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Merry Christmas (Juana!) and a Happy New Year!



Eduardo, Edgar & America



The "PIP"



Parque Independent Press

January 2012

Thousands honor slain officer Capoot

By Rich Freedman, Lanz Christian Bañes and Jessica A. York
Vallejo Times Herald

Jim. Jimmy. Jimbo. Son. Brother. Marine. Devil Dog. Babe. Daddy. Coach. Officer. Cowboy. Partner.

Jim Capoot, 45, went by many names, but the man remained the same. And sergeant-turned-pastor Robert Lee told thousands who turned out Wednesday for his memorial service that the veteran Vallejo cop never thought of himself as someone deserving accolades.

"Jim was an ordinary guy who did ordinary things in life that turned out to be extraordinary in many people's lives," said Lee.

Capoot, a former Marine and 19-year Vallejo officer, died in the line of duty Nov. 17 during a foot pursuit shortly after a robbery at a Vallejo Bank of America branch. Suspect Henry Albert Smith faces first-degree murder charges with multiple special circumstances.

Nearly two weeks later, on Wednesday morning, after a biting morning chill surrendered to sunny skies in time for an 11 a.m. memorial service, the former Marine and father of three daughters was praised for his dedication, loyalty, sincerity, and for going far beyond the call of duty.

"His actions spoke for themselves," Lee said.

Law enforcement personnel arrived early and by the thousands. Nearly 3,500 uniformed officers created a sea of blue in the saluting-room-only Corbus Field bleachers while

another 1,500 or so guests filled folding chairs on the artificial football field. Gov. Jerry Brown, the entire Vallejo City Council, and representatives from other local and state offices attended. "It was a privilege to be there and to hear about Jim's wonderful life," Brown said later. The governor, then Oakland's mayor, also attended the service for the last Vallejo officer killed in the line of duty, Jeff Azuar, on April 18, 2000.

As much as he was beloved by his fellow cops, Capoot was remembered Wednesday as perhaps one of the city's most respected officers in the community. He coached women's basketball at Vallejo High School and participated in numerous youth activities.

Wiping away tears, Vallejo High School senior and basketball team member Lovina Akauola and Vallejo alumna Alessandra Jefferson spoke about Capoot's kindness as their coach of three years.

Vallejo Officer Alan Caragan, Capoot's beat partner, eulogized his comrade with a mixture of admiration and humor. "With no thanks to Jennifer (Capoot's wife), Jim would think he was the sexiest man in the world," Caragan said, adding later, "I imagine Jim as a lion, calmly watching over his pride."

Andrew Trujillo, despite recent hip surgery, arrived at 8 a.m. and stationed his motorized wheelchair outside the security gates. The longtime Vallejoan was not going to miss the tribute. "I've never seen anything like this," Trujillo said. "The bond the policemen have is unbelievable. But Jim deserves it. He was really a down-to-earth guy."

Sean Fields, Vallejo fire captain and friend of Capoot's for almost 20 years, said any animosity between fire and police departments vanish when a public safety officer dies in the line of duty. "Unfortunately, this is what could happen to any of us," Fields said of Capoot's death. "This is the bad result of what we really do. It lets us know, unfortunately, this is what could happen to any of us."

The Capoot anecdotes were many during the nearly 1-1/2 hour ceremony that included an eight-helicopter fly over, a 21-gun salute, and 40 mounted officers stationed under each goal post.

When Chief Robert Nichelini arrived in Vallejo 17 years ago, it was Capoot who showed him the ropes. "I found him to be a sound decision-maker, a person with tactical competence and a person who had a concern for the citizens of Vallejo," Nichelini said in his brief remarks to the crowd. "And, at times, you could tell he was a Marine. "He was 'Yes sir,' 'No sir,' a 'No excuse, sir,' kind of a guy. Sometimes, he would kid me for being in the Air Force because it wasn't 'real' military."

Though Capoot's wife, Jennifer, declined to speak, daughters Jillian, Jamie and Justine tearfully did.

"He wasn't just my dad. He was one of my best friends," Jillian said. "He taught me everything I know and I'm everything I am because of him. He taught me how to be strong when I was weak and how to be happy when I was sad. He taught me the real meaning of how a person should live and treat others." "He wouldn't want us to stop living," Jamie said. "He'd want us to charge on and not make excuses. Hopefully, I can live a life he can be proud of."

Capoot was "larger than life," said family friend Kristine Kennedy. "Jim is a true American hero."

Capoot's brother-in-law, Louie DeCarlo, said the two got off on the wrong foot when they first met. "For Jim to walk into our family and take Jennifer out on dates wasn't easy for us or him," DeCarlo said. "But it quickly became clear how much he loved Jennifer and how much she loved him."

Still, said DeCarlo in a moment of levity, Capoot wasn't perfect. "He was a Cowboys' fan," DeCarlo said. "And I never could get over that. And he made my nieces Cowboy fans and that's even more unbelievable. And I could never get used to his redneck country music and NASCAR stuff, but we always got along."

Spencer Bottomley, 21, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marines Corps, and son of Vallejo officer Les Bottomley, praised Capoot as a mentor who was one of the first to welcome the young Bottomley back from Afghanistan. "He was proud of me and glad I was home safe," Bottomley said, thanking Capoot for teaching him how to shoot a rifle. "What he taught me may have saved my life," Bottomley added.

Fellow officer Alan Caragan, delivering the eulogy, said that "Jim's personality made him everybody's best friend." "How can I accurately describe such a great man with words when his greatness was all about action," Caragan said. "He was so much to so many people."

There are many tough times ahead for the Capoot and DeCarlo family, said Capoot's brother-in-law. "Our family is broken and will never be the same," DeCarlo said. "It's especially sad that Jim will miss all the milestones: The graduations, the weddings, the children, the big moments in life like when the 49ers win the Super Bowl."

With Capoot, there was never walking from a challenge, many agreed. When Capoot was 15 or 16, he barely survived a triathlon, having passed out after crossing the finish line. When he returned home, his father, a former policeman, praised his son, then told him to mow the lawn.

"Jim went out and mowed the lawn," Lee said, and Capoot carried on his father's wisdom. Capoot's father is deceased, but his mother, Beverly Sue Hampton Capoot from Arkansas, was present and quietly received a folded American Flag.

"Jim told many people to do things and didn't explain why at the beginning, but always told you at the end why," Lee said. "It was always to better yourself." Capoot was just a

simple guy who didn't know how to quit, Lee said.

"He would want us to charge on and live our lives the best we can," Lee said. "If we measure a legacy by what a person did in his life, Jim lived about twice as long as he had."

"He's probably telling us right now, 'Carry on,'" Lee said, believing all of Vallejo "should not carry the burden" of Capoot's death.

And, perhaps even more during the holidays, be a bit more like Officer James L. Capoot. Vallejo Police Department, Badge No. 497. "I remember one year, right before Christmas, Jim was doing his job, having a woman's car towed," Lee said. "He saw she had kids with her."

The next day, Capoot was in Lee's office. "He said, 'You know Sgt. Lee, sometimes this job isn't fair.'" On Christmas a few days later, Lee said, Capoot and his family brought that woman and her kids presents.

I am close to the DeCarlo family, and attended the two services for Jimmy. The first one was on Tuesday evening at 5 p.m. at St. Basil's Church. The media was not invited and information was spread by word of mouth. Approximately 500 people were in attendance.

The next day, I attended the service at the High School Football Field and not only we there police officers from all over California in attendance, but I noticed some wearing uniforms from Eugene Oregon and Chicago, Illinois. It was a moving tribute to a wonderful husband, father and officer of the law.

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Spirit of St. Louis

By Don Radder

While in high school during the early 60's I spent summers working at the local Trailways Bus Garage in Western New York State. One of the mechanic's, a man in his late 60's , was an accomplished auto body painter who no longer painted because of deteriorated health from years of breathing paint fumes.

One day during lunch, he volunteered that he had worked at Ryan Aircraft in Southern California when and where Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis" was built, and that he had painted that plane. Because of his honesty, I never had any reason to doubt that what I was told was true; however I had always wondered if any records existed to prove the story.

Recently I found an article on the Web about the Ryan Aircraft Company that shed some light on who the actual builders were. Unfortunately the names of painters were not listed. Perhaps only the Designers and Builders were allowed to sign the Spinner. From http://uk.ask.com/wiki/Spirit_of_St._Louis

"A small, left-facing Indian-style swastika was painted on the inside of the original propeller spinner of the Spirit of St. Louis along with the names of all the Ryan Aircraft Co. employees who designed and built it. It was meant as a message of good luck prior to Lindbergh's solo Atlantic crossing as the symbol was often used as a popular good luck charm with early aviators and others. The inside of the original propeller spinner can be viewed at the National Air and Space Museum. This propeller spinner was found to be cracked when Lindbergh arrived at New York prior to his transatlantic flight. The propeller spinner that is on the Spirit of St. Louis now was hastily made in New York to replace the cracked original and was on the plane during the transatlantic flight."

At least one other web page alludes to the swastika as being a Masonic symbol. Lindbergh was reportedly a Mason at the time of his transatlantic flight.

Masonic Family Information



Youth Groups

DeMolay –	Jan 12 & 26	7 pm
Job's Daughters –	Jan 14	7 pm
	Jan 25	7 pm
Rainbow for Girls	Jan 5 & 19	7 pm

Masonic Lodges

Confidence	Jan 2	7:30 pm
Paideia	Jan 2 & 16	6 pm.
SCSLV	Jan 3 dinner	6:30 pm
	Jan 22 3 rd D. Stephanous	

Eastern Star

SC Redwoods 7:30 meetings	
Jan 9	Renew Obligation
Jan 23	Honor Star points
Jan 27	Electa Circle
Wild Lily 7:30 meetings	
Jan 18	Honor Star Points

Rainbow Grand Office Reception

By Holly Swanson

A reception honoring Shannon Swanson, Grand Religion and Grand Rep. to Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina and Bryn McFarland, Grand Honorary Drill Leader and Rep. to Washington, Idaho, Australia, and the Orient Pacific given by Santa Cruz Assembly #28 IORG. Approximately 100 were in attendance with a good turnout from members of PPMC, OES, Job's, DeMolay as well as family and friends.

The theme was a poem called "Footprints In The Sand." Hosts were Emily James and Dan Macdonald, The American Flag was presented by Nate Bowen Master Counselor, and musician was Shirley Moore. Presentations and remarks all were wonderful and heartfelt. The dresses, quilts and decorations were beautiful. The refreshments attempted to represent the girls various stations which included orange chicken (Orient), potato salad, potato chips, (Idaho) Mandarin oranges, and peach (Georgia) and apple (Washington) cobbler. Yum yum The girls had a great time and it was fabulous. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day so special.



Repeat Offender Gets 50 years to Life

Santa Cruz Sentinel, Dec 3, 2011

A 55-year old man with a lengthy criminal history was sentenced to 50 years to life in prison without the possibility of parole Friday in connection with a hit and run from September 2009.

Robert Russell was drunk when he drove into a man walking with his wife in Santa Cruz on the evening of Sept 25, 2009. The collision caused **Om Anand** to hit his head against the windshield and suffer major injuries. Russell stopped the car briefly before fleeing the scene. When he was later arrested, he denied having any memory of hitting **Anand** and has repeatedly claimed he has no knowledge of ever hitting him. Russell and his wife, who live in the San Francisco area, were in Santa Cruz for a weekend getaway when the incident occurred.

"I did not know I was that drunk," Russell said in court Friday. "This wasn't something I did purposefully."

Anand was briefly knocked unconscious when he was struck, and he was airlifted to Stanford Hospital. He broke two ribs and suffered multiple abrasions, including one to the back of his head. He and his wife say he's experienced memory loss, anxiety and still suffers a number of other problems due to his head injury. **Tripura Anand** said she's also been deeply affected by her husband's injuries, which have interfered with his work as an artist.

At a jury trial, Russell was convicted of driving under the influence causing injury, hit-and-run with injury and failing to appear at his first scheduled jury trial.

In court Friday, Russell's wife spoke to the court about her husband's efforts to try to become a better person, embracing Christianity and working to overcome his troubled past, crying as she acknowledged that he needed help.

"I'd like to apologize for all the pain and suffering I've caused you," he said. "I hope and pray you can forgive me someday."

Judge Ariadne Symons said Russell's crime falls under the Three Strikes Law, which requires state courts to hand down a mandatory and extended a sentence to people who have been convicted of a serious offense on three or more separate occasions. Symons declined defense attorney Mark Garver's motion to dismiss the prior strikes.

Russell served time in prison for burglary in the 1970's. He was later convicted of child molestation and served prison time, after which he was convicted of attempted murder and assault with intent to rape an 85-year old woman his family had known for years. Russell also has struggled with drug and alcohol problems, and in 2008 was arrested for a domestic violence incident involving his wife.

In addition to two sentences of 25 years to life, Russell was ordered to pay \$72,000 in restitution to the **Anands**, \$50,000 of which already has been paid to them by his insurance company.

The **Anands** said they were happy to finally have some resolution in the case and praised prosecutor Michael McKinney for his work.

"It's very hard to be involved with something like this," said **Tripura Anand**. "I thought the judge was very reasonable and fair."

From Tripura:

Some of you may have seen the Sentinel article last Saturday about the sentencing hearing for the man who hit Om over two years ago. He was sentenced to two (concurrent) terms of 25 years each for DUI with over .2 alcohol, plus hit & run with bodily injury. He was also given another 25 years (consecutively) for failure to appear. Total: 50 years Age: 55 years old.

It was an emotional afternoon in the court room. The man will spend the rest of his life in prison. Turns out he had a long

criminal history. The "three strikes" law was applied. There was also mention in the newspaper of court ordered restitution. Some of that money we will never see because the man is in prison. The rest was immediately used to pay medical expenses over a year ago. It did not cover everything.

But the happy ending is that Om survived.

Again, the moral of the story is:

Please do not drive drunk, and do not let anyone you know drive drunk. It is a potentially violent crime just waiting to happen. It's not worth it.

Sincerely,

~ Tripura

LOCK YOUR DOORS!

Phyllis Green was robbed late Saturday afternoon. Taken was her jewelry consisting of her past matron's ring, her wedding rings and other pieces of jewelry. She had locked her doors.....watch out for your neighbors and: **LOCK YOUR DOORS!**

Men's Club December Luncheon

Those who attended the December Men's Club Luncheon had the privilege of hearing Brothers Alan Malekian and Mark Zevanove talk about the PPMC Mediation Committee, how it works, how the individuals benefit, and what the future holds for that very valuable service.

Also on the agenda was a discussion of various events that are sponsored by the Men's Club, such as:

The **Grand Master's visit**, which will take place on Saturday, June 23rd this year. Alan Schattenburg will be doing his usual great job of cooking steaks and chicken, and several Brothers signed up to work on this event. More volunteers are

needed, particularly for setting up before the event and cleaning up afterwards. Attendance this year will be by advance reservations, with the price being \$10.00 per person if paid in advance, or \$15.00 if paid at the door.

The annual **Valentines Dinner** which is sponsored by the Men's Club will be held on Saturday evening, February 11th. This popular annual event is complimentary for single ladies, while couples will pay \$12.00 per person. Fred Dunn-Ruiz is arranging for musical entertainment. Watch the PPMC Bulletin and web site for full details

The annual **Candidates Forum** will take place on May 26, being a time when many of our out-of-town members will be in the Park for the three day Memorial Day weekend. Our ever popular Mark Zevanove has agreed to be the moderator.

This year our Men's Club will be taking on a new task, which is the organizing of a **special forum** for those candidates who are running for the **5th District seat** on the County Board of Supervisors. Mark Stone is leaving that office, and the Santa Cruz Sentinel indicates that there will be about five individuals vying for the seat. The date and time of this event is still pending.

So, now you know what the Men's Club does in Paradise Park. In addition to organizing events such as have been mentioned above, they also swap stories about what is going on in the Park, or in the case of Jack Fisher, provide a bit of humor to liven things up.

Our chef for this past meeting was Bill Lind, who provided liquid refreshments, a green salad, meat loaf (*hmmm, delicious*), green vegetables, potatoes with cheese sauce, and cookies for dessert. All of that for only \$6.00. Those Brothers who are in the Park on the first Wednesday of each month are encouraged to drop in and enjoy the fellowship. There are no dues to pay, and no reservations to be made, just come and enjoy yourself.

Bob Morgan

CALDREA Dish Soap

By Cupcake

Serendipity: noun meaning; an aptitude for making desirable discoveries by accident.

Serendipity: The most accurate word to describe my latest find--- which I'd like to share with you.

On a recent run to Target, while looking for the perfect pot holder, I came across a bottle of dish soap. It was just sitting there in the kitchen section, with nothing of the like around it. Now this was no ordinary dish soap. Not your run of the mill phosphorous- filled goo. NO! This transparent and shiny bottle sported a label with a name that was quite familiar to me, CALDREA. If you don't know the brand; look it up (we'll wait). If you DO know the brand----you will be running to your nearest Target right about now.

OK, I'll make it easier. CALDREA is a specialty high-end brand of aroma therapeutic household products that touts the saying, "beautifully clean; elegantly green". These wonderfully odoriferous products contain real essential oils and other earth-friendly ingredients that elevate washing the dishes to a proper state.....which makes it very expensive. How expensive you ask? That will be your home work.

To go on with the story....the label was aesthetically different from the label I knew. So, immediately I thought that it must be that the manufacturer makes a "lesser" product for exclusive sale at Target. Well, I wasn't far off the mark. But as clever as I am, I'm also quite curious, and so I just couldn't leave it at that. I HAD TO KNOW the rest of the story!

I digress. I looked around briefly for other products of this brand, but couldn't find any, so I settled for the purchase of this one bottle. Now mind you, this bottle cost \$6.00. And I was happy to pay. The label had all the contact information I needed to get me to the next of three other persons who gave me the scoop. That's

still double the cost of that ordinary chemical filled Joe Shmoe brand that's probably sitting under YOUR kitchen sink. BUT, it's also HALF the cost of yellow-label CALDREA boutique product that smells like real lavender and pine; that you find in places like The Warmth Company in Aptos.

And so here's the scoop: The CALDREA sold at Target is indeed the very same (mostly) CALDREA that is sold in the extravagant stores. The label is different for obvious reasons, and the available scents are different, with a variation of mix of the essential oils and other environmentally friendly ingredients. However, I'm here to tell you that the cleaning ability and the headiness of the genuine oils have absolutely the same effect. It really does make washing the dishes a pleasure instead of a chore.

So there you have it. Next time you are as far as Aptos, just go the extra few miles down the road to Watsonville, grab a Starbees on the way into the Target---and head right to the kitchen department. You won't find the CALDREA in the "cleaning products" isle---that would make too much sense. Maybe it's part of the deal they made with the manufacturer, but anyway; buy a few bottles, because once the word get's out; it'll become hard to find---and then you'll be stuck with.....what-ever is under your sink now.



Remember when?????

These stories were submitted in 2006 when the Long Range Planning Committee did a survey of the Membership. Several members gave permission for their stories to be told....

Astrid Prater at 284 Keystone

In 1964 my parents were still living. My Mother especially always enjoyed visiting Santa Cruz and loved the scenic ride through the mountains with many beautiful trees. We started looking at small homes for sale and happened upon Paradise Park. My husband was a Mason so this location was of special interest to us.

We went to the office and a very nice man took us to see a number of places that were for sale. My husband especially liked one of the homes that was very well constructed and in a sunny location. When our two sons and daughters saw one home that was facing the river, they were very excited about the possibilities of living by the river. The only disadvantage was that it was not completely reconstructed after having been damaged by a flood.

The house had lost the kitchen and the former owners had sold the house to a man who was a Fireman in Santa Cruz. On his days off, the Fireman was restoring the house to give to his daughter. When his daughter decided not to move there, he decided not to continue.

The house had wood floors, a stove of cast iron for cooking as well as heating, one electric light hanging from the ceiling in the living room. There was one bedroom with an electric water heater in the corner of the room. There was a porch on the back of the house facing the river and there was a metal cabinet containing a sink and cupboards placed there. The Fireman planned to build the kitchen table there. He thought how convenient it would be to fish, throwing his line out of the window he planned to put over the kitchen cabinet, catch a fish from the river and then cooking it on the stove close by.

The house was on three allotments so it had space on both sides. Because of the flooding, the house had been raised four feet to avoid this happening again.

My husband had difficulty taking on a house that required so much work; however, the children pleaded with him and said how many fun things they could do. My parents offered to help and he said okay. We have never regretted it though it did require a lot of work to restore it.

The house had knotty pine walls in the living room. We have a dining area on one side and had a contractor build a kitchen area at the front. One of the members of the park who was a carpenter constructed a bar with many drawers on the kitchen side dividing the dining area from the kitchen. We replaced the windows and put wall to wall carpet throughout the house. An additional bedroom with fully insulated walls has been added. The water heater is now on the front porch in an enclosed area and this porch extends across the front.

Before the house was fixed up, we enjoyed being there. In the beginning when there was only one bedroom, my niece remembers sleeping in a sleeping bag in the living room and how much fun it was. We had an aluminum boat and one of our sons found a board similar to a surf board that they had fun with, too. They loved swimming when the river was dammed up. My husband worked in San Jose and had clients who could get in touch with him so easily and he could be available to those. We enjoyed spending many week-ends and vacations there.

Our daughter Carole attended Cabrillo College for a time and was able to stay at the cabin in an environment which was safer than anywhere else she could be

My husband no longer drives. I still do, however, I am not very inclined to drive over the mountains in heavy traffic and find it stressful now. If I do, I find a less busy time and do not go as often as I would like.

Hidden Little Gem Old Holy Cross Cemetery

Many of you know that Myron and I meet with a group of ham radio operators at McDonalds during the week. One of our group, James Franks, volunteers at the Old Holy Cross Cemetery located at the intersection of Rodrigues Street and Capitola Road Extension. This cemetery sits of 6.8 acres of land overlooking Arana Gulch and has the oldest Christian burials in Santa Cruz County, starting in 1791.

Recently I drove through the cemetery and looked at some of the beautiful monuments and purchased a guide to the cemetery. I want to reprint a story of one Thomas Howell, 1830-1905.

Thomas Howell, commonly known as "English Tom" to the local Mexican population, was born in the village of Stoke Damerel, Devonshire, England in January of 1830. As a lad, he had some problem with the law and was transported to a penal colony in Australia.

By 1853, he had made his way to California, settling in Santa Cruz, where he married Eduvigis Margaret Castro Salazar at the mission in 1855. They bought a large farm in Rodeo Gulch, sometimes known as Doyle's Gulch. The couple had at least 16 children, 12 of whom were girls.

Howell's farm lay at the mouth of Rodeo Gulch where it crosses Soquel Road. In the 1870's there was a group of wild banditos who operated out of Branciforte. In order to protect his daughters' virtue, English Tom had a small room built into the bottom of his well so that the girls could hide when Los Banditos de Branciforte would ride by. The boys, of course would always stop at the gulch to water their mounts before thundering on.

However, the old man's strategy did not work, for in the long run, most of the girls married these wild young men.

In spite of these problems, Howell was a much respected member of the community. He gave the land for a school

in the gulch which was named Hazelbrook School. Both he and Eduvigis died in 1905, after they had sold the farm and moved into Santa Cruz.



Tuesday Coffee

Until the Board approves a policy for what can and cannot appear on the new website under membership "blogs," an condensed version of Tuesday Coffee is posted there now. If you would like to receive the weekly Tuesday Coffee report, e-mail me at: radder@lemoorenet.com and request to be placed on the e-mail listing.

WINDOW COVERINGS



Shutters, Blinds, Shades
Budget – Custom- Ready-made
DRAPERIES
Valances Bedding Pillows
Choose from Hundreds of Fabric
DISCOUNTS TO PPMC MEMBERS
Lois Laidlaw – 818-8879

BRIDGE LIGHTING CEREMONY

By Marty Miller

We had a great turn out for the bridge light decorating on November 29. Sharon Naraghi of the Recreation Committee supplied cookies, doughnuts and hot drinks including spiced cider with cinnamon sticks. The Lovelaces set up our traditional air snowman Igloo scene for the event. There were younger Naraghi folks and friends to help out on the ladders as others watched for traffic going though the bridge, while good conversation kept everyone else in good cheer. We were also able to welcome one of our newest park members, Mark Treage (who bought the Bindle allotment) at our celebration. What a great addition to our community.



The State of Nevada first legalized gambling in 1931. At that same time, the Hoover Dam was being built and the federal government did not want its workers (who earned 50 cents an hour) to be involved with such diversions, so they built the town of Boulder City to house the dam workers. To this day, Boulder City is the only city in Nevada where gambling is illegal.

Hoover Dam is 726 feet tall and 660 feet thick at its base. Enough rock was excavated in its construction to build the Great Wall of China. Contrary to old wives' tales, no workers were buried in the dam's concrete.

NOTES from Friday Forum 12/16/11

By Pat McDonald

Manager – hiring of a new one – what is the status? Why can't BoD be open with the Membership? The loss of continuity through the process of many years of manager turn-over was discussed.

Saturday agenda may include open discussion of Highway 9 drainage issue. CEO committee has done major research on that water problem – potential future financial impact. The law talks about who owns pipes, water – pollution responsibility is a new area. A Member has put park on notice that PPMC would be responsible if slide occurs. Within the park, Members have had to take care of their own slide issues.

Dog park clearing has begun – hopefully will be 30' by 150'.

Bridge needing repairs? Christopher Marsten said it was in really good shape, structurally. West end a bit questionable.

Policy for rental and use of social hall is on agenda. Events that are open for anyone in the Membership should be without cost.

Concern about the log jams and woody debris expressed. Dam that went in cost around \$30K – was an assessment – only lasted a few years. Now river is silting in – fish want gravel to spawn. We can cut stuff under 8" – if it's bigger, can lop off 1/3 – debris must be carried out. Maybe work day in spring to take on one pile.



Town Hall Meeting
Fridays prior to the
Monthly Board Meeting
Small Social Hall
6:00 p.m

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION –

by Bob Morgan

It's hard to imagine what Paradise Park would be like if we didn't have volunteers working on our many committees.

What if there weren't a Recreation Committee working to organize events all throughout the year - - boring - - it would be like living in a subdivision outside of the Park. All we'd have is a bunch of houses next door to each other, with the neighbors only knowing maybe three or four families who live near by. Want to play Bingo? You'd have to go outside of the Park to the local grange hall, Elks club or church. Same thing with Pot-Lucks!

What if there weren't a Flea Market Committee. Want to raise several thousand dollars for a Park project? The Flea Market does exactly that every year. And if you get a charge out of prowling around in an old fashioned rummage sale, you can do that right here in our social hall without having to go out to the old drive in theater.

And, what about our local CERT team? The medical "Go-baggers" are invariably the first-on-the scene with oxygen, a defibrillator, and volunteers trained in CPR and first aid. It is often said that several lives have been saved by their prompt action.

Our Fire Brigade can be the first ones to your home if a kitchen fire gets away from you. And the Traffic Team is deployed to every critical intersection to help the ambulance and fire truck drivers find their way through our confusing streets, and to control local traffic and keep our own residents from getting in the way of incoming emergency vehicles. With their pagers and radios alerting them to a developing problem the Traffic Team is on site long before the ambulance or fire truck arrives on the scene.

So, what do our committees do? Here's a peek into what goes on behind the scenes, in the form of the Minutes of our last CERT team meeting.

ERT Meeting 11/05/2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. in the small social hall. Present were Ray and Charlotte Hoffman, Sharon Simas, Carol Morgan, Lee Heathorne, Marty and Debbie Miller, Don and Shirley Moore and Karen Eneboe.

Fire chief is Butch Downing and Assistant is Dennis Gloeckler. The Fire Brigade is meeting and training monthly. The siren is used as a reminder of their meeting. They are checking the siren as well as all of their equipment. We have a new fire truck. The yellow fire truck needs the water tank repaired. They are in the process of buying a new ladder for the fire truck. Marty mentioned that more light-duty turnout suits are needed. We need a list of the serial numbers of the radios and pagers assigned to the fire brigade.

The Medical Go-bag team recently had turnout training. They are in the process of checking equipment. Regular checks are needed for oxygen tanks and supplies. All battery checks have been done. This needs to be done regularly. Need to check on re-certification classes. We can always use more trained volunteers. It is estimated that we have about 15 at this time. Need classes for new personnel in the Park. All responders are reminded to always carry pagers, radios and go-bags. Keep everything together, and if you leave the Park pass them on for someone to monitor.

Communications sub-committee needs a new chairman. Ray will talk to some of the Ham radio operators in the Park to see if they can help. Radios and pagers need to be checked, as there are some problems with them not working consistently. It is thought that the

repeater may need to be checked. There was a reminder that radios are to be kept on channel 1. If channel 1 doesn't work, then try channel 2. Not all areas of the Park can hear you on channel 2, and the message may need to be forwarded.

A new chairman is needed for the Training sub-committee. Ray has some ideas of members who would know how to do that job and will talk to them. Felton will have CERT training early next year, and it's likely that Live Oak will also have one. It would be ideal if everyone in the Park could be trained.

Everyone needs to prepare an emergency kit and keep it handy. It was suggested that gallon jugs be washed thoroughly, then filled with water and 2 drops of Clorox. Freeze the jugs for emergency water supply. Do not place plastic water jugs on concrete, as there can be a chemical reaction that makes water unusable. It is recommended that the bulletin be used to instruct members on preparation of emergency kits.

Traffic Control is working well. We need more volunteers in section 6. All are reminded to keep your pagers and radios with you at all times, answer all calls and request an assignment. Pass on your pagers and radios if you will be out of the Park for an extended period of time, and notify Ray or Karen of who has your radio and pager.

Lee volunteered to be the new chairman for VIP. It would be ideal to have 3 or 4 volunteers from each section. Some names were suggested for possible VIP team volunteers, and Lee will contact them. It is suggested that inspections be done twice a year. Some items for them to determine are how we identify unused or broken chimneys, and whether we need permission from the resident to do the inspection.

Karen volunteered to keep track of who has radios and pagers, and who

the backup people are. A list of all serial numbers of radios and pagers is needed.

It was noted that there is no emergency procedure manual in the office. This would be a great help to those who respond to major emergencies, the most common of which is flooding. Shirley volunteered to chair a committee to write a list of procedures.

There was discussion about having our own Reverse 911 system in addition to the County 911. It was agreed that there are times that we need to get messages out to members, and the County 911 system doesn't fill all those needs. For instance, in case of expected flooding we could target those who would actually be affected, rather than alarming people who live above flood level. We could also send out a message that an emergency has ended.

The back road (Ocean Street Extension) still needs work by the County.

We do not respond outside of the Park, for insurance reasons. If the state were to call up CERT teams, their insurance would cover.

Karen reported that she had a complaint about speeding – responding to a call. She had her emergency blinkers on, too!

It is recommended that the siren be used when appropriate. There was some question as to who should be using it.

Ray will work with the chairmen of the sub-committees and encourages regular meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

<p>The Back Gate Code was changed on December 19, 2011. Call the office at (831) 423-1530 to get the new code!</p>
--

Christmas At Rock-Away Rest

'Twas the night before Christmas at
Rock Away Rest,
and all of us seniors were looking our
best.
Our glasses, how sparkly, our wrinkles,
how merry;
Our punchbowl held prune juice plus
three drops of sherry.
A bed sock was taped to each walker, in
hope
That Santa would bring us soft candy
and soap.
We surely were lucky to be there with
friends,
Secure in this residence and in our
Depends.
Our grandkids had sent us some
Christmasy crafts,
Like angels in snowsuits and penguins
on rafts.
The dental assistant had borrowed our
teeth,
And from them she'd crafted a holiday
wreath.
The bed pans, so shiny, all stood in a
row,
Reflecting our candle's magnificent
glow.
Our supper so festive--the joy wouldn't
stop-- Was creamy warm oatmeal with
sprinkles on top.
Our salad was Jell-O, so jiggy and great,
Then puree of fruitcake was spooned on
each plate.
The social director then had us play
games,
Like "Where Are You Living?" and "What
Are Your Names?"
Old Grandfather Looper was feeling his
oats,
Proclaiming that reindeer were nothing
but goats.
Our resident wand'rer was tied to her
chair,
In hopes that at bedtime she still would
be there.
Security lights on the new fallen snow
Made outdoors seem noon to the old
folks below.
Then out on the porch there arose quite
a clatter

(But we are so deaf that it just didn't
matter).

A strange little fellow flew in through the
door,

Then tripped on the sill and fell flat on
the floor.

'Twas just our director, all togged out in
red.

He jiggled and chuckled and patted each
head.

We knew from the way that he strutted
and jived

Our social- security checks had arrived.
We sang--how we sang--in our

monotone croak,

Till the clock tinkled out its soft eight-
p.m. stroke.

And soon we were snuggling deep in our
beds.

While nurses distributed nocturnal
meds.

And so ends our Christmas at Rock-
Away Rest.

'fore long you'll be with us, We wish you
the best!

Author Unknown



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NEW WEBSITE!
Paradise Park Members
www.paradiseparkmembers.com

My Fellow Members of PPMC:

I don't know about you, but I truly miss Myron Coleman's website. I knew this was a place to go to read the latest events, member commentary, and important opinions of others, knowing it would not be censored. I was very excited to see that other brave Members of PPMC (Kirk Stangeland and Michael Sawley), had started their own Websites.

So.....I decided that I would see if I could do the same. I went to Weebly and set up what I thought, I would like to see on a Website for the Members of Paradise Park. I received lots of suggestions, commentary and questions from other Members of PPMC who have had their own Park Websites or Park Newsletters. While this has been a learning experience for me, I think I might be headed in the right direction.....I sure hope so.

I've added a link on the "Official Website" under Sites-Park Blogs-(NEW or PARADISE PARK MEMBERS). This takes you to the Home Page on the new site. Once you are there, you'll need a password to open the rest of the site. You can contact me from the Home Page via the contact form to receive the password or at my email address below.

Once you have accessed the site, there are several Title Pages at the top of the page. Most have blogs for those particular Title Pages. Click on a Title Page and a drop-down will appear. Feel free to comment using the Blog under each particular Title Page, (Subject). I have also added a Forum for the use of Paradise Park Members. A current topic has been posted, but you can go in and add your own topic for discussion or simply reply to the current Forum Discussion.

The Title Page for Board/Meeting/ Agenda/Letters has several pages added, as well as a Blog. This contains lots of good information for the Members of PPMC. Of course, you can always send your thoughts, opinions, questions, suggestions and commentary under the Title Page for Comments. Use the drop-down Blog below the Comments Title Page.

By using the password, this allows you to browse all the other Title Pages and the Blogs related to each. Once you have opened the site by using the password, you can add to your Favorites or Bookmarks for easy access in the future.

If you would like updates as they appear, sign up for the RSS Feed. You'll find a RSS Feed on each Blog Page for this website. Here are some links on how to use RSS feeds. I hope this helps.

Read more: [How to Sign Up for RSS Feeds | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/how_5227738_signup_rss-feeds.html)

http://www.ehow.com/how_5227738_signup_rss-feeds.html

<http://www.prologger.net/what-is-rss>

Thank you for visiting and I look forward to hearing from you!

Becky Laskey

Paradise Park Members

LaskeyGB2@sbcglobal.net

www.paradiseparkmembers.com



Kellers Celebrate 50 Years

Anyone notice the cars and crowd around the Social Hall on Saturday, December 17? People were coming from hither and yon to help Ted and Shari Keller celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss. Several members of the Park attended as well as family, friends, Masonic brethren from Ted's two lodges, Mission Lodge in San Francisco and Santa Cruz Redwoods Lodge. Beth McFarland was the hostess and arranged a great display of food including Jill Keller's Swedish meatballs, assorted cheeses, pasta salad, as well as carrot cake and a chocolate cake. A real treat was the peanut butter chocolate parfait prepared by Caitlin McFarland.

The highlight of the event was the moving and endearing speech tribute from Ted to his wife, Shari.

December 17, 2011 Open Meeting of the Board of Directors

The following minutes were taken after listening to the tape of the meeting. I was not able to attend the meeting as I was out of town. For complete and ACCURATE minutes, please read the approved minutes in the Bulletin.

___Director Cook presided as Director Cannon was ill. The other Directors were present. The Invocation was given by Sharon Simas with the Pledge led by Gary Brandenburg.

OPEN FORUM

Mancini feels the social hall, if used by all members in the Park, should not carry a usage fee....he also asked about the status of the filling of the Manager position. Director Brandenburg stated the Board UNANIMOUSLY agreed on the appointment of Terry Douglas to the position as he was so well qualified, had a lot of construction experience as well as administrative work; however, Terry regretfully declined the position. Then Directors Simas and McDonald announced the great news that Terry had worked out the logistics with his wife and would be delighted to accept

the position...just wanted to know a start date. This appeared to surprise Director Brandenburg who did not know this, but it was pointed out that Terry had left him a phone message.

Char Reynolds complained that people living in PPMC are not all collective members and that something should be done about it.

Barry Brown will work on a Town Hall meeting with the candidates running who represent our area.

Michael Sawley expressed his disappointment that Director Cannon did not seem wholly in favor of the Friday Night Forums. Michael S. felt that as long as people want to attend, and as long as some of the Board members want to participate, why doesn't the President encourage this?

The Minutes of the November 19 Open Board Meeting was approved as written..

Manager's Report – Interim Manager Tim Heer reported on the results of the Freenor vs. Butler lawsuit; also that an anonymous petition to recall Sharon Simas was submitted. Director Simas asked the Interim Manager for the name of the person who submitted the petition and Tim replied that it was not required by the bylaws and he would not say.

Board voted to have the stove in the social hall professionally check out as there is a strong smell of gas whenever you go into the kitchen. It may be dangerous and it was suggested that the window in the kitchen be left open to provide ventilation.

What is the status of the letter that was approved by the Board in October to be sent by staff to the county regarding our back road repairs? Staff was asked again to submit a letter.

Treasurer – the usual financial amounts plus working on investing of our funds. Director's Spotlight award was presented to Pat Rundell for all of her work on Knittin' Kittens.

Bylaws Committee – Mancini – reviewed priorities presented by the Board as well as the Bob Morgan epistle. Next meeting is January 7 at 9 a.m.

Staking Committee – Board appointed J. Mancini, M Miller, G. Logan-Silva and M. Treuge.

Picnic Grounds Renovation – Jim Clark – plan to move bandstand and slide, adding lighting, fixing the propane tank

Historical Committee – Barry Brown – asked to extract information from the Mintues, official correspondence and the Bible . **Approved.**

Insurance Committee – there are three exclusions in our policy and I just didn't want to write about them because I didn't understand it all. Read the official minutes.

Mediation Committee – Allen Melikian -- Committee has mediated in a few cases. Always need more volunteers.

ERT – Problem with pagers, need to have them checked out.

Dog Park ad hoc committee – Need \$5,000 for fencing materials. Clearing has begun.

Website/bulletin – Michael Sawley – recommend the white board be used as a blog for the members.

APPROVED Policy 1 with the caveat that the phrase “and even gossip” be changed.

APPROVED Policy 2 as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Project – to be completed at an open forum.

Use of Social Hall and other facilities proposed policy submitted by Interim Manager will be printed in the Bulletin which may or may not include a check list.

NEW BUSINESS -

Use of Official Park Address – - policy to be printed in the Bulletin.

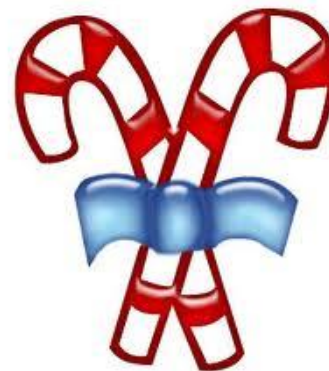
APPROVED to adopt the Membership Privacy Policy which will be printed in the Bulletin.

With no further business, meeting adjourned 12:55.

Quiz for Smarties!

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters ' dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar.. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 items you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

(answers on Page 19)



Calendar of Events

DEC

Dec. 20-	Tuesday Coffee	9:00-11:00	Sm Social Hall
Dec 21	NO BINGO!!		
Dec. 26-	OFFICE CLOSED		
Dec. 27-	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 – 11:00	Sm .Social Hall
Jan. 1-	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		
Jan. 2-	OFFICE CLOSED		
Jan 3	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall
Jan 4	Men's Club`	11:30	Sm Social Hall
Jan 6`	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Jan 7	Bylaws Committee	9 :00	Sm Social Hall
Jan 10	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall
Jan 13	Fire Brigade Training	9:00	Fire House
Jan 15	Monthly Town Hall	6:00	Sm Social Hall
Jan 16	Board Meeting	10:00	Sm Social Hall
Jan 17	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall 7
Jan 18	BINGO	7:00	Social Hall
Jan 20	Quilts of Valor	10:30	Sue Lovelace, 501 Amaranth
Jan 24	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall
Jan 31	Tuesday Coffee	9:00 -11:00	Sm Social Hall

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Breaking News:

The Supreme Court has ruled that there cannot be a Nativity Scene in the United States' Capitol this Christmas season. This isn't for any religious reason. They simply have not been able to find Three Wise Men in the Nation's Capitol. A search for a Virgin continues. There was NO problem, however, finding enough asses to fill the stable!

Answers To Quiz:

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends: Boxing.

2. North American landmark constantly moving backward: Niagara Falls ..The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.

3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons: Asparagus and rhubarb.

4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside: Strawberry.

5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in

place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.

6. Three English words beginning with "dw": Dwarf, dwell and dwindle...

7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.

8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh: Lettuce.

9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with 'S': Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.



Tuesday Coffee Group on 13 December 2011

From left to right: Allan Melikian, Michael Sawley, Carol Morgan, Bob Morgan, Dick Lovelace, Waldo Rodler, Marty Miller, (head of Florence) and Shirley Radder

The staff of the PIP wishes all a Happy Yuletide and our
Holiday message is below:

A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



Huckobey allotment
636 St. Augustine



Carolers 18 December 2011