

**Topic:** “I don’t know dates I just see change”

**Abstract:** My dad was born and raised in Hollister, California. He has seen many changes throughout the town. He’s seen buildings change location, close down and become new stores, buildings burn down, and orchards turn into new buildings and highways. He remembers all the local hot spots that are still around, all the businesses that are still around. He’s seen many changes throughout the years to the little town that was once just orchards.

**Key Words:** My dad, change, moved, building, closed shop, mom and pop

### History 2 Project

For my History 2 project I like to talk about my dad growing up in Hollister California. For starters he was born in Hollister and stayed here ever since. He has seen this town grow within his 45 years of living and when I asked him about what has changed in those 45 years the first thing he said is “I don’t know dates I just see the change”. At first I thought he was joking around trying to be cool but then it made sense because people really don’t pay attention to time.

My dad was born in Hazel Hawkins hospital right now the hospital is going through change expanding their walls, adding helicopter launch pads and more rooms. Back then when my dad was born it was a quarter of the size it is today. If you’re from Hollister you know how small that is. Also back then there were 2 hospitals Hazel Hawkins on 911 Sunset Dr. and another on the corner of Monterey Street and Hawkins Street which was operable till 1964. Now the old Hospital is closed and being used by the DMV for a driving school.

When my dad was growing up he used to live in a house by the corner of Santa Ana Road and East Street, by Ranch Milk gas station. Now the house he once lived in is an animal clinic and the place Ranch Milk is now Coast Oil. As a kid he would walk around town because it was not as big as it was today. Everything was just a couple blocks away. The only grocery stores in

town were K&S, Missions food, amigos market, and Hollister's drive in market. When my dad was young K&S was at the location where Gold's Gym is now but later moved to airline highway where Safeway is now. As time passed Missions food also changed, it turned into Nob Hill Foods then Nob hill moved behind K&S on airline highway and the old location became Hollister Super also known as Baler. Hollister drive in market was by the rail road tracks where Don Chon market is now on Mc Cray Street. As for amigos market

The biggest thing that has changed though is downtown. My dad would tell me stories about the big earthquake that took out a block of business. The most dramatic for me was when he told me about the Hollister furniture store that burned down. The firemen tried their best to control it but since the furniture was easily flammable wood it was just too much for the firefighters to handle and the building burned to the floor. The location of what was once Hollister furniture store is now the Knife and Fork restaurant. Another important building that went down in that area was the State Theater that was across the street from Jesse's gas station which is now Cheep Beer and Cigarettes. The theatre held 2 movie screens and was a 2 story building that had a downstairs for buying your beverages and snacks while the movie screens were in the second level. Sure people might think "only two screens, was that enough?" but actually from what my dad told me the town was relevantly small in population. There was another theatre that still holds today in Hollister and that is the Granada. It's used now for mainly plays though since the new movie theatre Premier Cinemas opened on Mc Cray Street.

Another local hot spot was the China café it too fell after the big quake but when it was up it was said to have the best hamburgers around. Kids all over town would go there after school and on weekends to eat or just to have fun. If you have ever seen the TV show "happy days" in my imagination it seemed like that minus the Fonze. Another place to dine was Waylon's Drugstore

that was across the street from the Vault that is on Main Street it was a drug store but it also had a diner inside. My dad would tell me that he would eat sandwiches and ice creams there. Sadly they closed shop there but then they became the drugstore for Nob Hill.

Besides Waylon's drug store there was another drugstore that is called Penny wise which is still open today. On the back entrance of Penny wise there is a sporting goods store called Munzers, my dad doesn't have a strong sense for how long it has been there but he istemats about 50 years. Another mom and pop kind of place was B&R Barbershop and Simons Barbershop downtown. They too have been up ever since he can remember. The place that gets the most achievement for being here the longest running business here though is Tiffany Ford Dealership. Its original spot in town was where the running rooster is today which is on San Benito street across the street from the old brothers market which is now another mom and pop grocery place. Now the Tiffany Ford Dealership is out heading out of town towards Gilroy. The dealer ship has been in Hollister for over one hundred years making it the oldest dealership in California.

Talking about California, what kind of town would Hollister be if we did not have Orchards? My dad said when he was young mostly anything outside a 6 block radius from downtown was orchard. From Line Street now to anything after Nash Road were all orchards. Where Safe way is now was orchard as well. The new high way that was opened by Rite Aid in 2010 used to be all orchard when my dad was young and there was only one house on each side of the street.

Yes, talking about how Hollister was back then with my dad seemed to me like one of those old 40's movies how there is so much going on in a small town in a large scale. Over all my dad

seen a lot going on in the town of Hollister from stores changing to orchards moving out

Hollister has gone through a lot.