Cleaning (83rd Avenue in downtown Peoria)

Larry Bodenstedt Class of 1955, Harlin Bodenstedt Class of 1958, Marlin Bodenstedt Class of 1958, Cheryl Bodenstedt Class of 1961

Senseman Insurance (Downtown Peoria)

Bill Senseman Class of 1943, Wayne Senseman Class of 1947, Ed Senseman Class of 1948, Mildred Senseman Class of 1950, Paul Senseman Class of 1953, Henry Senseman Class of 1954

Saliba's Market (Downtown Peoria)

Joe Saliba Class of 1940, Richard Saliba Class of 1952, Lynda Saliba Class of 1959, Jim Saliba Class of 1966

Signal Oil Bulk Gas/Oil Plant (Downtown Peoria)

Gene Holmes (Owner) Class of 1937, Fred Holmes Class of 1934, Frances Holmes Class of 1936, Dorothy Holmes Jutson Class of 1943, Louise Holmes Christian Class of 1948,

**Gene Holmes Family – Ken Holmes Class of 1965, Randy Holmes Class of 1969
Dorothy Holmes Family –Ivan Jutson Class of 1945, Mike Jutson Class of 1965
Kathy Jutson Class of 1973**

Louise Holmes Family – Ron Christian Class of 1968, Gerri Christian (Coronado) Class of 1969, Don Christian Class of 1972

Aguayo's Market (Downtown – West Peoria)

Juanita Aguayo Class of 1968, Magdalena Aguayo Class of 1970, Estella Aguayo Class of 1973, Ed Aguayo Class of 1974, Martina Aguayo Class of 1978, Delia Aguayo Class of 1979, Gloria Aguayo Class of 1982

Jimmy's Signs (Near present day City Hall) – owned by Jim Montoya

Barbara Montoya Class of 1947, Richard Montoya Class of 1950, Herbert Montoya Class of 1953, David Montoya Class of 1955, Jimmy Montoya Class of 1965, Kathy Montoya Class of 1967, Robbie Montoya Class of 1969, Rusty Montoya Class of 1974

Manuel's Bar (Grand Avenue – Downtown Peoria)

Trini Leyva Class of 1938, Irma Leyva Class of 1951, Manuel Leyva Class of 1952, Rene Leyva Class of 1962

Toni's Beauty Shop 83rd Avenue and Downtown Peoria

Antonia Lebario Class of 1935

What happened to these businesses?

- **Smitty's moved into Peoria in the 60s. It no longer is there but at the time it was a restaurant, a grocery store, and a place where products were sold at lower prices.**
- **With growth new supermarkets came into the area and were competition.**
- **Growth moved north and if you wanted to stay with your customers you had to move where it was more convenient to provide your services.**
- **Some of the younger members of the family did not want to continue with the family-owned businesses.**
- **More of the older families in Peoria moved out and some of the old stand customers left the city.**



Edmund Tang
Class of 1946