

Mike Wong works for the Port of Seattle

By: LaRAYNE WATTS

Mike Wong was born in Raymond to Lee and Mamie Wong. His parents were the long-time owners of the China Clipper restaurant in Raymond. His father passed away last July. His mother lives on Beacon Hill in Seattle; she has her family and many friends to keep her company. All of the Wong family--- Mike, and older sister Jackie, younger sister Bobbie, and younger brother Tim--- now live in the Seattle-Tacoma area.

Mike graduated from Raymond High School in 1967. He says, "I think the graduating class was 86, but I'm not sure."

During his school years in Raymond Mike says, "I remember summer weekends playing penny-ante poker with some of my high school friends, like Ken Hoffer, Terry Weathers, Gene Ford, or Rick Sowa. And occasionally going down to the Long Beach peninsula with them as well." He also remembers working on a brush crew or the PUD.

When asked about the teachers, Mike replied that he liked Mr. Knobel because he made math--- like algebra, geometry, and trigonometry--- interesting. He says Mr. Jungar did the same with history and political science.

While in high school, Mike was in Honor Society, worked on the school paper, and was on the wrestling team. "A lesson I learned from wrestling," Mike said, "was that winning or succeeding takes a lot of hard work."

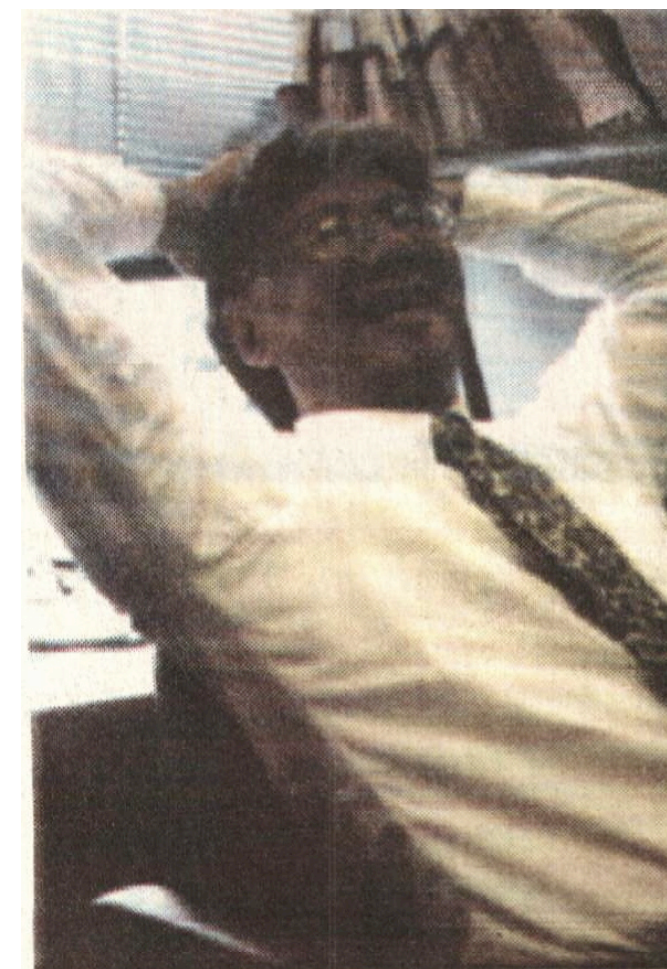
After graduating from RHS, Mike went to Grays Harbor College, then transferred to the University of Washington, graduating in 1972. Even though he moved to the Midwest, Mike apparently couldn't get away from Washington. He did his graduate school at Washington University in St. Louis, earning a Master of Science. He returned to the state of Washington to work in planning in the public sector. He has worked for Mason County, Shelton, for the State of Washington in Olympia, Metro and King County in Seattle, and presently at the Port of Seattle.

Mike has one son, Erik, who is 13 years old and is in middle school in Bellevue.

He says that he has had the opportunity to travel briefly overseas to both Europe and Asia, as well as in the USA. In Europe he has been to London and Paris, and in Asia he traveled to Hong Kong, China, and Japan.

Mike tries to keep up with what happens in his old hometown through family or friends, as well as the newspaper.

When asked what advice he would give to this year's seniors, Mike replied, "Set goals for yourself, but also be willing to follow the pathway to those goals that is best for you and for which you are best suited."



RHS Alumnus Mike Wong, 1967