

## **Carlsbad: Family Origin Story**

*Thomas Paul Rudden, Jr.*

I am a Carlsbad Resident that has resided in Carlsbad my whole life. I was born at Tri-City Hospital in Oceanside, California and was brought home to the house that I was raised in, off of Wilson Street near the village in Carlsbad. I am the youngest sibling of three. I have a mother, and a father that are still married.

A little history about my family is that my mother's parents were born in Arizona and Nogales, Mexico. My grandfather was born specifically in Patagonia, Arizona on a dude ranch in the year 1930. My grandmother was born in 1934 in Nogales, Mexico. My grandmother moved from Mexico to the United States of America in 1948. My grandparents, George and Chica Molo, married one another and moved from Nogales, Arizona to San Diego in 1954 after my grandfather got out of the Navy. My Grandfather was stationed in San Diego while he was in the Navy in the year 1950 -1954 and he fell in love with the area. My grandparents moved to find opportunity away from the small town they lived in and headed toward San Diego, California.

My mother, Marie Antoniette Molo was born in San Diego in 1955, and is the oldest of five children. My grandparents, Chica and George, moved to Carlsbad in 1958. (Fun fact: there was no I-5 freeway in 1958, only the 101 highway. The I-5 freeway was built in sections from

1956 - 1978. The Carlsbad section of the I-5 freeway was built in 1964.) My grandfather worked at Encinas Power Plant, San Diego Gas & Electric as an electrician and he received his training while enlisted in the Navy. In 1966 - 1994, my grandfather started working for Bechtel Corporation at San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in San Clemente. All my other extended family members followed my grandfather to the Carlsbad area because he pioneered the way and locked in jobs for them at the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant. My grandmother was a stay-at-home mother with five children. My grandparents lived in Carlsbad from 1958 to present time.

My mother has lived here in Carlsbad since 1958, off and on. She went to school at Saint Patrick's Elementary School, Valley Middle School, Carlsbad High School, and graduated college at San Diego State University. My parents got married in 1979, at Saint Patrick's church in Carlsbad to my dad who had previously lived in Riverside, Hawaii, Colorado, Sacramento. His father was in the Air Force and they had to move quite frequently depending on my Grandfather's military orders.

My oldest sister, middle, sister and I were all born at Tri-City Hospital. We all attended Buena Vista Elementary School, Valley Middle School, Carlsbad High School, MiraCosta College, and graduated from California State University San Marcos. This town has shaped me as an individual and has allowed me to chase my lifelong passions such as surfing and educating the next

generation as an elementary school teacher. I am proud to have lived and grown in such a remarkable area.