

San José State University Emeritus Faculty Association Biography

Name: Paul H Betten
Department: Elementary Education
Academic Rank: Professor
Year Retired: 1986
City of Residence: San José, CA



Facebook Page or Website URL:

Birthplace: Spokane, WA **Birth Year:** 1921

Marital Status: M **Spouse or Partner's Name:** Noreen Betten

Children's Names: Laurence Betten; Janet Britton

No. of Grandchildren: 3 **No. of Great Grandchildren:** 1

Colleges or Universities Attended:	Year	Degree
Washington State College		
Whitman College	1946	BA
Northwestern University		
Oregon College of Education		
University of Oregon	1950	MA
University of Oregon	1956	EdD

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Teaching Experience:	From	To
Clallam Bay, Washington-7th, 8th grades	1946	1947
Multnomah District H.S., Portland, OR-8th grade	1947	1949
Eugene, Oregon Public Schools, Teacher & Principal	1949	1946
San José State University	1956	1986

Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

Leschen Wire Rope 1941-41
USNR November 1942-January 1946

Selected Publications:

Series of Primary Grade books

Personal Commentary (please limit comments to one page):

I was born in Spokane, WA, but my father died when I was four and most of my elementary school years were in very small nearby towns where my mother had teaching jobs. We moved back before I started high school, but it was quite a transition to go into a 1200 student high school. On graduation, I had an opportunity to work in salmon canneries on Kodiak Island in 1939 and in Seldovia on the Keani Peninsula in 1940. My roommates were Filipinos who worked in canneries in the summer and the beet fields of Arizona in the winter. This money gave me a chance to go to college and the roommate histories gave me great motivation to be very serious about school.

In 1942 I joined the U.S. Navy, but was surprised to find myself in the Seabees and subsequently living in a tent on snow covered ground in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. An opportunity arose for me to take tests that allowed me to go stateside for V12 training at Whitman College and Midshipman School in Chicago. Sea duty took me across the Pacific and I was in an Okinawa harbor when the Japanese surrendered.

On being commissioned, I married Bette and on being discharged decided to attend Oregon College of Education for an Elementary Teaching Credential. During my first year of teaching our twins, Janet and Larry, arrived. Both have recently retired, Janet from Tektronix as a Human Resources Director and Larry, Personnel Director for Portland Public Schools.

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After five years of teaching and five more as an Elementary Principal in Eugene, Oregon, I had completed my EdD at the University of Oregon and I started teaching at San José State in 1956. In 1969 our twins graduated from college and were starting teaching careers. In 1970 we decided to change our life style a bit too and moved to The Villages. In the next decade we were free to travel more at vacation times and have great times with our children and grandchildren. At the end of the decade Bette began to have cancer problems and she died in March of 1982.

I enjoyed playing tennis at The Villages and occasionally had Noreen as a drop-opponent or partner. Later in the year we were married. She is a fine water colorist who exhibits and teaches regularly. I have always done a lot of woodworking, but lately my interests have turned more to Photoshop activities on a computer.

Date Completed: 5-4-11