

*Al Mouncer worked as an attorney and is now a VP at  
Energy Northwest*

**By: Amanda Dotson**

Al Mouncer was born on August 27, 1951, in Seaside, OR, to parents Helen and George Mouncer, they're both deceased. After purchasing the Mountcastel Motel, Al and his brothers Jack and Fred moved with their parents to Raymond during the summer of 1960.

Al graduated from Raymond High School in 1969 with about 70 students.

"I wouldn't trade those high school years for anything!" he said. He spent time reminiscing about the high school days at the last all-school reunion. "While it has been about 30 years since attending school in Raymond, I don't think a day goes by without reflecting on the things from those days," he said "visiting the old high school at the last all-school reunion was like going back in time-I couldn't believe how little it had changed, and how it jogged my memories."

Al has many great memories of school activities, sports in particular. "Sports in school of course, were incredibly important back then," he said. "And the memories of football games at Riverdale field, watching our boys at the state basketball tournaments, pep band, golfing in the rain, and wrestling matches are forever etched in my mind."

Al says he can think of many teachers that mean a lot to him because of what they taught him in the classroom and outside. "I credit my sixth grade teacher, Mary Ellen Garber, for helping make me a better person, as a prior to her class I was a real brat and disruptive student. She had a unique way of caring for her students that tended to bring out the best in us," he said.

Mouncer credits Lynn Warnstadt and Beulah Mae Melberg with teaching him writing skills that have helped him numerous times in his career. "Who could forget diagramming sentences for Mrs. Melberg?" he said. "I continue to surprise myself on how valuable that tool is."

Al says his best memories of RHS are of his friendships. "In the times that I have come back to Raymond to visit and get together with friends, it seems that time has stood still. Nothing (except signs of aging) had changed and the bonds of friendship are as strong as they were when we were kids."

Al was active in many activities during high school. He participated in student government, football, wrestling and golf, band, school plays, and was on the yearbook and newspaper staffs.

"In reflecting on how those activities influenced my later years, it is clear that they were instrumental in instilling much to my set of values," Mouncer said. "While it wasn't necessarily an oft-used term in those days, these activities really taught us the importance of leadership and provided opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills."

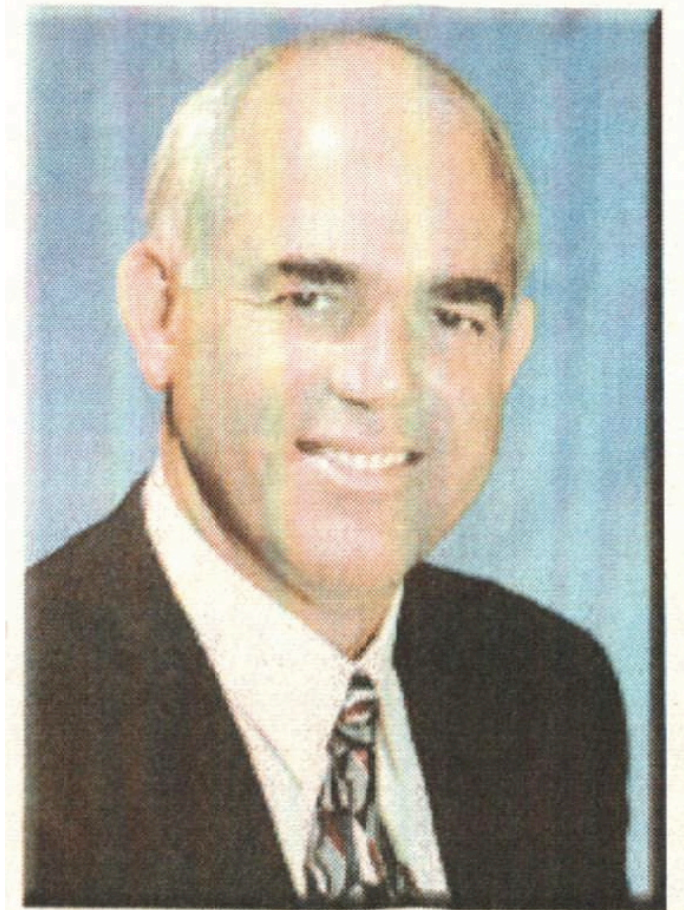
After high school, Al attended Washington State University and earned a BA degree in Political Science. He then attended the Gonzaga University School of Law and graduated in 1977 with a Jurist Doctorate degree. After passing the bar exam in 1977, Mouncer took his first job as the Assistant city Attorney of Aberdeen.

Next my career took me east of the mountains to the Tri-Cities where I live today," Al explained. "I worked for two years for the Benton County Prosecuting Attorney as a Criminal Deputy Prosecutor. In 1980 I joined the Washington Public Power Supply System as a staff attorney during the turbulent and tumultuous days of terminating nuclear construction projects and bond defaults."

Al is still employed with the company, but it was renamed Energy Northwest in 1998. He is currently the Vice President of Corporate Services and serves as the General Counsel and the Chief financial Officer.

Al married Cathy Preston of the Tri-Cities area in 1989. He has a 22 year old son, Michael, from a previous marriage. In his leisure time, Al enjoys golfing, jogging, reading, enology, any spectator sport and traveling.

"If I had to give advice to the senior class of RHS based upon my life experiences, I would tell them to keep pursuing their education, whether it be college, technical or vocation oriented. I have seen so many instances where very bright and talented people have not gotten as far ahead with their careers as they would have liked because they lacked a degree, certification, or profession. Even if it takes many years, keep working on it, as and education will only get more important as years go by. Your persistence will be rewarded."



RHS Alumnus Al Mouncer, 1969