

Ninety-Nine Years of History Visits Center Street School

By Julie Stolnack

Remember when you were in kindergarten and it was your time to share something special? Maybe you brought your favorite toy, a special book, your favorite stuffed animal... or how about your favorite 99-year-old friend? Well, on a recent Friday, Cooper Stolnack, a student in Mrs. Atteridge's kindergarten class at Center Street School, brought his friend and long-time El Segundo resident, Marie Stinnett, to share with his classmates. Many of you may have seen Marie's picture and read the article in the *Herald* this past February about her long life. She could be seen on the front page wearing her birthday crown and holding 99 flowers in celebration of her 99th birthday on Valentine's Day.

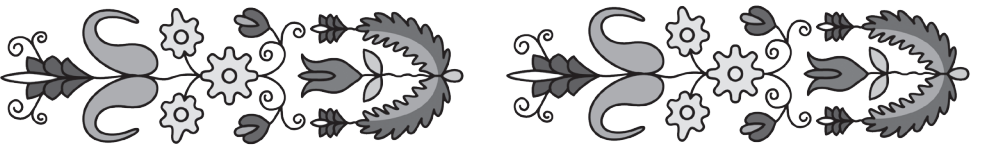
The purpose of Marie's visit was to share a bit of history with the kindergarteners and tell them what it was like to be five years old back in 1915. The children gathered around Marie on the carpet to hear her tell stories from her life as a five year-old. She told them stories of traveling by covered wagon out on the Texas plains, sharing campfires and meals with real live cowboys. She went on to tell how Babe Ruth could hit a baseball that seemed to go on forever. She told the children about how having fun meant shooting marbles with her brothers and playing dolls with her sister, or playing a good game of "kick the can" with friends. When she was five, there was no television to watch or even radio to listen to at home. The students heard Marie tell them how she



Marie Stinnett is surrounded by students after sharing her life stories with them.

went to school in a one-room schoolhouse about the size of their classroom and how she was in the same class as her uncle when he was a freshman in high school. She spoke about going to the silent movies to watch Charlie Chaplin in black and white. Marie told the children about moving to El Segundo in 1942 with her husband and son; this was before Center Street Elementary School was even built. She told them how a dairy and hundreds of cows occupied the land where their school now lies.

Both Marie and the kids thoroughly enjoyed the visit. It was truly a great experience for all involved. Cooper and his classmates all enjoyed the visit and hearing the stories from someone with so much history. We all need to take a lesson from Marie and the kindergarteners and remember to take the time to listen to the stories of our elders before it is too late and their stories are lost forever. •



Brice Savage completes an early inning-ending double play against Don Lugo. Photo by Bob Schaffhauser.

Doucette Powers Eagles Baseball

By Gregg McMullin

In the past 50 years that John Stevenson has been the head baseball coach at El Segundo, the Eagles have reached the postseason playoffs an unmatched 42 times. If you ask Stevenson, he'll say that those teams all had something in common--someone who came through in the big games. Add Ben Doucette to that list with his perfect 4-for-4 day against Don Lugo as the Eagles won their first round CIF Southern Section Division IV playoff game 11-1.

After missing the playoffs a year ago with an 18-12 record, the Eagles secured their spot in the playoffs with a second place finish in the Pioneer League. The Pioneer League sent four teams to the playoffs, but the way

the Eagles have been playing they could be the last team playing--especially with their performance against the Conquistadors. "We're hitting our stride and everything is falling into place," Doucette said.

The Eagles, who have hit in double digits in eight of the past nine games, hammered out 17 more hits against three Don Lugo pitchers. The Eagles scored in each inning and had hits in all but one inning. In the first inning, Nigel Nootbaar led off with a double to centerfield and Doucette followed that with a double to score Nootbaar. In the second inning, Nootbaar and Doucette each had RBI singles to make it 3-0. In the fourth, Logan Erickson and Jake Booterbaugh each

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