

## **Carolyn Smith**

Mr. Vranish was my DECA teacher from 83-84 to 1986, the year I graduated. I have a few memories I would like to share with everyone.

(Note: DECA – Distributive Education Clubs of America – was part of the Marketing Education program; founded and taught by Paul at Hargrave High School in Huffman, Texas)

As a member of DECA I served as Historian for 2 or 3 years. We raised money for our class by having a school store where we sold basic school supplies and candy. We also designed T-shirts for the school on silk screens; a process that Mr. Vranish taught us. DECA attended many conferences as well. This was a time when other DECA classes, from other schools, would compete in certain areas pertaining to different business categories. Our school always placed highly at these events.

One Conference took us to San Antonio, Texas. That's where I got to see my first live basketball game. The Utah Jazz, I think it was, was in town playing the SA Spurs that evening. They just so happened to be staying in the same hotel as us. I remember being in the hotel gift shop, thought I was talking to my friend and as I turned around I was facing MARK EATON; the 7-foot center of the Jazz. He is so tall his belt buckle was in my face and I stand 5' 7". Later on in the same trip we all went to the top of the Spindle Top look out. As we were looking out over SA, Mr. Vranish tricked us into thinking/feeling as if we were really leaning out for real.

Another conference took us to Galveston Texas. We stayed at the Hotel Galvez, which has been rumored to be haunted. I remembered that we were all excited about trying out the hot tub. I evidentially stayed in longer than I should have; causing me to pass out on the way back up to the room. I'm sure other teachers and passer byes must have thought I was intoxicated or something. My friends helped me get to the room safely and nursed me back to life.

Mr. Vranish loved standing behind people looking down on them making ugly faces making others laugh and the unexpected person had no clue! Mean but funny. Ha Ha!!

On occasion, he would park closer to the school; which was an off limits area for parking. Surely Mr. Vranish wasn't running late for school? When this happened he would get one of us to move his Oh So Hot Trans Am that he was so in love with. And we did it, as if it was the deal of the day. I think a year or so later he traded his Trans Am in for a Pontiac Fierro. It was red as well.

Looking back Mr. Vranish was also a Senior Sponsor for my class of 1986.

When I read that you retired I was shocked to say the least! How could you have put in 34 years already? Then after doing the math, I realized that I have been out of high school for 27 of those years.

Where does the time go? Thank You for being a great teacher Mr. Vranish!

As Edith Bunker sang THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

**Era:** Huffman ISD Job: 1982 - 1988

**Relationship:** This terrific young lady was a part of Hargrave High School's "DECATEERS." In her message, Carolyn does not take credit for being one of the main people who helped establish the school store; but she should. Carolyn not only competed in the events to which she refers in her memory-message, she was one of Paul's key students – a very reliable go-to person when an important task needed completion. No, not just moving cars; but taking store inventory, staying after school to print T-shirts, etc. It was students like Carolyn Smith who make teachers glad they chose the profession. Paul stays in touch with Carolyn on Facebook.