

Last Look

PHOENIX PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Certificate of Promotion



This Certifies That

Reynaldo Rivera

has completed the Course of Study prescribed for the Eighth Grade and is therefore entitled to this

Certificate of Promotion
to High School

Given at Phoenix, Arizona, this 22 day of May 1955
Frank Thomas County School Superintendent
Reynaldo Rivera Superintendent
1500-1500-1-43-R 8 C

Wonder Years

THINK BACK A BIT. REMEMBER MIDDLE SCHOOL? Eighth graders owned the campus, coming and going as they pleased. They'd act and ask questions later. They'd do this because there were no students above them; they were the upperclassmen. That magical eighth grade year lasts only so long, though. It has to come to an end.

The end brings a promotion, a certificate granting access to high school and beyond. This Certificate of Promotion belonged to Reynaldo Rivera, who was part of the 1945 eighth grade class at the Monroe School in Downtown Phoenix. He was one of 168 students to graduate. "They took us to the Phoenix Union High School auditorium and had the ceremony there," Rivera says. "It was really exciting."

Rivera speaks fondly of his time at the Monroe School: "It really helped me. I met a lot of students, and the sports were pretty good. I'm proud to have gone."

Rivera went on to become a U.S. postal worker, and a husband, father and grandfather. Now retired, the 77-year-old still lives in Phoenix.

His certificate is on display, along with other pieces of Monroe School history, at the Children's Museum of Phoenix. The city purchased and renovated the old Monroe School building and reopened it as the museum in June.

—Mel Flores

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How Old Can You Go?

Send us your old photos, maps and antiques that show off Arizona's history!

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Mail: Letters to the Editor,

PHOENIX magazine,

8501 E. Princess Drive,

Suite 190

Scottsdale, AZ 85255

www.phoenixmag.com