



Mabelle Conn Class of 2016

Mabelle Conn graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1963 as a member of its first graduating class. She attended class at Oroville High School (OHS) from 1959-61 and then from 1961-63, classes were split between the two schools.

Academically, she was in the top one-third of her class, a member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF) and on the honor roll. She was the recipient of the Betty Crocker Homemakers Award as well as the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Good Citizen Award. Active in Student Body affairs, Mabelle was Secretary of Activities and a member of the Press Club during her junior year, and then served as Vice President of her senior class.

Following graduation from LPHS, Mabelle went on to Chico State College (CSC), and after one year, left school for marriage and a family. Many years later in 1996, at age 50, she earned her A.A. degree, graduating with honors from Butte College.

Mabelle worked as an Instructional Aide at Wyandotte Avenue School in Oroville for four years and from 1986-2001, worked in the Butte County Assessor's Office. She also worked in retail jobs in Oroville at the City of Paris and K-Mart.

Community service in her hometown of Oroville has dominated Mabelle's entire adult life. It is really not what she does, it has become who she is. She is truly one who rarely thinks of herself, always willing to give and rarely receive.

At the City of Oroville Docents Awards Luncheon in January 2016, she was awarded ruby and sapphire pins for her 636 hours of docent service. It has been said by many, that if it were not for Mabelle, Oroville's outstanding museums might not be open to the public. Oroville Hospital has also been the recipient of Mabelle's time as she has donated countless numbers of hours over many years.

Mabelle was appointed to a seat on the City of Oroville Park Commission in 2010 where she continues to serve as a member and is currently the Vice Chairperson. She has served as commissioner on the City's Arts Commission since 2012.

She has been or currently is a member of numerous community organizations. Among them are Friends of the Library, Quota Club, Butte County Historical Society, STAGE, Friends of the Arts, Oroville Art League, and both the Chico and Paradise Art Centers. She is a volunteer peer leader of the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute at Chico State University and gives presentations at Oroville museums.

Known for her organizational and leadership skills, Mabelle has led numerous community events involving local museums, community trips to San Francisco to the M.H. DeYoung Museum, and organized local group tours to the State Capitol in Sacramento. She was a member of the 2006 LPHS/OHS committee that organized and led a highly successful combined reunion in Oroville and served in leadership roles in the planning and organization of the annual Salmon Festival and Feather Fiesta Days celebrations.

Mabelle was a key planner in developing an "Emergency Plan of Action" for all museums in order to provide a safe environment for all docents and patrons. She was also very instrumental in getting safety cameras installed at the Lott Home and plays a role in developing the annual Docent Schedule for staffing all the City Museums.

Quotes often heard from local citizens regarding Machelie are: **“She’s a go to person”, “Machelie is a bundle of energy and ideas that have benefited our city”;** **“Machelie is a dynamic, dedicated community advocate and a person with a wealth of knowledge about our community”;** **“She has a passion for the Arts, Cultural and Educational well-being of our community”;** and **“If there is a workday happening, Machelie will be there”**.

Machelie has lived in Oroville off and on for over 50 years. She resides in town with her husband, Lloyd, and has five children, 10 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.