

You Know You're From Ventura If...

you know the real name is San Buenaventura

you've eaten at Denny's at 2 am

you know what the Avenue, Pierpont, Saticoy, and Montalvo are

you've never seen a white Christmas

you hardly ever go to the beaches in Ventura

you know the Santa Clara river is there, it's just always dried up

you know the names of explorers but only because every middle school is named after one

you laugh at the OC and are glad you don't live there cause you know what it's really like

your favorite place to eat is Snapper Jack's

you've seen Kevin Costner at the Buena Ventura game

you avoid the 101 on Sundays because of all the traffic heading into LA

you're darn proud of the landmarks we have, including the two (five) trees, the cross, and the mission

you complain its sooo hot when it reaches above 75

you complain its sooo cold when it reaches below 50

you understand the meaning of cross town rivalry

you love Jamba Juice and Robeks

you love corn burritos from Foster Freeze

you miss the 101 Drive In Theater, but you don't mind shopping at Kohl's when people ask where you're from you say between LA and Santa Barbara

you only are in the news if there is a fire, earthquake or mudslide

you see a "storm watch" when it barely sprinkles

You Know You're From Ventura If...

you've been to the pier and Eric Ericsson's

you get Telephone and Telegraph mixed up, but know they are completely different

you love ice blocking at Arroyo Verde

you avoid Costco on Sunday's

you know the nearest Walmart is in the Nard

you know what the Nard is

you think downtown area has steep hills

you can see the Johnson Dr. movie theater from miles away because of the purple neon lights

you think that there is nothing to do in Ventura

you refer to miniature golf as "Golf 'N' Stuff" no matter where you go

you can't tell when the seasons change

you've had school canceled because of "rain days"

you know the beaches are only good for bonfires because the ocean stays the same temperature of 50 degrees year

From Richard Graey '65

You know you're really from Ventura if:

You've corrected people who say Two Trees, to inform them it is really Five Trees.

You still call the newspaper the Star Free Press.

You remember where Taylor Ranch was

You have biked or skateboarded down Palm.

You've eaten Tony's Pizza (and remember when it was located on Figueroa Street) and Johnny's Burritos.

You Know You're From Ventura If...

You say that someone lives out in Saticoy, out on the Avenue or up in Ojai, but you say that people live over in Oxnard

You know where Hobo Jungle is.

You remember where the Palm Hamburger Stand was.

You think Fair Day should still be an October school holiday.

Your phone number was something like Miller 3 4567.

You've eaten at Loop's at 2:00 a.m.

You've danced at the Green Mill Ballroom and the Ban Dar.

You remember when Ventura had a real river.

You remember when the road went under the pier and the water temperature was posted at the bait shop where Erickson's is now.

You know why Meta Liquor and the Meta Motel were on Thompson Blvd.

You know Cemetery Park is really still a cemetery.

You still haven't figured out what you can do to replace a drive to Candy Cane Lane at Christmas.

You still call the Ventura Library Foster Library

You miss the 101 Drive In.

You remember May Henning School.

You wish Chase Brother's Dairy would still deliver to your front door and the Helm's Bakery truck brought donuts.

You've had many barbecue's at Camp Comfort or Foster Park and caught tadpoles in the streams there.

You understand the four seasons: Flood, Fog, East Wind, and Fire.

You Know You're From Ventura If...

From Tom Farmer '65

Remember also The Cross, and H&H market where we used to park and watch cars travel up and down Main Street.

The old girls school on the avenue, Mickey and Mike Callahan lived just below the school.

Steps leading down past Navarro's house ending up on Main Street next to Ortega's Bakery.

Knights of Columbus Dances next to Tony's pizza, usually crashed by Garcia and Armstrong.

Curt Mulford driving by Ventura High each Monday morning on his way out to fish at the oil piers.

Heinee's Pool Hall on Main street, which ended up to be called Jacks pool hall, the large chairs that set in the back and the front snooker table as well.

Rankins Sporting Goods store on main street with the razor tip arrows outside open to the public

Hobo Jungle Bridge Train Crossing, with only one place to stand should you get caught on the bridge. Only inches from the train.

Military Draft notices, 1 A or 4 F Getting on the Bus from the downtown Bus Depot only hoping that we would return that afternoon not knowing that some of us was destined to never return home

From Valerie Chrisman '65

How about cherry cokes at Mel's (not Muntz stereo at 5 points)?

The barranca and little bridge at VHS field hockey area?

Jan and Dean played at Skateland, too. Remember VENOX in Wagon Wheel. Ray Charles played there in about '67.

Suzie Immel hosted Pep Squad initiation that included different cemetery events and a slumber party at her house on Buena Vista and Rincon. Kathie Stevenson Tobias lives in that house with her husband Bob Tobias now.

Sherry Glander's father owned the restaurant on the pier and she worked at the hamburger stand in the summers that was just down from the restaurant.

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Remember the locker rooms at VHS and the shower stalls made of marble? The stair rails in the two story building between the Mens' and Women's gyms had brass handrails. Some of them have survived! The actual stairs are green slate. That building, the theater arts building and the stadium were all WPA projects and the materials they used then were pretty amazing.

From Barry Coyle '65

The dump and airport down at the beach.

When the 101 freeway went down Thompson Blvd.

Does anyone remember when the shepherds brought the sheep down from the mountains, down Seaward Avenue, or just me since I lived on Seaward?

Being served by car hops at A&W behind Mandel's liquor store.

Remember Woolworth's', Ventura Department Store and County Stationers downtown (County Stationers second floor!).

When Figueroa Street went through to Main.

From Mary Hanline '65

Sulphur Hot Springs baths late at night somewhere in Matilija, near Ojai.

Doing the Dog and the Jerk. Mr. Nemson and Miss Bevans stopping the high school dance because we wouldn't stop doing those "dirty dances!!"

Parties at the Graveyard house, Tom Angel's White house, Vic Tauber's Beach house and Doug Paul's house.

Lunch at Barry Coyle's house.

From Jonell Batten '63

How about the hat lady at Scott's store downtown or the pneumatic tubes upstairs at the Ventura Department Store where you bought girl and boy scout uniforms.

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Janet's Bakery peach and strawberry pies.

And the big white house at the point and the other house next to the graveyard.

Friday nights downstairs at the Rec "Tonights the Night" with the low ceilings and not much light. Was it the Dartells who played upstairs at the Rec Center?

From Stephanie Pekar Kelch '65

Corn burritos at Fosters.

Friday night double features at Ventura Theater.

From Phil Ranger '65

The skating rink was called Skateland. Henry Christ was a dynamic skater of the times. I actually saw the Righteous Brothers live at Skateland once.

Used to be in the Skating Club at Anacapa Jr. High and would go to Skateland on weekends and race for free cokes.

How about Toyland on Main Street or sneaking into the 101 Drive In.

From Judy Basso '57

Guess I'm older than some here, as I remember Jack Rose "before" it became County Stationers. The piece of sidewalk that said "Jack Rose" is now part of the landscaping of the Camarillo yard of his grandson, Jack Rose.

As for the coke plant on Seaward, if you were cute little girls like Michelle Morrison and I were, you could go in and stare at them... and be given one right off the belt.

As for the sheep herded down Seaward once a year, I too lived on Seaward, right on the corner at Poli. Those sheep destroyed our front yard by the time the last one came through, so we finally got wise and put up a white picket fence. Michelle and I would hide in the bushes and pull a handful of wool off any that came close enough.

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Carolyn Gilliland (on Arcade) and I would go to the beach most every day via Seaward, sliding down the bluff on pieces of cardboard.

Everything beyond 5 points was lemon orchards. When it rained hard, we'd swipe or dads hip high fishing boots and go into the orchards, finding it fun (!!!) to sink to the top of the boots in mud, until one of us nearly died with the mud filling up our boots. One of those boots is still buried somewhere, while the other went back on the hook in the garage forever.

And lastly, with all through traffic using Thompson in those days, Mike Basso and friends thought it fun to see if they could put the peddle to the metal and race across Thompson, missing any traffic. Wrong! They were hit my an 18 wheeler.

Ahhh, the good ole days...

From Anne Plummer Tally '65

How about the barranca or path between Ranger's and Rulfo's houses on Glen Ellen Dr. and Willowick Dr. where Van Every's, Meierdings, Meyers, and Plummers lived...is it still there?

From Karl Henke '63

Guess this requires some input from me, as all these memories are still fresh in my mind like they say seems like yesterday. Ventura was such a great place to grow up in nothing like it. All the neat stuff we had to do the Beach the old pier, and for some of us outdoors guys the old Santa Clara River bottom for me and my hunting Buddies, Don Whitmore, Ken Estes, Bud Klatt, Maury Zeck, and Tom Lunsford and by the way some thought Maury had passed away in some mysterious accident, but he is alive and well in New Mexico with his family and kids. Some other guys I still see regularly are Gary Hunt, Tom Lunsford and of course Ken Estes who now lives in Santa Paula. Most of these guys were a year ahead of me in school. We all experienced the things that Ventura had to offer back in those days kind of sad we are all getting older and soon will be "OLD" I hate getting Old.

Hello Again: Man this thing is really rolling, how cool (old saying then still used

You Know You're From Ventura If...

today). The old Coke bottling plant was really neat, one day Maury Zeck and I all of 11 and 12 years old decided to rob the joint via the chain link fence off Seaward Ave. that had a hole just big enough for us to crawl through. The robbery didn't go quite as planned as we needed a bottle opener to drink our stolen contraband (way before twist off caps) and knocked on a near by door asking for a bottle opener the resident smelled a rat and called the Fuzz (Cop). We were in trouble and knew it when the shiny Black Car came around the corner we ran like hell. Oh yes I do remember the sheep herding down Seaward Ave. The Top Hat Hot Dog stand, which is still on Main near the Old Mission, and the Pioneer Museum one of my favorite hangouts lots of neat Historic stuff in there.

From Sam Peck '63

The Boy Scout troop from Ventura in the mid to late fifties was Troop 125. I was in it and I think I remember Charles Baker and Tim Holden and some of the other kids in that group. We always seemed to be running amok. On camp outs we got C rations and the big item in there was the cigarettes. We were the only troop ever to be asked to leave Desert Caravan, a big BSA deal. And on we went from there.

From Janice Green Smith '67

Living in Valley Vista Tract and going swimming in the summer at Mill School. Walking home and stopping at the Teepee for snacks.

Having your pictures taken in the booth at **Woolworth's** on Main street 4 for 25 cents.

Corn burritos at Foster Freeze 10 for \$1.

Dances at the Women's Center (now Poinsettia Pavilion).

Shopping at J. C. Penney's on Main street and having to go way out to the east end to shop at Sear's! Then they built Montgomery Ward's way out of town!

FROM Janice Willoughby Hedden '67

Those great concerts at the cement slabbed Foster Park Bowl.

Walking across the freeway from Valley Vista Tract to Smith's Grocery where I took 5 cents and came home with a bag full of candy.

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Or went to Bell's Country Store (near Valley Vista Tract) when my mom would drive me there to get a bigger selection of candy.

Sneak out from the Rec dances to go into Cemetery Park around midnight to "take a few swigs."

Having ice cream sodas at Woolworth's "bar" after school or on weekends.

Invading the Ojai girls' territory by going to the Ojai Rec/ Women's Center dances (Can't remember the exact name this place was called was it Boyd Club??)

How about when we got brave to cruise "A Street in Oxnard

**Remembering Ventura business legends
that have left their "footprints" in our memories.**

*This page started with just a handful of locally owned & operated
businesses that lasted more than a generation (20 years).*

*The list has now grown to include some businesses that made a lasting
impression in a shorter amount of time.*

Your comments and suggestions are appreciated.

A & E Printing

A & W Root Beer Drive In

A&P Market

Admiral's Table

All Pro Sporting Goods

Allied Construction

American Commercial Bank

American Theatre

American Welding

Andy's Barbeque Heaven

Arvind's Bar & Grill

Ashton's Market

AVCO Savings & Loan

Austin's Upholstery Shop

AVCO Savings

Avenue Bowl

BJ's Steak & Lobster

Bahn's Jewelers

Ban Dar

Bananas

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Bank of A. Levy
Bank of California
Barr's Bakery
Barrel Inn
Beck, Brown & Dwire
Bell Mattress
Beno's
Bergers
Big Green House
Bill Arnold's Drug Store
Blaire's Restaurant
Blue Chip Stamp Redemption Store
Bob's B & L Tire
Brands Buena Pharmacy
Brigham's
Broadway
Brookside Winery
Buffalo Bill's Bar B Q
Buena Stationers
Buena Theatre
Bush Drug Co.
Captain's Table
Cardona's Liquor
Carpet Town
Casa Maria's
Chapparal
Charley Brown's
Chick's Spudnut
Children's Bootery
Children's Shoe Corner
Circus Wagon
Cleck's Beef & Bourbon
Coast Hardware
Coco's Recreation Village
Commercial & Farmers National Bank
Copymat
County Stationers
Crawford Chevrolet
Crocker Bank
Crossroads Restaurant
Darden & Randall Buick
Derrick Room
Don's Drive In
Dorothy's Beauty Box
Ernesto's Mexican Restaurant

You Know You're From Ventura If...

F. W. Woolworth
Fiesta Restaurant
Fox Theatre
Franz & Franz Rexall Drug
Fuddrucker's
Gene Lewis Service Station
Godley Business Machines
Granny's Camper Sales
Great Eastern Dept. Store
Great Eastern Dress Shop
Green Mill Ballroom
Hal Dikes Chevron
Hamilton Diamond Co.
Harris Motor Co.
Heck Music
Hibb's Clothing Co.
Hickey Hardware
Hickory Farms
Hi Ho Burgers
Hill's Drug Store
Hot Dog
House of Spirits
Howard Johnson's
Huck Finn Motors
Huffman Finance
I. Magnin
Imperial Savings & Loan
Ironsides
J & M Burgers
J.J. Newberry's
Jack LaLanne's
Jaffe's Camera
John's at the Beach
Johnny's Sight & Sound
Julio's Shoe Repair
Karl's Shoe Store
Ken Dole Factory Tire Outlet
Ken Simonson Hi Fi & TV
Kimo's Polynesian
King & I
Kingston Florist
Kinney Shoes
KUDU Radio
La Casita Spanish Food
Leon Walker Furniture

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Lindsay Insurance
Loops Restaurant
Lou Munding's 76
Louis A. Snow
Love's Wood Pit Barbecue
Lumber City
Masterson Motors
Maxwell's Restaurant
Mayfair Market
Mayfair Theatre
McConica Motors
Mel's 577 Club
Merle's Drive In
Merryman's Dry Cleaners
Mets Nursery
Mills Jewelers
Minnie Pearl's
Mission Theatre
Mohr's Furniture
Montgomery Ward
Mr. Lucky's
Music Box
Neilsen Tire
Niederhauser Cadillac
Noren's Market
Old Mexico
Opal Fort Cleaners
Otwell Oil Tools
Pacific 101 Drive In Theatre
Palace Barber Shop
Paramount Bootery
Paris Cleaners
Party Palace
Pat's Cafe
Peacocke Carpet Co.
People's Lumber
Petro Shore Travel
Piggly Wiggly Market
Pirates Den
Pizza Palace
Plaza Players Theatre
Postal Instant Press
Prosser's Bread Co.
Pump Room
Rain's Shoe Co.

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Red Balloon Restaurant
Red Hen Restaurant
Rendezvous
Ronald Banks Men's Wear
Rose Department Store
S&H Green Stamps
Safeco Title
Safeway Markets
Santa Clara House
Santa Cruz Markets
Santa Paula Savings & Loan
Saticoy Meat Packing
Sawyer College
Schafer Sporting Goods
Scott's Apparel
Schreiber's
Seafood & Beverage
Seaview Restaurant on the Pier
Security Pacific Bank
Servisoft Water Conditioning
Shade Decor
Shakey's Pizza
Smarty Look
Snooty Fox Antiques
Standard Beauty Supply
Stellar's Jewelry
Straw Hat Pizza
Strimple's Bakery
Swedish Kitchen
Tam O' Shanter
Ted & Bob's Auto Repair
Ted's Sizzlin' Steaks
The Castle
The Stardust
The Taco House
The Windsor Shop
Thermo Heating
ThriftiMart
Tickertape
Toby's Kitchen Store
Towne & Country Drive In
Travis Music
Trueblood's
Union National Bank
United Engraving

You Know You're From Ventura If...

**Universal Ford
Valley Federal Savings
Ventura Book Store
Ventura Department Store
Ventura Motors
Ventura Nursery
Ventura Printing
Ventura Savings & Loan
Ventura Toys
Ventura Typewriter
Vetco Offshore
Von's Flower Shop
Vreeland Cadillac
Warren's Restaurants
Weatherly Motors
Weber & Cooper Auto Sales
Wellman Jue's Paradise
Westland Savings & Loan
Wheaton Plastics
Whipple Chrysler Plymouth
White Bib
Willis & Griffith Insurance
Woolworth's
Worldwide Travel
Zdenek's Plantation**

SOME CONTINUING LEGENDS:

***Art & Jenny's Sewing Machine Center
Avenue Hardware
Avenue Tire
Avenue Wheel & Alignment
Barber Ford
Beachfronter Apartments
Bench Warmer
Big Al's Old Mountainhouse
Bob Carlson Towing
Busy Bee
Cabrillo Pharmacy
California Oaks Realtors
California Office Equipment
Carpeteria
Casa de Soria
Cavalier Men's Hairstyling
Center Glass
Clarke's Liquor***

You Know You're From Ventura If...

College Pharmacy
Culligan
Dexter's Camera
Evita's
FJ Hairstyling
Firestone Tires
Five Points Car Wash
Five Points Liquor
Foster Freeze
Frank's Market
Franky's Place
Fred Short Realtor
Golf N Stuff
Green Thumb
Green's Entomological
H & H Liquor
Hong Kong Inn
Howery's Brake
House Paper
Hungry Hunter
John Pence Building Specialties
Johnnie's Mexican Food
Jue's Market
Keynote Lounge
Lights Beautiful
Lowell's Town & Country
Lynn's Jewelry
Mac's Upholstery
Mandell's Liquor
Matilija Water
Meta Market
Molnar Bros. VW Service
Muntz Stereo
Noyes Plumbing
Offshore Crane
Oilfield Service & Trucking
Old Vienna
Peking Inn
Pierpont Inn
Plum Lift A Door
Poinsettia Bowl
Reid's Appliance
Salzer's
Sans Souci
Santino's Pizza

You Know You're From Ventura If...

Scotch & Sirloin
See's Candy Shop
Solari's Liquor
Sportsman
Star Lounge
Taft Electric
Taylor Pest Control
The Gym
The Wharf
Tipps Thai
Tolman & Wiker
Tony's Pizzeria
Top Hat
Tri County Locksmiths
Unique Cleaners
Vagabond Coffee Shop
Van Gundy Jewelers
Ventura Florist
Ventura Harley Davidson
Ventura Leather
Ventura Locksmiths
Ventura Muffler
Ventura Radiator
Ventura Townehouse
Ventura Travel
Ventura Trophy
Vic's Plumbing Supply
Young's Fix It Shop

Your comments will be appreciated.

Phone (805)656 3334

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